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No. 149

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 14, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MORGAN LUTTRELL 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.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PACHUCO ZOOT SUITS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 45th anniversary of El Pachuco Zoot Suits stores in Fullerton, California. El Pachuco is a very important cornerstone of our community in Orange County.

Phyllis Estrella first heard the word "Pachuco" in the 1940s and 1950s when this word was linked to racial tension and riots in Los Angeles, California.

Later, in the summer of 1978, she was inspired by the Luis Valdez production centered on the Pachuco and the iconic zoot suit. She opened up an El Pachuco Zoot Suits store that year.

Now, high schoolers across Orange County wear zoot suits to proms and graduations, bringing dignity and pride to the name "El Pachuco."

Congratulations to Phyllis and the entire El Pachuco Zoot Suits team for 45 years and 45 years to go.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MINH TAM NGUYEN

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a beloved member of the Orange County community, Mr. Minh Tam Nguyen.

Minh was a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Navy. After the war, Minh and his family sought refuge in America and made southern California their home.

Minh was a pillar for Little Saigon and the Vietnamese-American community across the United States. He started Advance Beauty College to provide for his family and encourage other Vietnamese families to become nail technicians.

He was known as the Godfather of Manicures, and his work as an entrepreneur opened and provided for the community and those like him who left everything behind in Vietnam for a better life in America.

Today, more than 40,000 students have graduated from Minh's beauty salon and school. His children, Linh and Tam, continue to carry his legacy in Orange County and all over the United States.

Minh is the American Dream. His story is the story of Little Saigon, entrepreneurship, and of the American melting pot.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Minh for his hard work. May he rest in peace. His memory lives forever.

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about how the crisis created at our border by President Biden's executive orders is affecting my city and also the Senate's refusal to pass H.R. 2, the border security act that we passed in May.

In addition, it is only exacerbated by Mayor Eric Adams' insistence that these individuals who enter our country are entitled to free housing at taxpayer expense. New York City has now over 200 shelters and is housing more illegal immigrants than actual citizens of New York.

Not all of these individuals are innocent asylum seekers. Let's be honest and let's be clear. First of all, many of them are using the generosity of this country to gain entry. We know that more than half, between 50 percent and two-thirds, of these individuals are denied their asylum cases when they come to court. There are also many who have already been arrested for committing crimes in our community.

At just one of the 205 migrant shelters, the Roosevelt Hotel, there have been dozens of arrests, mostly for domestic violence, robberies, and assaulting police officers, as well. Earlier this year, four individuals that were housed at the Watson Hotel were arrested for shoplifting tens of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise from Macy's at Roosevelt Field Mall.

Just this week, an illegal immigrant, who was previously released from Customs and Border Protection and the New York State Police was arrested for a murder on September 2. He was in our country and on our streets, despite having a warrant out for his arrest for a previous stabbing.

There were two individuals who are accused of sexual assault in Erie County in western New York. Even the Erie

☐ 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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County executive, an elected Democrat, has had enough of what is going on, demanding that Mayor Adams pause putting more of these asylum seekers in his community until these security threats are addressed.

Now, this Monday, we marked 22 years since the 9/11 attacks. Democrats and Republicans say, “never forget,” yet here we are in a situation with an open border that just in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, 146 people who appeared on the FBI terror watch list were apprehended at our southern border. Combined with the last fiscal year, we are talking about 250 individuals.

What we should be more concerned about, however, are the 1.7 million individuals who are the got-aways, meaning they had zero interaction with our law enforcement or our government. They are in the interior of the country. We don't know who they are. We don't know where they are. We don't know what their intentions are. That is the estimate that CBP is saying.

Yes, we have had millions of people cross our border, but guess what? There are 1.6 million of them who we don't know who they are or what their intentions are. This should be concerning, considering that the FBI has just confirmed that ISIS is smuggling Uzbek asylum seekers across our southern border. An Iranian national was caught in the interior after Iran has threatened revenge and harsh retaliation against the United States, and they said they are going to conduct terrorism on our soil. Yes, the same Iran that Joe Biden just gave \$6 billion to.

More than 107,000 Americans died from overdoses last year, and two-thirds of those deaths are attributed to mostly fentanyl. The DEA recently made over 3,000 arrests of drug cartel networks operating right here in the United States of America thanks to Joe Biden's open border. The deaths are equivalent to a commercial airline crashing every single day.

I ask my colleagues on the Senate side: When are you going to pass our H.R. 2, our border security act? If the President is not going to undo his executive orders, we need to take action. The House passed it. Unfortunately, I think every Democrat in this Chamber voted against it. Let's see the Senate do its job and pass H.R. 2. If the President is not going to undo the crisis that he created, then we must do it for him.

LABOR CRISIS FOR FARMERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I have spoken to farmers in my district and I have heard from many across the country. No matter where I go or who I speak with, there is a common topic on everyone's mind and that is labor.

The changes coming down from the Department of Labor are causing a scramble, and many are left scratching their heads, trying to figure out what is going on and, above all, if they can afford to continue operating their farms.

Mr. Speaker, it would be great to hear from someone, anyone, to share their thoughts, to share the rationale and to explain the timing.

It is unacceptable for individuals with contracts to feel at their wit's end. It is unacceptable for individuals with contracts to believe they are being pushed to the brink and to hear nothing.

Many believe wage enforcement officers may target them if they ask too many questions, ask what is going on, or speak up.

Mr. Speaker, this must be addressed. All people are asking for is information. They want transparency. They want to know what is going on. They want respect.

RECOGNIZING MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michigan Veteran Homes in my district in Chesterfield.

I was fortunate enough to recently visit this facility and spend time learning from the great folks caring for so many of Michigan's heroes. This great facility provides veterans with top-level care, from physical rehabilitation programs, memory stimulation, and all the way up to full-term care.

The Chesterfield staff honorably serves our veterans with the utmost dignity, which is something veterans deserve. I am so proud to have an organization like this in Michigan's Ninth District, and I am especially proud of the outstanding work Michigan Veteran Homes in Chesterfield does every single day.

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anger. I am angry that President Biden is quite literally negotiating with terrorists and plans to release to Iran \$6 billion in frozen assets.

Do you know what negotiating with terrorists leads to? I will share with you what that leads to: more Americans being kidnapped for ransom. Connect the dots, people. It is not that tough.

This is an absolute embarrassment to our country and a complete and utter failure of Biden's foreign policy yet again. Make no mistake about it. The \$6 billion that Biden is so casually handing over to Tehran, what will it be used for? It will be used to fund State-sponsored terrorism.

Let us not forget what happened on 9/11. This is on the heels of 9/11. We are incentivizing terrorism by giving our

enemies \$6 billion. We can't be this asleep at the wheel; but he is. This will destabilize the Middle East and put our allies at grave risk.

Let me be clear. This is not diplomacy or statesmanship. This is signing a deal with the devil.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because my home State of Michigan and our entire country is at a crossroads.

This coming Friday, the United Auto Workers are likely going to strike. Nearly 150,000 will stop working, leaving General Motors, Stellantis, and Ford without anyone to build the cars that drive our economy forward.

If you ask President Biden, he will say it is no big deal and the strike is not going to happen. Well, let me tell you, Mr. President: Guess again. The strike is real, and its dawn is coming tomorrow.

While I don't always agree with Big Labor and their strategies, I can see why they are angry. They have watched as their companies have sold out to the radical Green New Deal agenda and have placed EVs ahead of their employees. Yes, I want to say that. These companies have placed EVs ahead of their employees.

For those that don't know, it is simple. EVs take less parts. Less parts means less workers. Less workers hurt our economy.

Make no mistake about it. This is happening because of Joe Biden's EV mandates and his reckless agenda to rid the world of reliable engines. It is not a sustainable plan, but Biden seems not to care.

Some automakers are just going along to get along with Biden because even when their profits decrease due to EVs, they have doubled down on their plan at the expense of the men and women who build our cars.

I want to be clear about something. I am not against EVs, but I am against mandates and against abandoning things that actually work.

Gas-powered engines work, and they work well. EVs barely work, and they are unreliable, which is something Secretary Granholm knows very well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CELEBRATING MARGARET TATE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my district's own, Margaret Tate, who celebrated her 90th birthday this year.

Ms. Margaret Tate was born on February 11, 1933, in Shreveport, Louisiana. She was one of 13 children. She moved to Los Angeles at 8 years of age and went on to graduate from Centennial High School in Compton.

She married William Tate in 1953 and shared 36 wonderful years with him before his passing. After raising four children, she went on to work as the manager of her family business for 30 years.

Margaret's vitality is credited to her constant prayer and steadfast commitment to God, church, family, and community.

She is well known for her love of family and is a strong and faithful mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

As she celebrates 90 years, Ms. Margaret maintains an active role in ministries at St. Anselm Catholic Church back home in our district, the 37th, where she has been a member for 55 years. She also participated in programming at the Inglewood Senior Center.

I hope you will join me in wishing Margaret Tate a happy 90th birthday and a year full of happiness, health, and love.

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP-HOP

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the work of James Samuel Harris III, aka Jimmy Jam, and Terry Steven Lewis.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of hip-hop. When I introduced my resolution honoring this golden milestone earlier this summer, I was humbled to have Jimmy Jam's support of this effort.

For over 40 years, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis have made a career out of giving a voice to the Black experience through music. They have worked with famous Black artists like Janet Jackson, Lionel Richie, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and Mariah Carey, among many others.

Together, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis wrote 41 top 10 hits in the United States. Last year, they were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in the Musical Excellence category.

I commend Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis on their lifelong career in the music industry and will continue to support Black musicians through my work in Congress.

CELEBRATING THE RENAISSANCE TOUR

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the triumph of Beyonce's Renaissance World Tour, and the only reason I am saying this this week is because I experienced the Renaissance.

Decked in silver from head to toe, Beyonce's Renaissance tour lays bare the experience of Black womanhood and tells us to leave our insecurities at the door. We are crazy in love with the restorative power of music.

The Renaissance tour has already grossed hundreds of millions of dollars, becoming Beyonce's highest grossing tour yet.

This summer was dominated by female artists. Both Beyonce and Taylor Swift sold out shows at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, where hundreds of thousands of my constituents celebrated with them and where Swifties and the BeyHive showed their power.

The Renaissance and Eras tours are stimulating economies across this country, keeping businesses open, and keeping hearts healthy—everything this Congress is not doing. Even more than that, these concerts create safe spaces for women and the LGBTQ community.

We must continue to support the arts through our work in Congress, not by shutting down the government, but by ensuring that future generations of female artists can share their gifts with the world.

REMEMBERING MIA ETHRIDGE

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of service of 20-year-old Louisa County EMS and firefighter Mia Ethridge.

Mia was fatally injured in an accident back in July while responding to a call for help. She tragically succumbed to those injuries on September 1, 2023.

Firefighter Ethridge leaves behind a great legacy of passionately serving her community and will be remembered by many for her kind and welcoming personality.

Stafford Fire Captain Gustavo Leite, who trained Ethridge, described her by saying: "She was always there. An incredible young lady with leadership, she had the heart and the spirit."

I offer my sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and community, and my prayers remain with them as they grieve the loss of her life.

In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 1, Paul writes: "Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles."

May her family find comfort in this as they mourn her passing and remember her life.

It is an honor to recognize the exemplary public servant that Mia Ethridge was and the selfless devotion she had to helping others.

PATH FORWARD ON APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the appropriations path forward is simple, but it requires strong leadership from the Speaker, who must, one, persuade the Republican Conference to support the return to the 2022 spending levels that he committed to in order to ascend to the position in January and for which 217 Republicans voted in April; two, pass our 12 appropriations bills out of the House at the committed 2022 levels, implementing the Republican policy priorities for which we campaigned and the American people entrusted us with the majority back in November; three, the passage of those bills represents a good-faith effort to appropriately fund the government and avoid or quickly end any pause in affected nonessential spending, and then it is the responsibility of the Senate to

avoid another Schumer shutdown; and, four, ensure strong, principled, and courageous conservatives are included on the conference committee to negotiate with the Senate for the best possible outcome for the American people.

The American people are counting on us. They have entrusted us with the majority as we ran on returning fiscal sanity to this House and implementing Republican priorities that would reverse the harms under which the American people are suffering perpetrated by the Biden administration.

CELEBRATING CONGRESSMAN FRANK GUARINI'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible public servant, community leader, philanthropist, and cherished Hudson County legend, former Congressman Frank Guarini, who celebrated his 99th birthday last month.

Congressman Guarini served in the House for 14 years on behalf of many of the cities and towns that I today have the privilege to serve.

He started his career in public service when he joined the Navy, protecting our country and the Pacific theater during World War II aboard the USS *Mount McKinley*.

He was later elected to the New Jersey State Senate, where he was known as a relentless advocate for the residents of Hudson County, helping to pave the way for the development of our waterfront communities.

After he was elected to Congress in 1978, he worked to support our communities and future generations of Americans, spearheading the Educational Assistance Act, which created tax incentives for those seeking a college education.

Congressman Guarini also quickly became known as an expert on international affairs, serving as a delegate to NATO, promoting trade with Caribbean and Latin American countries, and supporting diplomacy through economic development.

After retiring from Congress in 1993, he continued his service to our country as a United States representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

As a private citizen, Congressman Guarini found success as an attorney and real estate developer, success that he has shared many times over as a philanthropist.

Today, the Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library at New Jersey City University stands to recognize his service and selfless generosity.

His name also stands on the Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building, Jersey City's main United States Postal Service facility, as well as the Frank J. Guarini School of Business at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City and John Cabot University in Rome, Italy.

I am honored to congratulate him on his 99th birthday in the place where he so strongly advocated for our communities time and time again.

On behalf of our many residents whose lives were touched by his work, I wish a happy 99th birthday to Congressman Guarini.

RESTORE THE ROAR

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

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to say something that possibly no one in this Chamber's storied history has ever said: The Detroit Lions are the best team in football—you heard me—at least after week one.

The Detroit Lions went into Arrowhead Stadium last week, faced the 2023 Super Bowl champions, and walked away with a W.

Now, it used to be considered child abuse to turn your children into Lions fans. I have three little boys: John, 9, Hudson, 8, and Christian, 4. We all love the Lions.

Detroit football is back. When was the last time the Detroit Lions were the first team to score in the NFL season? When was the last time that on third and short, we actually ran the ball and made a first down? When was the last time there was a team on fourth and 25, deep in their own territory in the fourth quarter, and it not be the Detroit Lions?

This is an indication that we have turned a new leaf, and the good days are ahead.

I am 42, and this might be the best year in my football life after the Michigan Wolverines have beaten the Ohio State Buckeyes 2 years in a row and the Detroit Lions have only lost two games since last October.

Now, of course, we need to keep winning under our boy Dan Campbell's outstanding leadership and his staff, but I know our boys in southeast Michigan have what it takes to win.

The Detroit Lions' very first game at Ford Field is this Sunday, and Lions fans, I need you to make this the loudest game in Ford Field history, even louder than we were when we played the Bears in 2011 on Monday Night Football. Let's show up and show out.

Lions, I love you. Keep grinding. Let's restore the roar. Let's go 17-0 and not just win the NFC North title but the whole doggone thing. Let's win the Super Bowl.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for wearing Honolulu blue. Oh, shoot. He is gone. Well, I appreciate you wearing blue today for the Lions, Mr. YAKYM. Go Lions.

□ 1030

HONORING THE LIFE OF NICK GOMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The Chair recognizes the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three different individuals who made a difference during their lives who are no longer with us.

I first rise to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Steven Nicholas Gomes, otherwise known as Nick, a beloved son of Merced County whose legacy resonates with kindness, resilience, and an unwavering love.

Nick left an indelible mark on the hearts of his friends, family, and community, and he made a difference during his life, as short as it was. His dedication to making positive impacts on the lives of others was evident through the many roles that he had in life as a student athlete and a person who did so many different things. He was also my district representative in Merced County and helped people all the time.

During the pandemic, when folks were frustrated and angry, they would call the office. Nick's reassuring voice would always convey to my constituents that we were there, and we would help and would see them through this. His ability to engage with constituents exemplified his commitment to open dialogue and understanding.

His efforts extended beyond the office walls. His advocacy for community projects, such as securing grants for local water infrastructure improvements in communities like Dos Palos and Gustine, showed his ability to get things done.

His compassion extended to his family, where he showed his love through selfless actions, genuine connections, and a willingness to always go that extra mile.

To his mom and dad, my dear friends, and his sister, Melissa, I extend my deepest condolences. They are all missing him every day, but all were fortunate to share his journey in life. His parents will be celebrating an anniversary this month and will think fondly of Nick. He was a giant, literally and figuratively, among men in so many incredible ways. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIANA MARCUM

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Diana Marcum, a beacon of compassion and storytelling brilliance whose words touched the hearts and unveiled the essence of the human experience.

Her journey began as a journalist, an editorial assistant, and blossomed into a remarkable but, again, short career. Her narrative prowess was on full display in a Pulitzer Prize-winning series, "Scenes from California's Dust Bowl," which chronicled the impact of the drought on the people of the San Joaquin Valley. She was a person who could, with words, express so many different challenges of life.

Through her elegant prose, Diana wove together stories of farmers, field workers, and others in the California Central Valley that really originated

with the "Grapes of Wrath," painting a vivid picture of their struggles, their hopes, and their triumphs.

Beyond her writing, her influence extended into her personal interactions and relationships. For me, a book that she completed called "The Tenth Island" chronicled the diaspora of the Azorean people who came to settle in the San Joaquin Valley, i.e., the tenth island. The fondness for those people and those shared experiences, were my experiences, so we bonded over that love and connection to the Azores islands.

Finally, in celebrating Diana's life, we also celebrate the timeless power of the narrative bridge that divides and illuminates the shared experience of life. She was a writer who could capture the essence of that, and her talent and her personality will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEN HART

Mr. COSTA. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor Kenneth Lee Hart, a friend, a man whose life was marked by dedication, wisdom, a passion for history and for politics. He was a history teacher at the community college.

A true patriot, Ken felt a profound sense of duty to his country. He volunteered to serve in the Army Signal Corps. He was stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, from 1962 to 1964 during that difficult war, but he never forgot his commitment to our country.

His involvement in Robert Kennedy's 1968 Presidential campaign marked his unwavering belief in the power of politics to shape a better future for America.

Ken and I shared the understanding that George Santayana once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We had many memorable evenings with our friends, Congressman Rick Lehman and others talking about sports and the future of America.

We remember him for his wisdom, his dedication, and justice to an unwavering belief in the power of positive change. We will miss Ken.

REMEMBERING RONALD NURNBERGER, SR.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, just days after the 22nd anniversary of September 11, 2001, to recognize and remember former chief, Ronald Nurnberger, Sr.

He was a member of the Island Park Fire Department, the same department that I serve, for over 40 years. He joined the department in 1977 and served as chief of department from 2001 to 2002.

Just hours after the attacks on our great Nation on September 11, Chief Ronald Nurnberger led a delegation from the Island Park Fire Department to Ground Zero, where he served and

dug on that pile looking for survivors in the days that followed the attack.

Less than a year ago, he was diagnosed with 9/11-related cancer, and just hours before September 11, 2023, Ex-Chief Nurnberger passed away from cancer he developed from operating on the pile on September 11.

He is another example as to why Members of this body and our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol must continue to fight for funding. There is no reason why 22 years later we still have survivors walking the Halls of Congress each and every year asking for money to support the issues that they are facing with health.

Ex-Chief Nurnberger leaves behind a loving wife, Sherrill; his children, who are also now part of the fire service, Ronald Jr., Brandon, Karlton, Collin, Stephen, and John-Paul; and, of course, grandchildren, Jameson, Lucas, Cody, Blakely, Brooke, and Noah.

Ex-Chief Nurnberger served the Island Park Fire Department and the village of Island Park for over 40 years, and I was lucky enough to call him a friend for the last 26 years.

Again, I rise today to remember and reflect upon a life gone too soon, another victim of the attacks on this great Nation on September 11, 2001. Ex-Chief Nurnberger has answered his final alarm, and I pray that he rests easy.

TIME TO GET BACK TO THE OFFICE

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our recently introduced legislation, the Congressional Access to Bureaucratic Offices, the CABO Act.

Oversight of the executive branch is one of the core functions of this very body, the U.S. House of Representatives, but agencies have continuously refused entry to Members of this House. For 6 long months, we have been refused entry into the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration. I sit on the Ag Committee and the Small Business Committee. This is unacceptable.

From everything we have been told, it appears that at least half of the Federal workforce is away from their office at any given time. Some reports say if you go over to these Federal offices down the way here from Congress, fewer than 20 percent of the workforce will actually be at their desks.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, are these agencies trying to hide the low numbers of workers actually showing up for work and doing their jobs like we do here?

Our legislation, the CABO Act, will address this very problem. It will allow Members and their staffs full access to these bureaucratic agencies without excuses like COVID restrictions or other declared emergencies. We need transparency. We need access to these agencies, these Federal bureaucracies that we oversee.

There is no reason that Members of Congress should not be allowed to see what is happening inside these buildings. It is time to get off the beach and back to work in Washington, D.C.

SNOOKS CANDIES AND CHOCOLATE FACTORY CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, a local business in my district, Snooks Candies and Chocolate Factory, is celebrating their 60-year anniversary on Friday. Founded by John Snook in 1963, John and his wife, Jeannine, started their business at the Arden Fair Food Circus.

The family opened up a store in Tahoe City in 1981 and later moved to historic Folsom in 1985, where the store remains today. Each one of John and Jeannine's 6 kids and some of their 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren have spent time working in Snooks. To witness the bond of family in the business community and the successful operation of a thriving small business is truly inspiring.

After retiring and entrusting the store to his son, Jim, and Jim's wife, Renee, in 1999, John continued to be a consistent presence in the store, talking to customers and helping with work when needed.

Sadly, John Snook passed away earlier this year, but his legacy as a husband, father, and successful businessman continues to live on.

Over the span of six decades, Snooks Candies has faced many challenges, from nationwide recessions to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. However, these challenges have only reinforced the status of Snooks Candies as a true pillar in Folsom and the surrounding communities.

I applaud the commitment to their business and to producing iconic candies and treats for all to enjoy. Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to join Folsom and our surrounding communities in congratulating Snooks Candies and Chocolate Factory for reaching this momentous milestone.

FOLSOM COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 10-year anniversary of Folsom Community Service Day, an event which will be held this year on Saturday, September 16.

Organized by the city of Folsom and partner organizations, Community Service Day mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to complete projects across the city to improve public resources and benefit the community.

In its tenure, the Folsom Community Service Day event has made a considerable and positive impact on the area. Since its inception, over 19,000 volunteers have participated. More than 900 projects have been completed, and 500

of them have been performed to serve senior citizens. There have been 537,000 pounds of food donated by the Twin Lakes Food Bank, and thousands of care packages to Active Duty military members have been sent. In addition, thousands of donated items have been collected for local nonprofits.

Their efforts have truly made a remarkable and lasting impact. To witness the hard work of this community over the span of a decade to deliver necessary change, improve neighborhoods, and help those in need is truly inspiring.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to recognize the city of Folsom and countless volunteers and partner organizations for providing 10 years of invaluable service and contributions to their communities.

SUCCESS ACADEMY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Education and the Workforce Committee hosted a roundtable with Eva Moskowitz, the founder of Success Academy Charter Schools, which was first opened in 2006 and now has 47 schools.

The network of schools is known for setting high expectations of academic excellence and achieving exemplary results. Black and Hispanic students, which make up most of Success Academy's students, achieve proficiency rates double to triple what their New York City district peers do.

As AEI senior fellow Robert Pondiscio put it:

If Success Academy were a stand-alone school district, it would be by far the highest performing one in the State of New York, including places like Scarsdale, and Jericho on Long Island with multimillion dollar homes.

This is an example of why charter schools have been such an important innovation in American education and are a vital part of the landscape for school choice and why they are widely supported by the public.

□ 1045

In 2022, the Harris Poll found in a national survey that 81 percent of parents support expanding the number of slots at existing public charter schools in their area and 78 percent want more public charter schools in their area.

In California's Third District, we have many tremendous schools, both district schools and charter schools. Some of the popular charters include John Adams Academy, Placer County Pathways Charter, Newcastle Elementary Charter, Vantage Point Charter, and Plumas Charter.

As a former high school teacher and a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I am truly inspired by schools like Success Academy and will work to support charter schools and to scale up successful models throughout our public education system.

SUSPEND THE STATE GAS TAX

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am calling on the California Legislature to

suspend the State gas tax, as other States—including just recently Georgia—have done to provide consumers with relief from soaring prices. The legislature can provide a modest measure of relief by passing Assembly Bill 53 by Assemblyman Vince Fong, which would immediately suspend the State's gas tax and lower prices by 58 cents per gallon. The bill would also assure that no funding is lost for road projects throughout the State.

At a time when Californians continue to struggle with the effects of inflation, this relief would make life a little easier for millions of people. It is a commonsense proposal that merits bipartisan support, and I urge the legislature to act on it immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GERALD "GERRY" HEBERT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of a good friend and brilliant attorney and someone who is a staunch advocate for voting rights all across our great land in the State of Texas, Gerry Hebert.

Originally from Worcester, Massachusetts, Gerry earned his law degree from Suffolk University. Upon graduating, he began his career as an attorney practicing voting rights.

From 1973 to 1994, Gerry served in the Department of Justice, where he worked as lead attorney in numerous voting rights and redistricting lawsuits. He also served as a chief trial counsel in over 100 voting rights cases. In his 20-year tenure at the DOJ, he received numerous commendations, including an award for his work in connection with the Boston school desegregation case in 1975, which received much national attention.

I had the privilege of knowing Gerry very well through his times as co-counsel with the Legal Defense Fund, the Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP firm, where he partnered to successfully challenge racially discriminatory voting ID laws in Texas.

I will always remember Gerry's hard work, his dedication. Gerry was someone that just understood the Constitution and the laws of our land so well and could have chosen a different career in law that would have earned him millions and millions of dollars, but Gerry truly wanted to help the people, especially people that were disenfranchised and had been wronged, particularly people that had been historically wronged.

Gerry will always be remembered as a great guy. Gerry leaves behind a wonderful family, some of whom I have gotten to know. I express condolences from the bottom of my heart. We will all miss Gerry, in particular, the people and the communities that Gerry defended to make sure that they had equal rights in this country.

CONSTITUTION UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think probably the single most important thing done in this body is when we uphold our oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I, therefore, would bring to the attention of the body two instances while we were on break in which the Constitution was under attack, and I don't think enough Americans know about it.

One of the things was in the State of New Mexico, the Governor of New Mexico decided to declare war on the Second Amendment on the grounds that there was an uptick or maybe a big increase in murder in the Albuquerque area.

The Second Amendment is absolute. We don't get rid of the Second Amendment if the murder rate is up 30 percent. The reason we don't get rid of it is our Forefathers wanted the power to be with the people, not the government. But it is particularly ridiculous in that it is obvious why we have had an uptick in murder in the last 3 years in this country. I think there are three obvious reasons.

One, the government is mucking around where they shouldn't, as was mentioned by the founders of Black Lives Matter. People around here wanted to disrupt what they refer to as the Western-prescribed nuclear family. In other words, they want to get the man out of the household.

We also have people trying to elect district attorneys who don't like to put people in jail, judges who don't like to put people in jail, and antipolice forces who make the police timid. When all these things get done, you wind up having an increase in murder.

I would point out that John Adams said that America was built for a moral and religious people. We have to get back to that moral and religious people so they don't abuse their right to guns. In the interim, the idea of leaving guns in the hands of the lawbreakers, which of course is what will happen, and taking guns from the people who are law abiding could not be worse. It is almost hard to believe that at this time in our history we have a Governor—a lawyer no less—who wants to enact a law, taking away the guns from the law abiding but presumably leaving in place the policies which resulted in increase in murder in the first place by not taking action against the type of people who are breaking the law.

The Second Amendment was under attack. A decision was made in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in which the Biden administration had tried to weigh in on social platforms that were giving a narrative of the COVID epidemic that was not in line with what Pfizer and their political allies wanted to say.

We have a First Amendment in this country, and we expect decisions to be

made based upon a free exchange of ideas. We beat people in the court of public opinion. We don't say the government shouldn't weigh in and say we are not going to let people who disagree with us have a public platform.

The Biden administration chafes at the idea of free speech. They wanted to get only their way in dealing with the pandemic, and they decided to restrict free speech here in America. That should scare everyone to death, that we elected a President of the United States who wanted to restrict free speech.

Another thing that really concerned me about that, in an article by The New York Times, which I think is still viewed as an important paper by some people in this body, said the Court decision, which was a slap down of the Biden administration, was a victory for conservatives.

In other words, today, the people who write for The New York Times have said that upholding free speech is something conservatives do, implying it is not something that progressives or Democrats or liberals, or whatever, do. This is a scary thing.

When I was very young, I was a Democrat, believe it or not. At that time the Democrats were perceived I think even more boldly in favor of free speech than Republicans. So everybody was in favor of free speech. Nobody disagreed with the First Amendment.

Now, we have a decision in which truly the paper of record of leftwing America is saying that when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds free speech or slaps down the Biden administration for trying to restrict free speech, that is a victory for conservatives, implying it is a defeat for the progressives. Think about that.

I hope The New York Times reconsiders its position and does some sort of apology to America and say that they are going to try to do what they can to make progressives or the left, or whatever, advocates for free speech again.

In any event, we have two examples of the Constitution under attack. I hope the public demands that we stand united behind the First and Second Amendment.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Chaplain Major Troy S. Bates, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, commander of the hosts of Heaven, humbly hear and grant our prayer today.

We pause today, before conducting the people's business, asking for wisdom and courage. Wisdom to know the right way to lead and the courage to lead the right way.

The 9/11 anniversary reminds us our freedoms come with a cost. So I am thankful for those who pay that cost, for men like Staff Sergeant Patrick Quinn, who sacrificed his life in Afghanistan, as well as Captain Doug Frazier, class of 1975, who selflessly served humanity his entire long life. People like these represent our why.

God, You have shown us what you require: to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You.

May we seek justice for all by living justly before all. May we proclaim mercy by being merciful, and may we walk humbly before You by living in humility before others. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SORENSEN 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.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN MAJOR TROY BATES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Chaplain Major Troy Bates to the U.S. House of Representatives.

He currently serves as the garrison family life chaplain at West Point. He was direct commissioned into the Army Chaplain Corps in August of 2009 as a reserve chaplain for the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Chaplain Bates has provided spiritual support for our troops in harm's way in six combat deployments. He first deployed as the battalion chaplain from the 25th Infantry Division to Afghanistan. He then became a member of the

10th Special Forces Group, my old group. Chaplain Bates deployed twice to Afghanistan with the Special Forces Group and once to Africa. He then joined the XVIII Airborne Corps and deployed again to Iraq, and then became a JSOC chaplain and deployed to a classified location.

He has had an extensive education, including attending many military schools, and winning numerous awards, leading off with the Bronze Star.

Especially interesting and meaningful to me, he has the U.S., British, Canadian, Italian, and German Jump Wings, as well as the Combat Action Badge.

His education includes an associate of arts from the Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College, a bachelor of science from Baptist Bible College, a master of arts from Liberty University, a master of divinity in religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, and a master of arts in counseling from Webster University.

He is joined by his wife today, Duchess. They have five children, three of whom serve in the military today. I thank Chaplain Major Troy Bates for not only his service but his legacy and his family.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as the first Latina from my community and the first Republican Latina to represent the great State of Texas in the people's House for a full term.

The foundations of this great Nation are ingrained with Hispanic influence, from our beginnings with the Spanish settlers to General Bernardo de Galvez, hero of the American Revolution.

The Nation's pulse beats with our rich and vibrant culture. For generations, our families have woven their stories into the fabric of this great Nation. Our contributions in the arts, agriculture, business, military, and public service have left an indelible mark on America's history.

Our community's success lies in our faith in God, hard work, family values, and love of country. I am so proud of what we have achieved and will continue to achieve.

Let us renew our commitment to supporting policies that uplift Hispanic families and all Americans. Together, we will build a future that honors our past and preserves "the American

Dream," "El Sueno Americano" for future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL RICHARDSON

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bill Richardson.

Former Governor Bill Richardson was a devoted public servant and a skilled diplomat whose career improved countless lives in New Mexico and across America, and indeed, the world.

As Governor of New Mexico, he tirelessly worked to improve the lives of his constituents while making history leading as a Latino, but Bill Richardson's influence extended well beyond the borders of New Mexico. He served as Energy Secretary and also as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where his diplomatic skills and commitment to peace played a pivotal role in addressing many global challenges.

Today, we remember Governor Bill Richardson, and we also honor his legacy of public service and diplomacy, which continues with his work at his center. He was an inspiration to all of us, and he was a true American patriot.

His leadership and kindness will forever be remembered. Rest in peace, my friend.

BIDEN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the historic impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden.

Congress must hold Joe Biden accountable for serving as the kingpin over a series of shady foreign business deals involving his family members. Bank records and extensive evidence show that the Biden family received \$20 million in cash, diamonds, and sports cars from China, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and other foreign entities.

Joe Biden was directly involved in this foreign influence-peddling scheme, and when Biden's son demanded \$5 million in cash from a Chinese official, he wrote, "I am sitting here with my father. . . ."

Congress has a duty to the American people to protect taxpayers from this type of foreign corruption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

JOINING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers, including 3,000 members in western New York at the Ford Stamping Plant and General Motors plants in Tonawanda and Lockport.

Autoworkers have historically weathered the storm to support the automotive industry, through the Great Recession and economic hardship. Now, during a time when companies are experiencing record profits, the people delivering the goods deserve a contract that recognizes the critical role they play in that success.

UAW members will be an important part of the next generation of manufacturing, making electric vehicles more accessible and readily available.

As the September 14 deadline approaches, negotiators must come to the table with a contract that includes competitive wages and rewards quality work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in solidarity with the UAW as they negotiate a secure future for the workers driving success in the automotive industry today.

OUR JOB ISN'T DONE

(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, the ox is in the ditch and it is time to go to work and get him out.

We were sent to Washington to work, but it sure doesn't feel like we are doing that right now. We promised the American people we would rein in these out-of-control Federal agencies and get spending under control. The way we do that is by uniting and passing conservative appropriation bills that will give us leverage against the Senate and the White House.

Colleagues, this has gotten out of hand, and we need to start voting. Let's put these bills on the House floor to debate and amend so that Members can put themselves on record. I am fine defending my votes back home. What I am not fine with is going home and telling people that we clocked in this week and we didn't do any work.

Mr. Speaker, we should stay here until we pass all 12 appropriations bills and send them to the Senate. Until we do that, the job is not done.

SUPPORTING THE UAW WORKERS

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the more than 10,000 United Auto Workers in my district as they negotiate a fair contract with the Nation's auto industry employers.

Let's remember, it was workers who built this country, and their high-quality

union jobs gave people a pathway to the middle class, not just in Illinois but across this great Nation.

The current negotiations have implications not just for workers, but for the future of the auto industry and our economic competitiveness.

While companies report record profits and the CEOs take home tens of millions of dollars in compensation, the salary of the average autoworker has declined by 40 percent over the past 20 years. Our UAW neighbors are simply asking for their fair share.

To the UAW workers in central and northwestern Illinois and across the country, I have got your back.

CONGRATULATING THE GNYFF CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

(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, this past weekend the Guam National Youth Football Federation held its championship on Saturday. After an exciting season, three teams won their respective division championship games and are officially known as the 2023 GNYFF champions.

Under this historic dome of democracy, I congratulate the following youth football championship teams: the Guam Eagles for winning the Manha Division championship, the Hal's Angels for winning the Metgot Division championship, and the Guam Eagles for winning the Matua Division championship.

I also congratulate the coaches, trainers, sponsors, and families of all the teams for their many efforts and sacrifices and for instilling in the kids the values of sportsmanship, character, and teamwork.

□ 1215

HOMETOWN HERO: GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 hometown hero, the Grapevine High School wrestling team.

This week, on the 22nd anniversary of the horrific September 11 terrorist attacks, Grapevine High School wrestling team paid their respects by hosting a tribute climb.

On the steps of Mustang-Panther Stadium, participants climbed a symbolic 110 flights in remembrance of this tragic day. Student athletes, first responders, and members of the community all climbed side by side to mourn those lost and remember the sacrifices our first responders made for the American people.

I am so encouraged by the leadership displayed by the members of the Grape-

vine High School wrestling team and their work to unite the community in commemoration of the heroes of September 11. Their patriotism and love for country is apparent.

I thank the Grapevine wrestling team for hosting this event and representing north Texas so well.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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 today deeply frustrated that so many Members on the other side of the aisle seem determined to shut down the government and create a national crisis of massive proportions.

Let's be clear. We are not asking Republicans to break new ground. We are only asking them to live up to the bipartisan budget agreement that a majority on both sides of the aisle already voted for and passed the House. We are only asking them to support the essential programs critical to veterans, seniors, childcare programs, working families, farmers, and retirees; the people I care about and came to serve because, again, let's be clear, if they force a government shutdown, these are the people who will suffer most.

Veterans won't receive their full benefits, retirees will lose their economic security and medical care, and our businesses will face massive economic turmoil. For what? A political stunt created by extremists who care more about riling up their base than helping their constituents.

Every one of us here swore an oath to serve our constituents. It is time to live up to that oath.

SUPPORT FOR UAW WORKERS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the hardworking men and women of the United Auto Workers as they bargain for a fair contract.

Unions helped build the middle class. The labor movement was actually founded in large part in my district, the Eighth Congressional District of Michigan, in my hometown of Flint where the autoworkers sat down in the auto plants to stand up for good wages, for safer working conditions, and for better benefits.

Every day in my district, UAW members build award-winning vehicles. They are standing up to demand a fair share of the value that they produce. Everyone, every worker, not just those at the top, should benefit from that.

The fight is not just about fair contracts for union workers, though. It is about fairness and the future of all workers in this country.

In Congress, I have championed bills to expand workers' rights, including the right to join a union, and I have

stood in opposition to those efforts to try to take those rights away to pass antiworker, anti-union legislation that would hurt our economy and hurt American families.

Let me be clear. To the men and women of the UAW who are fighting for a fair contract, I stand in solidarity with you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

AVOIDING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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, we have just 16 days to pass a budget and avoid a government shutdown; just 16 days to prevent a completely unnecessary shutdown and manufactured crisis that will be devastating for the people, families, and communities of Ohio's 13th Congressional District and Americans.

These disruptions would interrupt critical government services, hurting small businesses, and even forcing our troops to go without pay and benefits.

Thousands of Federal workers and contractors who do vital work throughout the country would not be able to do their jobs, creating a lose-lose scenario where the public misses out on essential government services and a lower quality of life.

Instead of governing, what has the majority decided to do? Focus on partisan games meant to distract and divide our country. It is reckless, irresponsible, and a complete failure of leadership.

People in Ohio's 13th District are tired of partisan politics. They sent me to Congress to put people over politics, to lower costs, grow the middle class, keep our community safe, and protect our fundamental freedoms. I am committed to passing a budget that invests in the people and communities of Ohio's 13th District, not extreme politics.

It is time to stop the political games, honor the bipartisan budget agreement Congress already passed, and avoid a government shutdown. The American people are counting on us to get this done. We cannot let them down.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN— POLITICAL GAMESMANSHIP

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a critical juncture in our Nation's history. You have heard my colleagues say that we have 16 days left. That is only 9 legislative days away from a government shutdown.

The extreme MAGA Republicans in the Republican Conference are driving the entire Republican majority to time and time again pursue their divisive agenda at the cost of American lives. This would inflict untold harm upon millions of hardworking families and jeopardize our national security. This is not governance; this is political gamesmanship.

Let me be clear. They have chosen to embark on a perilous path that threatens the very fabric of our government and the well-being of our citizens in an attempt to slash vital investments in healthcare, childcare, education, and food assistance.

This senseless self-manufactured crisis would disrupt critical government services. I implore my colleagues across the aisle to stop playing political games and join us in the commitment to the American people.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(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, tomorrow, September 15, is POW/MIA Recognition Day.

This important day is a time to remember the brave men and women who have yet to return home. Currently, there are more than 80,000 American servicemembers who are still missing and remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, and the Gulf wars.

Our servicemembers are the bravest among us. They answer the call to protect and defend our country in times of war and in times of peace.

While many return home, some do not. We must uphold our promise to our POW/MIA and never stop searching until they are returned to their loved ones.

This is why today, Representative CONNOLLY and I reintroduced the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Trade Agreement Resolution.

This resolution urges our mutually beneficial trade agreements to include a commitment from trading partners to continue search and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers. It is imperative we continue our efforts to bring home members of our armed services.

This amendment will assist the United States in upholding the eternal promise to our Armed Forces to always bring our men and women home.

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

RESTORE SNAP BENEFITS

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, my husband and I have raised three hungry boys. I know how difficult and expensive it can be. Our government should not be making it any harder.

Yet, Republicans in this Chamber are working overtime to make it harder for families to receive SNAP benefits, putting more than 14 million children at risk of hunger.

Republicans talk about trusting parents and protecting our kids only when it fits their agenda, because when it comes to trusting parents to use programs like SNAP to feed their children, this Republican majority pushes for more regulation, less trust. We have seen this play out firsthand.

Under the last Congress, Democrats, our majority, expanded the child tax credit and cut child poverty in half. When it tragically ended, and every Republican refused to restore it, children plunged back into poverty.

As the Speaker's self-inflicted chaos inches us closer to a Federal budget deadline, it is clear: Our children are suffering because of the antics and extremism of the Republican majority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this House majority to rethink their chaos, protect SNAP benefits, and lift all of our children out of poverty.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 68

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) as cosponsor of H.R. 68.

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

There was no objection.

FAIR NEGOTIATIONS FOR UNITED AUTO WORKERS

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, when the U.S. auto manufacturers were suffering during the recession, the UAW workers took pay cuts, were willing to forgo pay raises for the greater good of U.S. manufacturing, believing that U.S. auto manufacturers would repay their sacrifice once they were earning good profits.

That didn't happen. Today, I rise in support of the United Auto Workers, and I urge the Big Three auto manufacturers to treat their employees fairly in these negotiations and share the wealth that is earned from their labor.

The UAW is leading the charge to make green jobs good union jobs. The UAW organized the first battery plant in this country in Ohio. They are willing to move forward and work with manufacturers to get the job done. We need those jobs.

□ 1230

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
BILL RICHARDSON

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, the enchanted State of New Mexico, the United States, and families seeking justice everywhere lost a statesman, a former Ambassador, Governor, and Congressman. Governor Bill Richardson is survived by our former first lady of incredible grace, Mrs. Barbara Richardson.

In 1983, Governor Richardson began his public service career as the first Representative of the newly formed Third Congressional District of Nuevo Mexico.

My first visit to Congress was as a young attorney representing the Navajo Nation to Governor Richardson's office. I stand on the shoulders and am grateful for his sage advice on how to serve this beautiful district.

As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, he opposed cruel immigration policies and brought attention to Latino policy priorities everywhere. As Governor, he recognized the importance of education and economic diversity as he raised teachers' salaries and increased film production.

May we honor Bill Richardson as a tenacious champion for New Mexicans, a skillful diplomat, and a committed public servant.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
BILL RICHARDSON

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, as the people of New Mexico and the world are grieving Governor Richardson, I rise today here in the House, where he served, to honor his life and legacy.

Governor Richardson has left an indelible mark on New Mexico politics and public service. Throughout his career as a Governor, Member of Congress, U.N. Ambassador, Secretary of Energy, and working in international diplomacy, anyone who knew Governor Richardson knows that he lived big, he laughed big, and he loved big.

He mentored a generation of leaders in New Mexico and served our great State and Nation to the very end. I personally met Governor Richardson as a young person when he was my Congressman and, like so many others, was catalyzed onto a path of public service on behalf of our State and our communities.

Governor Richardson's loss will be felt deeply across our State and across the planet, and today, my prayers go to his family and to everyone in New Mexico who is remembering and grieving his loss and the loss of this giant in New Mexico politics.

Rest in peace, Governor. Today, we honor your legacy here in your home in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LEGENDARY
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I join the Representatives of New Mexico to honor the legendary Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico.

I want to highlight what his work means for the Latino community. Bill's lasting legacy of advocacy for millions of Latinos and his work on the national political stage has made all the difference in all of our lives.

As one of the most influential Mexican Americans in history, Bill devoted his life to improving the lives of New Mexicans, Latinos, and Americans at home and abroad. His unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Latino community and the Nation has left an undeniable impact. As one of the most powerful Latinos in politics this Nation has seen, he has made many of our pathways to public service possible. This year, we are celebrating the largest number of members in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

We thank Bill for his work for New Mexico, the United States, and the world. As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we will honor his commitment to public service every day.

"Go with God, Bill"; "Que estes con Dios, Bill."

FIFTEEN DAYS AWAY FROM A
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the American people are getting a front-row seat at the circus that Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and extremists in the Republican Party are unleashing on our country.

We are 15 days away from a government shutdown that will impact millions of working people, and Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY cannot even get his own party to pass any significant pieces of legislation.

The cherry on top of all of this is that, instead of getting to work to fund the government, they are trying to impeach Hunter Biden, who, I think—spoiler alert—is not the President of the United States.

This Speaker doesn't even have the votes for impeachment, doesn't have the votes to fund the government. It is unclear whether or not he even has the votes to keep his own job.

KEVIN MCCARTHY doesn't even know what KEVIN MCCARTHY stands for because it sure looks like his morals and beliefs about how this place should run

apply only when other people are holding the gavel.

So America, 15 days from now, when our country comes to a halt, remember who did this to you: Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and the extremist House Republicans who care more about themselves and their politics than you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1435, PRESERVING
CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES
ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 681 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 681

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill 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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 681, providing for consideration of H.R. 1435.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1435 under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their designees. The rule does provide one motion to recommit.

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

Today, the Republican majority continues to stand between President

Biden and Democrats in Congress and their disastrous policies that they want to inflict on the American public.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is pretty simple: Republicans are for consumer choice. Democrats, apparently, are not.

Democrats don't like it when consumers have choices. It seems that our friends across the aisle, however well intentioned they may be, are a bit squeamish about leaving choices in the hands of consumers because, Mr. Speaker, in their heart of hearts, they don't trust consumers. They think they will make the wrong choice.

The tendency amongst my Democratic friends is emblematic of the larger liberal movement. That perspective, Mr. Speaker, can be distilled succinctly: The general population requires guidance and directions from elites, who are more enlightened, to prevent them from making decisions that contradict progressive principles.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my good friend from Pennsylvania, Dr. JOYCE, for standing between the Democrats and their central planners and protecting American consumers.

Without this bill, Mr. Speaker, California and other Democratic States could effectively ban internal combustion engines for all Americans, regardless of where they reside. This is not what the Founders intended when they designed our federalist system.

A de facto ban on the internal combustion engine is the point, Mr. Speaker. President Biden and his surrogates in the Democratic Party said: to end fossil fuels as we know them. Shame on us if we don't take the Democrats at their word when they say things like that.

I understand that my friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee, who I have the privilege of debating today on the floor, will likely tell us the standards that California is looking to implement are the prerogative of California. In most circumstances, I would agree with that, but this isn't most circumstances, Mr. Speaker. What California is trying to do is to usher in a de facto ban on the internal combustion engine nationwide. I give my friends across the aisle credit for their cunning.

Democrats have known that several States are aligned with California in such a manner that allows California to set vehicle emission standards that other States must then follow. Why any State would surrender its own sovereignty to another is not consistent with this country's founding, but that debate, Mr. Speaker, is for another day.

This is why we Republicans, particularly Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee, oppose State attempts to ban the internal combustion engine. This will adversely affect all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, California's waiver is a Trojan horse. What Democrats can't win at the ballot box, they intend to farm out to their friends in Federal

agencies. California is part of America but does not speak for the whole of America.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS so much for the customary 30 minutes to discuss this bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose today's rule. There are 8 legislative days left to fund the government, and under Republican leadership, what have we done? We passed 1, just 1, of the 12 appropriations bills necessary—1 of 12.

We were supposed to take up the rule for the Defense appropriations bill yesterday, but last evening, in a rushed meeting, we changed the rule to limit it to this single bill.

The only thing we have to show for an entire week in session is a bill that attacks States' rights and California's ability to decide for its own what regulations it wants under the Clean Air Act, as it is allowed to do under existing law and has been allowed to do for decades.

Do you know what? When Democrats were in the majority in the previous Congress, we didn't hear what we are hearing from Republicans. We did not hear Democrats saying we are going to shut it down. No. Democrats have always looked for solutions. We have not been calling to shut it down. We have always worked to work it out.

Over and over again, not just this week but over the summer, we have heard extreme MAGA Republicans voice their goal of a forced government shutdown. We need to remember that the times that we have faced a shutdown and suffered through a shutdown have been when Republican Speakers were in charge.

Remember 1995–1996, 2013, 2018? We needed to have Speaker PELOSI take charge so we could open our government back up. In the Rules Committee, we heard Republicans say: Let's shut it down.

Let's make clear that the "it" that is sometimes referred to is something that is not beneficial. That "it" are the people who make sure our food is safe. The "it" they want to shut down is the program that makes sure that our women, infants and children, seniors, and veterans have enough food on their table. The "it" are the people who serve and protect our country and our services. The "it" are the people who maintain our beautiful national parks and allow us to see America's wonders.

Americans don't want us to head to a goal of: We are shutting it down.

Why don't we work it out? As Ranking Member MCGOVERN noted yesterday, the last time our government shut down, it was the longest in history due to inaction by then-President Trump and Republican majorities in the House and Senate. It cost Americans \$11 billion, \$3 billion permanently, and caused sizable suffering for our constituents.

□ 1245

We are talking about people having to take out loans all through our country. I have been visited over and over again. The auto dealers came to my chambers yesterday and talked about the repercussions that a shutdown has on their business.

People are going to have a hard time paying their mortgage, putting food on the table. But it doesn't have to be this way. The White House Democrats and Republicans negotiated a bipartisan agreement in the Fiscal Responsibility Act in June that set up the pathway to how we were going to fund the government with cuts, making sure that we kept the government funding level.

Now, a mere 3 months later they are backing out on their commitment. Extreme Republicans are blowing up our commitment to the American people. My rural district will suffer. It will suffer tremendously, as will all rural districts across this country. We need to remember rural America is the backbone of this country, and they are sacrificing it.

A shutdown could delay veterans and Social Security payments. With 8 legislative days to avoid a government shutdown, we have a bill totally unrelated to funding the government.

H.R. 1435, Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, is an attack on efforts to reduce pollution and climate change.

I have noticed that the Republicans have a habit of naming their bills to do the opposite of what the bill actually does. This legislation will remove the choice that Californians have exercised as they elect their own government and as they choose to look to how do they want to make sure they exercise their right to adopt clean air standards.

For decades, the Clean Air Act has reduced harmful air pollutants leading to fewer instances of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems, and other health issues. That is in part due to the law's flexibility. It allows flexibility to allow choice for California and other States to adopt strict standards.

H.R. 1435 threatens our efforts to lessen air pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. It also disrupts the U.S. vehicle market and could harm our global competitiveness and the electric vehicle market.

I will say it again, however: At a time when we have a duty to fund the government, the Republican majority is instead picking on States' rights, picking on States that want to clean up their air and fight climate change.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), a valuable member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me

some time today. I rise in support of this legislation that will put a full stop to my own State of New York from banning affordable, reliable gas-powered vehicles.

Last year, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that New York State—not to be outdone by Democrats in California—would move forward with a ban on the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

Mr. Speaker, this asinine approach is only the latest in a long list of actions taken by the Biden administration and by Democrats in my own State to foist new bans, regulations, and costs onto the backs of hardworking middle-class Americans.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they want the American people to believe that ditching our internal combustion engines for battery-powered cars is a silver bullet to a greener, cleaner future.

My constituents in rural upstate New York are facing energy costs that are 30 percent higher than previous years, and those costs are projected only to increase further and further.

Rural towns and communities in western New York and the Southern Tier along the Pennsylvania border, they cannot survive on transportation that is solely battery powered, given the long distances driven, charger accessibility, and lack of reliability that comes with the current crop of EVs.

Last week, President Biden's own Energy Secretary Granholm put on a master class on the issues rural Americans will face, from failing to find working charging stations to long wait times. Her EV road trip was a total disaster. It was like an episode of "Veep," and we cannot make this a reality of everyday Americans.

Not only is it costly, not only is it impractical, but our electric grids are not capable of handling this latest burden. The latest reports by New York's own independent service operator show that New York State's electrical grid is strained and approaching a breaking point as Governor Hochul and Democrats in Albany ban everything connected to fossil fuels, from stoves to cars to natural gas hookups in buildings and private homes.

It is very simple, Mr. Speaker—banning gas vehicles forces New Yorkers and Californians, and one day all Americans if we keep going down this path, to live in an energy future that is less affordable, less safe, and more dependent than ever on our most dangerous adversary—China.

I strongly support this underlying legislation today and this rule as a step towards ensuring America does not follow the lead of the radical left in California, and New York. Let's put a stop to these nonsensical bans that only benefit our foreign adversaries while making life much harder for everyday Americans.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as I noted, the existing rule allows choice in each State. What

works for California may or may not work for New Mexico or other States like New York, but that is why the Clean Air Act built in flexibility. We should allow California and those States that choose to follow their lead to continue to adopt stricter vehicle standards that work for them.

I also want to make a point that car makers make business plans several years in the future. For Congress to come in and change the setting of what is happening—because right now 75 percent of vehicles sold with low emissions are being manufactured here in America—is creating culture wars that also hurt our industry workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD the September 13, 2023, letter from the United Auto Workers titled: "UAW Urges to Vote NO on the So-Called Preserving Choice in the Vehicle Purchases Act."

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

There was no objection.

[FROM THE UAW, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023]

UAW URGES TO VOTE NO ON THE SO-CALLED "PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT" [H.R. 1435]

UAW opposes this bill because union workers are not political pawns for the culture war.

The UAW strongly opposes the so-called "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act." This bill seeks to inject American union-made vehicles as a wedge issue into the culture war that is tearing apart America, and union members will not stand for it.

Union workers will not be used as political pawns. The UAW's fight for a just transition to Electric Vehicles must put workers at the center, otherwise we risk a race to the bottom, which would be disastrous for workers, their families, and our country.

The UAW is leading the charge to make green jobs be good union jobs. The UAW organized the first EV battery plant in the country in Ohio. This bill only parrots demagogues and CEOs to pit ICE jobs against EV jobs. We must raise standards for both. UAW is committed to make EV jobs good union jobs with the same pay and safety standards UAW members have fought for and won for generations.

The EV transition will not succeed if the workers building ICE vehicles are left behind. If we have plant closures and the loss of union jobs while companies receive billions in taxpayer subsidies, it will cultivate and energize a loud constituency against the clean economy, just like this bill.

House Republicans backing this bill are pandering to the most extreme MAGA fringe that is dividing this country.

This bill is misleading its purpose and would allow House Republicans to abuse their authority to prohibit the EPA from issuing waivers that allow states to implement their own standards on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for new motor vehicles. This would chiefly target California who, for going on 50 years, has been granted waivers from the EPA to set the strongest standards on GHG emissions in the nation. California's waiver was revoked for the first time under the Trump Administration and restored by President Biden. The waiver is currently being challenged at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by industry groups and 19 Republican-led states.

This bill misleads what it's really trying to do. UAW members build internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EVs). We reject this attempt to pit ICE jobs against EV jobs.

We are focused on the future of auto manufacturing in this country. The UAW is leading the charge to make green jobs be good union jobs. The real choice is whether we secure a fair share and healthy future for the workers who build and power this country or whether we continue a race to the bottom.

This bill is a distraction that does nothing to address the corporate greed plaguing our economy or the concerns of auto workers and their families. As the UAW's contracts with Ford, GM, and Stellantis are set to expire on Thursday, it is time to pick a side. Do you support 150,000 auto workers and their fight for a fair contract or are you focused on political sideshows?

The UAW supports and is ready to lead the EV transition. Our members are building the vehicles of the future, including hybrids, plug-in hybrids (PHEVs), battery electric vehicles (BEVs), autonomous vehicles, and increasingly efficient gasoline vehicles. UAW members currently build no less than sixteen models of electric vehicles. These members rely on a stable market for the products they produce.

This bill threatens to disrupt the EV consumer market for American union-made vehicles by inflaming the culture war. UAW members in Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Pennsylvania build light and heavy-duty EVs. A vote for this bill will only risk jeopardizing these union jobs.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. I remind us all that we should be funding the government this week, not attacking individual States or workers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our inspiring Speaker Emerita.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank her for her leadership on this important issue and for giving us all the opportunity to speak on the rule that would bring this shameful legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the Republicans' latest assault on the health and safety of our children. Every child deserves clean air to breathe. We in California believe this is our sacred duty. That is why our State has taken strong action to reduce vehicle pollution, preserve our environment, and protect our children.

I just have one question for our colleagues across the aisle: Why? Why don't you want children to have cleaner air to breathe? Why don't you understand what this means to their health? Why do you not understand the connection between pollution and asthma and how unfair that is to children in our population?

That is why more than five decades ago this Congress acted to preserve California's authority to protect our children and has repeatedly reauthorized that since.

Despite this precedent, this bill would restrict the ability of States like California to protect families from dangerous pollution.

Now, it is important for people to understand that as the gentlewoman

pointed out, this is at the discretion of the States. Seventeen States have decided that they would use such a waiver in order to protect the children and the air that they breathe.

Why would you want to throw the American auto industry into disarray, diminishing leadership and the electric vehicle future?

Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman referenced, it is an economic decision that the auto industry makes. We have in this body, in the Democrat majority, come to the aid of the auto industry—not corporations, but the industry and the workers—and we want our auto industry to be preeminent in the world.

California is a very big market for the auto industry. For 50 years they have lived with this emissions standard, this waiver, that enables that to happen. If you are making cars for California it is easier than to make the same safe cars for the rest of the country because it is a big market in California.

Sixteen other States have followed suit, representing at least 40 percent of new auto purchases in our country—a big chunk of our auto industry economy.

Again, what would be the reason that you would interfere in the free market of the auto industry and the free breathing for our children of cleaner air? The only explanation could be that Big Oil opposes this legislation. They are so living in the past. They don't even realize that the future is upon us, and the future is for the children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this rule.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, just moments ago the distinguished gentlewoman from California made the statement and asked why Republicans don't want clean air and clean water. I reject that premise because this administration would rather mine in the Congo where they use child slave labor, zero environmental standards, and zero labor standards to get to these EV vehicles.

This administration has stopped mining in the biggest copper-nickel mine in the world, which is in northeastern Minnesota, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and this administration has stopped it.

Don't come here and ask me why my Republican colleagues and I have the stance we have. We are environmentalists, and we want clean air and clean water. That is an excuse.

We can mine in this country. We do not have to sign memorandums of understanding with the Congo who use child slave labor, and that is a fact. We can mine in northeastern Minnesota using union labor with the best environmental standards and the best labor standards in the world, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to allow it to happen along with this administration.

Don't stand on this House floor and say this about the Republican Party and my colleagues. We are environmentalists, as well. We mine in the United States of America. We mine in northeastern Minnesota. We can show the world. Because when we allow China to meet the demands for critical minerals, those pollutants get in the jet stream and affects us all, as the gentlewoman from California says. We breathe that disgusting air that comes from the communist country of China. So let us mine here, Mr. Speaker. Allow this administration to let us mine here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this rule so we can consider H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

This week, we read about the horrific cross-country road trip President Biden's Secretary of Energy faced as she tried to travel the country in her electric vehicle.

At every stop, Secretary Granholm struggled to charge her government-paid EV. She had to send staffers in gas-powered vehicles ahead of her to stand in line at the EV charging station, going so far as to block families from charging their own vehicles on hot summer days.

Her gas-powered vehicle was used by her staff so they could go sit in front of a charging station waiting for her to come so she could charge her vehicle to make a statement and let that family suffer waiting for the charging station to be open.

□ 1300

Now, just imagine if Secretary Granholm tried driving across northern Minnesota in the middle of winter when it was 20 below, 37 below, or 50 below. By the way, that cold in Minnesota, we still go to work and we still mine and we still weld, in the coldest of temperatures. Can you imagine her trying to do that? I am not even sure her EV would even start.

My constituents do not have the luxury of having government-paid staffers to advance their road trips and access EV charging stations ahead of time.

My constituents cannot afford to pay an extra \$17,000, on average, for an electric vehicle, especially as Bidenomics destroys the pocketbooks of my constituents who have had to pay an average of \$10,000 more a year.

If Americans want to drive EVs, they can, but they shouldn't be forced to. It should be their choice. Today, nearly 95 percent of Americans drive an internal combustion engine, a vehicle powered by gasoline or some form of ethanol or biofuels.

If liberal elitists from California want to drive electric vehicles, so be it. My constituents should not be forced to do the same. I believe in choice, not mandates by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule and supporting H.R. 1435, because it is time that Congress steps up and protects our

constituents from ridiculous mandates that affect our way of life.

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

I truly appreciated the Speaker Emerita is leading us to think about the why and to think about the children, to think about the children and their health. We must remember that Democrats are not against consumer choices, but what we are for is consumer safety.

Should we allow consumers to choose leaded gas once again? No. Because we know what it does to our children's lungs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a July 25, 2023, letter from the American Lung Association opposing H.R. 1435.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION,
Chicago, IL, July 27, 2023.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, Chair,
Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Ranking Member,
Committee on Energy & Commerce,
House of Representatives.

DEAR CHAIR MCMORRIS RODGERS AND RANKING MEMBER PALLONE: The American Lung Association strongly supports the Clean Air Act and the success the landmark law has achieved over its fifty plus years. The air we breathe is much cleaner today than it was before Congress came together to pass this bipartisan law. The transportation sector is a major contributor to air pollution. The nation must continue to use the tools of the Clean Air Act to further transition the sector to cleaner, healthier vehicles—not see those tools blocked, weakened or delayed. Bills under consideration in today's hearing would dismantle Clean Air Act requirements to set vehicle pollution standards that protect health.

H.R. 4468 would prohibit EPA from finalizing and implementing a rule that will reduce 15,000 tons of particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) and 66,000 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The reductions in PM_{2.5} alone are estimated to amount to between \$63–280 billion in health benefits. The rule would also eliminate around 7.3 billion metric tons of carbon pollution. These emissions of greenhouse gases are warming the climate and contributing to this summer's devastating instances of flooding, wildfire smoke and excessive heat.

H.R. 1435 would weaken the provision of the Clean Air Act that gives California the authority to set stronger vehicle emissions standards and other states the ability to adopt those standards. The Lung Association strongly supports California's pollution control authority. California faces extraordinary conditions when it comes to air pollution. That unique position was affirmed when the Clean Air Act passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1970 with the inclusion of a section allowing California to set standards that went beyond federal protections. This partnership between California and the federal government has continued through both Republican and Democratic administrations to achieve cleaner air not only in California but nationwide. Undermining that partnership with this legislation would reverse clean air progress and threaten public health.

The most recent “State of the Air” report from the American Lung Association noted

that approximately 120 million Americans live in communities impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or PM_{2.5}. Exposure to air pollution can contribute to asthma attacks, heart attacks and stroke, lung cancer, low birthweight and premature birth and premature death. Traffic pollution is specifically associated with premature death due to cardiovascular disease, lung cancer death, asthma onset in children and adults and other negative health outcomes. The transportation sector is also the leading source of climate pollution in the United States. Climate impacts on health include degraded air and water quality, increases in vector-borne diseases, mental health impacts and more. A rapid transition to zero-emission technologies is urgently needed to ensure cleaner air and to reverse course on climate change.

The American Lung Association's recent "Driving to Clean Air" report highlighted that approaching a 100 percent zero-emissions sales of light- and medium-duty vehicles scenario by 2035, along with a non-combustion electricity grid, could result in major health benefits. The report found that the cumulative health benefits could reach \$978 billion by 2050, including nearly 90,000 premature deaths avoided, over 2 million asthma attacks avoided and more than 10 million lost workdays avoided due to cleaner air. Prohibiting progress towards a zero-emission transportation sector is therefore not only a threat to innovation and economic opportunity, it is also a threat to health.

The American Lung Association opposes these bills and urge the Committee to reject these and other attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

HAROLD P. WIMMER,
National President and CEO.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, 100 million Americans live in counties with unhealthy air pollution. Our children, our elders, low-income communities, and communities of color are most at risk. The good news is, we are addressing it. The good news is, with the Chips and Science Act, we are starting to do research that will lead to even bigger and better advances in how we bring down those emissions.

With the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, we are building out the electric charging stations that we need so you can get across Minnesota, New Mexico, and everywhere in between if you choose to have an electric vehicle. That is going to be your choice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), an amazing sister who believes in fighting for the clean air of our beautiful State.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition today to this rule. What we should be focusing on is actually funding the government, which is our constitutional duty. Instead, we are here debating a ridiculous rule on the eve of a Republican shutdown manufactured by extremists in the GOP. I remind everyone that the last time the government was shut down, it cost the American people \$11 billion.

Now, the very same people who tried to tank our economy just months ago over the debt ceiling are threatening a government shutdown that would cost our country billions of dollars and

threaten the economies, the livelihoods, and the people of my State, in New Mexico, with far-reaching consequences.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of New Mexicans, Federal employees, Active-Duty military, and others would go unpaid, and it is shameful. I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the amazing Mr. Ian Fluellen, a dedicated member of my team over the last 2 years.

Since June of 2021, Ian has fiercely and loyally served the people of New Mexico's First Congressional District. He has served as a dedicated legislative staffer for nearly a decade, serving in the offices of Congressmen JIM COSTA, G.K. Butterfield, MARK DESAULNIER, and myself.

He was raised in Las Vegas and received his bachelor's degree in political science and government at the University of Nevada, Reno. His love for government and making the world a better place is what propelled him into a career in public service.

During Ian's time in my office, he has proven to be a talented, brilliant, and truly extraordinary staffer. He has been instrumental in guiding my office, leading our legislative team, serving the constituents of our State, managing our D.C. office, mentoring young staffers, and helping them to thrive.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New Mexico's First Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Ian for his nearly 9 years of service on Capitol Hill.

His quick wit and constant support will be missed every single day in our office. I wish him all the best. We will miss him very much.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to constantly talk about what we are not doing here today. We are not talking about the appropriations bills that we need to fund our government. Maybe it is because the other side doesn't really want us to know, does not want the American public to know all of the awful things that are in those appropriations bills.

The 2024 funding bills that the Republicans wrote are so extreme, their own conference is having a hard time swallowing the devastation the drastic cuts will do in America. These bills are a direct attack on rural America, on families, our servicemembers, on our climate goals, and the list goes on.

What are some of the terrible provisions that we have reviewed in the Rules Committee that we are not talking about on the floor today?

One, inching toward a national abortion ban. In the Defense appropriations bill, they included a ban for servicemembers, women, and their families from taking paid leave or traveling to obtain an abortion or related healthcare services related to a woman's reproductive health.

If a woman is raped and wants an abortion and lives in a State where there are no exceptions, that servicewoman, who joined to serve our country, has no choice, if she lives in 1 of 14 States in this country.

They told our servicewomen that if they choose to serve our country, they will be deprived of the care they need. In the same bill, they cut \$714 million for the Department of Defense climate change programs.

I need to tell you, we read into the RECORD the fact that it has been told that the Nation who has the advantage of addressing climate change and building resilience will have a military strategic advantage. Once again, they are taking away our military strategic advantage not just with that but refusing, the Republicans, to go ahead and allow our nomination for flag officers to serve. Over and over again in this bill, they are weakening our ability to serve and defend our country.

In the Agriculture appropriations bill, they returned funding to 2007 levels. Imagine what that kind of cut does to our rural communities, from slashing cuts for rural electric co-ops, like I have throughout my district, to making sure that our children go hungry. A mother cannot feed herself or her baby if she is cut back to 2007 levels, but that is what Republicans are prioritizing.

We are not really talking about these bills because we are not talking about funding the government, are we?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee, who I am sure will address some of these issues.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, 16 days, that is how much time we have left until the government runs out of funding.

Six weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, I stood here on the floor of the House with my colleagues as House Republicans gaveled the House out of session for a 45-day recess.

Now, you may recall, Mr. Speaker, the priority that House Republicans were pursuing on that day, as we gaveled out of session. I can assure you it was not to fund the government. It was, instead, a bill targeting the lesser prairie chicken and the long-eared bat, literally. This came on the heels of a summer spent on Republican bills to protect gas stoves.

Six weeks later, we are back in Washington. Republicans have gaveled the Congress back into session. Here we are on the House floor yet again. What are we spending our time doing? Perhaps a bill to fund the government? No. A bill to ensure that members of our armed

forces are paid, that the operations of our government remain up and running? No. Instead, House Republicans choose to spend the time of this body debating a bill attacking electric vehicles.

Electric vehicles, gas stoves, the long-eared bat, and the lesser prairie chicken. Those are the priorities of the House Republican caucus. Sixteen days away from a government shutdown, and this is how House Republicans choose to spend our time.

The priorities that House Republicans are pursuing are grossly out of step with the priorities of the American people.

You are in charge, Mr. Speaker. You could choose today to put bills on the floor to build safer communities or lower costs or grow the middle class. Instead, we are left with political games, and, oh, that is right, a baseless impeachment inquiry that the Speaker announced 48 hours ago. Maybe we can get back to the basic job of the U.S. House of governing, of passing a budget.

Mr. Speaker, there is a good place to start. The Fiscal Responsibility Act that this body passed a mere 4 months ago set out negotiated spending levels. I don't know if the Speaker voted for it, but 149 of your colleagues did in the Republican caucus. The ranking member, my friend from Texas, voted for it.

Now, months later, the Republican caucus, the Speaker, they have abandoned, they have revoked, reneged on that deal. Why? Because the far-right members of their caucus have demanded it. Here we are, 16 days away from a government shutdown that many members of the Republican Conference seem fixated on creating.

We had a Rules Committee hearing, which the distinguished gentlewoman joined me in, just a few days ago, where one of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle was unabashed, who said: Let's shut it down.

Of course, for those Americans watching, they know that we have been here before. They have seen this movie. They have seen how it ends.

□ 1315

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, they know that if Republicans are in control of the House, there is one thing they can count on, and that is that Republicans will shut the government down as they did in the 1990s under Speaker Newt Gingrich, as they did in 2013 under Speaker Boehner, as they did in 2018 under Speaker Ryan.

I implore my colleagues to get back to the basics of governing. Work with us in good faith. Honor the agreement that you all voted for 4 months ago. Let's fund the government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which clearly states that it is the people's House's duty to keep our promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and fight against any cuts to these vital programs.

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this harmful, ridiculous rule because it pushes partisan provisions and does not address the issues that actually matter to the American people, as I hear in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can bring legislation like H. Res. 178 to the floor for a vote to reaffirm our commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

These vital programs are lifelines for seniors. They provide our seniors with the financial support and health coverage they have earned and rightfully deserve.

In Virginia's Fourth, there are over 150,000 seniors on Social Security and who are eligible for Medicare.

Virginians and Americans across the Nation need Congress to focus on the issues that really matter to them, and I know hundreds of thousands of seniors in my district rely on these programs to keep food on the table and access the healthcare services and prescription drugs they need.

For years, extreme Republicans have sought to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits, privatize these programs, and raise the age of eligibility for Social Security and Medicare. House Democrats stand united in our efforts to strengthen and preserve these programs to ensure our seniors have the support that they need to live with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time for House Republicans to stop the partisan messaging bills and get back to work on the challenges that face our constituents.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, California's leadership on protecting public health and safeguarding our environment should be a national model.

When the Federal Government has failed to guarantee cleaner air to every

Californian, our State government has acted to reduce harm.

When Washington, D.C., politicians were doing the bidding of Big Oil, California had the courage to curb pollution and improve air quality.

California's recent strengthening of emission standards will save \$13 billion in healthcare costs and prevent more than 1,200 lives from being cut short. House Republicans' wrongheaded legislation would undo this progress and substitute their judgment for that of California's own representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 1435 and instead work to provide cleaner air to every American.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, following up on the gentlewoman from California's comments and on the importance of looking at this industry and how it is growing, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a January 12, 2023, article.

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

There was no objection.

[From Jalopnik, Jan. 12, 2023]

EVs MADE IN THE U.S. ARE DOMINATING THE MARKET

(By Andy Kalmowitz)

A new report shows that electric vehicles built in U.S. factories by far and away lead the domestic EV market, and it doesn't seem like that trend is going to be coming to a stop anytime soon. According to Automotive News, new vehicle registration data from Experian shows that U.S.-made EVs account for about 75 percent of new electric vehicles in the first 11 months of 2022.

On top of that, U.S.-based automakers were also responsible for almost all local production, according to the outlet. The biggest exception was Nissan. Its Leaf, which is built in Tennessee, held 1.7 percent of the U.S. EV market share.

Tesla (which just dethroned BMW as the luxury sales king), General Motors and EV startup like Rivian are in the proverbial driver's seat for this manufacturing trend. The Inflation Reduction Act that was signed into law in 2022 also has something to do with it. The Act ended the \$7,500 EV tax credit for vehicles built outside of North America. It's reportedly spelling bad news for U.S. manufacturers and supply chains as the world's auto market makes the transition to electric vehicles over the coming decade.

But, because of the new stipulations in the IRA, automakers around the globe are accelerating plans to build electric vehicles in the U.S., according to Auto News. Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz actually started delivering U.S.-made EVs at the end of last year.

Asian and European brands own a comparatively very small piece of the EV sales pie. On the other hand, Texas-based Tesla leads the pack with 64 percent of the market share in the first 11 months of 2022, according to Experian's data. Ford came in second place with 7.4 percent of the market. It was followed by Chevrolet at 4.7 percent, Kia at 4 percent, Hyundai at 3.7 percent, Volkswagen at 2.4 percent, Audi at 2.2 percent and Rivian at 1.9 percent.

"This increased domestic EV production, inspired by the IRA, will build the supply chain quicker than anyone previously thought possible," Sam Fiorani, vice president of global vehicle forecasting at

AutoForecast Solutions, said. "As long as the IRA remains open-ended, without time or volume limitations, the battery and component infrastructure will grow in North America until the market becomes saturated sometime after 2035."

As you may have expected, the best selling EVs on the market in the first 11 months of 2022 were led by the Tesla Model Y. The automaker reportedly sold 200,592 crossovers. Coming in second was another Tesla, the Model 3 sedan, which sold 175,661 units. Third was the Ford Mustang Mach-E with 34,643 registrations, with fourth and fifth place again occupied by Tesla vehicles: the Model X and Model S, which had 30,125 registrations and 25,362 registrations respectively. Rounding out the top 10 U.S. EV registrations were the Chevrolet Bolt EUV with 22,421 registrations, Hyundai Ioniq 5 with 21,086 registrations and the Kia EV6 with 19,163. After that we have the Volkswagen ID.4 with 16,345 registrations, and finally the Rivian R1T pickup with 11,637 registrations.

It'll be interesting to see how these market dynamics shift over the next few years as more and more automakers qualify for the \$7,500 EV tax credit.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to recognize that there are health benefits from the Clean Air Act, but there are also benefits to our manufacturing sector, as well.

H.R. 1435 completely ignores the benefits of EV production. They are completely going to be undermining the importance of manufacturing in the United States, what we need in the United States. Why would we want the industry to move to other countries when we can make it here in America?

Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to the reason why so many of us have stood up today in opposition to this rule and have stood up in opposition to this rule for what it does not do. It does not address the looming crisis that the extreme Republicans and, apparently, the entire Republican Conference—because they are all moving toward that. My colleagues on the other side could meet and work with us, but no. Once again, they want to shut it down.

It is our duty to govern. Under Republican leadership, we have not seen any governing happening. We have not passed the appropriations bills that America needs to keep our government open.

Would that be acceptable in any other arena? It would not be acceptable in my State of New Mexico to allow a party to actually just shut down our government. That would be reprehensible. It should be reprehensible here, as well.

The Republicans cannot escape that this is their playbook. They do it over and over again. When they hold the gavel in this House, they shut down the government.

For what? For extreme demands that we have already discussed, demands that attack women and their ability to make choices about their own reproductive healthcare in consultation with their own faith, with their own family and those they love, and not with their Congressperson but with their doctors.

For what? Because they don't want to, and they are protecting their millionaire friends and the big corporations. They do not want to make sure that they pay their fair share of taxes, so they prefer to shut down the government, a government that serves the American people in so many different ways.

Our Democratic voices that are coming to this Chamber, that are coming to the people's House from districts as diverse and beautiful as mine, know that we must bring their voices to this table, to this House, and say to keep it open and keep offering the services that protect us, that keep us safe, that make sure that our education is broad and has help where it is needed, that our Native American communities that we serve continue to receive the healthcare and law enforcement that we need, that we make sure that our Department of Justice is doing its job—because it is—and that we do all that work so our railroads are safe and our food is safe.

We must do all that work to make sure our government is kept open.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose today's rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

On the subject of paying taxes, I do hope the special prosecutor is successful in ensuring that the President's family pays their fair share in taxes. I know that is an ongoing issue before the courts now.

Mr. Speaker, according to a Stanford University study, California will need to triple its electricity supply just to fuel all the additional electric vehicles on the road as a result of the ban on gas and diesel vehicle sales. The grid expansion alone is going to cost Californians at least \$75 billion in higher electric rates.

I want to reference a document prepared by the Committee on Energy and Commerce because, obviously, that committee was responsible for our underlying bill, and their discussion on electric vehicle mandates, on how they are unaffordable and impractical.

The majority of vehicles, 95 percent on the road today, run on internal combustion engines. Electric vehicles are still too expensive for many Americans. I would reference that, basically, these are subsidized toys for rich people.

The average transaction price of an electric vehicle was \$17,000 more than a gas-powered vehicle in 2022. Gas-powered vehicles continue to outperform EVs with significantly higher ranges and greater towing capacity, and they are less susceptible to issues caused by severe weather conditions.

Electric vehicles lose 40 percent of their range in cold weather. We are going to put all of our kids on electric schoolbuses in northern States in wintertime and hope they get to their destination okay. If they don't, the bus is not going to have enough power to

keep the children warm until they get a rescue vehicle out there.

The lack of vehicle charging infrastructure in many parts of the country, especially rural areas, makes electric vehicles impractical. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Secretary of Energy for so eloquently demonstrating that fact last week.

Rampant EV expansion could overwhelm the electric grid and compromise grid reliability, which would result in blackouts and other issues.

We had a really hot summer in Texas. It made the newspapers in several locations. Good news—solar energy did supply the grid with a lot of solar power.

Here is a news flash for you, and you can't make this stuff up. The Sun goes down every night. Just when everyone is getting home and plugging in their electric vehicles, or maybe their electric schoolbuses, and they come in the back door and: Oh, my gosh, this house is hotter than Hades. Crank up the AC, and guess what? The Sun set. Solar power is offline. The grid can't handle it. That is a dangerous situation.

Finally, as the gentleman from Minnesota pointed out to us so eloquently, China controls the vast majority of the mining, processing, and manufacturing of critical minerals for electric vehicles, including 75 percent of lithium-ion batteries, as well as the processing and refining capacity for over half of the world's lithium, cobalt, and graphite. The administration unwisely prohibited mining in the northern range of Minnesota, so the administration was all too eager to go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and employ child slave labor in order to get those critical elements.

I thank my fellow members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for bringing us this important piece of legislation to begin to roll back some of the damage that President Biden has placed on the middle class.

I don't know why this administration has declared war on the middle class, but they have, and it has been, unfortunately, readily apparent every day since Inauguration Day 2021.

Republicans remain united in pursuing a legislative agenda that puts the welfare of the American people above the special interests of a few.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the rule and support the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 681 OFFERED BY
MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 2. 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. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

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

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

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 198, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

YEAS—214

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

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Smucker | Tiffany |
| Spartz | Timmons |
| Stauber | Turner |
| Steel | Valadao |
| Stefanik | Van Drew |
| Steil | Van Dуйne |
| Steube | Van Orden |
| Stewart | Wagner |
| Strong | Walberg |
| Tenney | Waltz |
| Thompson (PA) | Weber (TX) |

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Webster (FL) | Williams (TX) |
| Wenstrup | Wilson (SC) |
| Westerman | Wittman |
| Williams (NY) | Womack |
| Williams (TX) | Yakym |
| Wilson (SC) | Zinke |

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. 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—yeas 215, noes 200, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

AYES—215

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Adams | Garcia, Robert |
| Aguilar | Golden (ME) |
| Auchincloss | Goldman (NY) |
| Balint | Gomez |
| Barragan | Gonzalez, Vicente |
| Beatty | Gottheimer |
| Bera | Green, Al (TX) |
| Beyer | Grijalva |
| Bishop (GA) | Grihalva |
| Blumenauer | Harder (CA) |
| Blunt Rochester | Hayes |
| Bonamici | Higgins (NY) |
| Bowman | Himes |
| Boyle (PA) | Horsford |
| Brown | Houlahan |
| Brownley | Hoyle (OR) |
| Budzinski | Huffman |
| Bush | Jackson (IL) |
| Caraveo | Jackson (NC) |
| Carbajal | Jacobs |
| Cárdenas | Jayapal |
| Carson | Jeffries |
| Carter (LA) | Johnson (GA) |
| Cartwright | Kamlager-Dove |
| Case | Kaptur |
| Casten | Keating |
| Castor (FL) | Kelly (IL) |
| Cherfilus- | Khanna |
| McCormick | Kildee |
| | Kilmer |
| Chu | Kim (NJ) |
| Clark (MA) | Krishnamoorthi |
| Clarke (NY) | Kuster |
| Cleaver | Landsman |
| Clyburn | Larsen (WA) |
| Cohen | Larson (CT) |
| Connolly | Lee (CA) |
| Correa | Lee (NV) |
| Costa | Lee (PA) |
| Courtney | Leger Fernandez |
| Craig | Levin |
| Crockett | Lieu |
| Crow | Lofgren |
| Cuellar | Lynch |
| Davids (KS) | Magaziner |
| Davis (NC) | Manning |
| Dean (PA) | Matsui |
| DeGette | McClellan |
| DeLauro | McCollum |
| DelBene | McCarvey |
| Deluzio | McGovern |
| DeSaulnier | Meeks |
| Dingell | Menendez |
| Doggett | Meng |
| Escobar | Mfume |
| Eshoo | Morelle |
| Espallat | Moskowitz |
| Evans | Moulton |
| Fletcher | Mrvan |
| Foster | Mullin |
| Foushee | Nadler |
| Frankel, Lois | Napolitano |
| Frost | Neal |
| Gallego | Neguse |
| Garamendi | Nickel |
| Garcia (IL) | Norcross |
| Garcia (TX) | Ocasio-Cortez |

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Omar | Williams (GA) |
| Pallone | Wilson (FL) |
| Panetta | |
| Pappas | |
| Pascrell | |
| Payne | |
| Pelosi | |
| Perez | |
| Peters | |
| Petterson | |
| Phillips | |
| Pocan | |
| Porter | |
| Pressley | |
| Quigley | |
| Ramirez | |
| Raskin | |
| Ross | |
| Ruiz | |
| Ruppersberger | |
| Ryan | |
| 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 | |
| Thanedar | |
| Thompson (CA) | |
| Thompson (MS) | |
| Titus | |
| Tlaib | |
| Tokuda | |
| Tonko | |
| Torres (CA) | |
| Trahan | |
| Underwood | |
| Vargas | |
| Vasquez | |
| Veasey | |
| Velázquez | |
| Wasserman | |
| Schultz | |
| Waters | |
| Watson Coleman | |
| Wexton | |
| Wild | |
| Williams (GA) | |
| Wilson (FL) | |

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

NOT VOTING—21

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Allred | Jackson Lee |
| Castro (TX) | James |
| Crenshaw | Lucas |
| D'Esposito | Luna |
| Davis (IL) | McBath |
| Hoyer | Moore (WI) |
| Ivey | Nehls |

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Peltola | Wasserman |
| Pingree | Schultz |
| Salazar | Waters |
| Sewell | Watson Coleman |
| Takano | Wexton |
| Torres (NY) | Wild |
| Trone | Williams (GA) |

□ 1353

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Messrs. GREEN of Texas, ROBERT GARCIA of California, JEFFRIES, and MAGAZINER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

NOES—200

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

NOT VOTING—18

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Allred | Ivey | Nehls |
| Castro (TX) | Jackson Lee | Peltola |
| Crenshaw | Lucas | Pingree |
| D'Esposito | Luna | Sewell |
| Davis (IL) | Mace | Torres (NY) |
| Hoyer | McBath | Trone |

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1402

Ms. SHERRILL changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 681, I call up the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1435

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”.

SEC. 2. STATE STANDARDS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “part.” and inserting “part, or”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) such State standards directly or indirectly limit the sale or use of new motor vehicles with internal combustion engines, as such term is defined in section 63.9375 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect January 1, 2023.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The Administrator may not determine that any State standards amended after the date of enactment of this paragraph are within the scope of a waiver granted under paragraph (1) before the date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

(b) EFFECT ON CERTAIN EXISTING WAIVERS.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revoke a waiver granted under section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(b)) during the period that begins on January 1, 2022, and ends on the date of enactment of this Act if the Administrator finds that such waiver does not comply with subparagraph (D) of section 209(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(b)(1)), as added by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1435.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 1435 from my colleague and an Energy

and Commerce Committee member, Dr. JOHN JOYCE.

For more than a century, the internal combustion engine has allowed people to increase their mobility and raise their standard of living. Restrictive government mandates aren't how we are going to lead the next 100 years, yet that is what EPA and California are trying to do by mandating that new vehicles sold in the State be electric. Seventeen other States are ready to follow suit if the EPA approves the recent waiver request from California.

The reality is that gas-powered cars are much less expensive than EVs and continue to outperform them in range, towing capacity, and their ability to operate in severe weather conditions. Studies have also warned that a rushed EV expansion could overwhelm our electric grid.

In California, Governor Newsom has resorted to asking people not to charge their EVs during blackouts. EVs currently make up just 4 percent of the vehicles in his State.

The decision to choose should apply across the board, whether that is for gas powered, EVs, or hybrid.

H.R. 1435 prevents EPA from granting California a waiver to limit the sale or use of new gas-powered cars. It is vital that we stop this effort to force an electricity transition on Americans, especially when you consider how China dominates the industry and supply chains and has even taken steps to build its own electric vehicle foothold in Mexico, specifically so it can access the U.S. market.

We need to focus on ensuring access to affordable, reliable transportation and ensuring our electric grid is dependable so people can keep their lights on, keep going to the store to get their groceries, stay warm, and live their lives.

Protecting people's way of life and their ability to provide for their families is the fundamental goal of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1435.

Tens of millions of Americans battled extreme heat, flooding, and storms this summer, threatening their health, homes, and livelihoods. Last month, Hurricane Idalia became our Nation's 23rd billion-dollar weather disaster this year. That is a record, and it is only September.

The damage caused by climate change and dangerous pollution cannot be ignored, yet that is exactly what House Republicans are doing with this bill. They are, once again, doing the bidding of their corporate polluter friends at the expense of Americans' health and security and our Nation's economy.

The transportation sector is the single largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions and other dangerous air

pollution, but, once again, Republicans want to bury their heads in the sand and ignore reality, even while more than 100 million Americans are right now living in counties with unhealthy levels of air pollution.

Thanks to decades of innovation in the American auto industry, spurred forward by technology-driven standards, we have a large and growing fleet of cleaner, more affordable cars that benefit all Americans. These standards have helped cement the United States as a global leader in the transportation sector.

Congress carefully crafted the Clean Air Act to recognize the diverse air pollution challenges facing each State. Due to a history of severe air quality problems, the EPA can grant California waivers to set vehicle emission standards that are more protective than those at the Federal level, and other States can voluntarily adopt California's standards if they choose to do so. EPA has granted dozens of these waivers, and 17 States and the District of Columbia have followed California's lead, including my home State of New Jersey.

The law ensures that any State has the freedom to choose to adopt these stronger vehicle emission standards if it works for them. H.R. 1435 would gut that freedom of choice.

The bill directs the EPA to revoke all existing waivers and future waivers under the Clean Air Act for any California vehicle emission standards related to internal combustion engines.

□ 1415

This bill would turn back the clock over 50 years of both Congress and the EPA recognizing California's statutory authority to set more protective vehicle emission standards. It infringes on the rights of States like my home State of New Jersey to voluntarily adopt those standards to protect people from dangerous air pollution. This bill would also cause chaos and uncertainty for the American automotive industry by forcing the EPA to revoke waivers going all the way back to 2013.

Now, Republicans' portrayal of this bill as protecting consumer choice is completely detached from reality. This bill will discourage any manufacturing of hybrid or electric vehicles. There would be no incentives for automakers to invest in the production of hybrids and EVs, and they would simply not be available as a cleaner and cheaper choice. The bill blocks any State's ability to break free from the grip of Big Oil.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker: Nobody is taking away your gas-powered vehicle. Republicans are fear-mongering in a deliberate effort to mislead the American people. The truth is, Republicans are trying to legislate away years of American innovation in cleaner transportation in yet another attempt to do the bidding of their Big Oil friends. They are once again putting polluters over people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

There is truly nothing more American than the freedom of the open road. Americans have built their lives around reliable and affordable transportation, and now, government overreach is threatening to put the cars, trucks, and SUVs that hardworking Americans need out of reach.

At its core, the vote on H.R. 1435 asks a very simple question: Should consumers or the Federal Government decide what type of vehicles Americans can drive?

This legislation is designed to address an issue created by California's Advanced Clean Cars II regulations that seek to ban the sale of gas-powered vehicles in the next decade by requiring 35 percent of new vehicle sales to be electric vehicles in 2026 and fully 100 percent of sales to be electric vehicles by 2035.

Because of the fact that 17 other States have adopted portions of California's Clean Air Act regulations, this decision could potentially impact over 40 percent of the American auto market, and if enacted, would create a de facto ban on all gas-powered vehicles in the United States.

As originally created, California's carve-out in the Clean Air Act of 1970 was designed to combat smog and pollution in and around Los Angeles, and it was never intended to be used as a tool to ban the vehicles that have transported Americans for over 100 years.

Currently, the only thing standing in the way of California's implementation of this policy is a required EPA waiver.

That is why I, along with Representatives Latta, Bilirakis, and Obernolte, introduced H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. This bill would prevent the EPA Administrator from granting a waiver to any regulation that would limit the sale or use of new vehicles with internal combustion engines.

We cannot expect vehicle manufacturers to build one car for California and another one for Pennsylvania.

In areas like my district in central and western Pennsylvania, electric vehicles are unable to perform in the mountainous terrain and lose range in high heat and in extreme cold.

On a recent trip, Energy Secretary Granholm was unable to use a fleet of electric vehicles to travel across the State of Georgia without using a gas-powered vehicle to block a public charging station ahead of her arrival.

Mr. Speaker, not every family will have an advance staffer ready to reserve a charger for their vehicle. Even the Biden administration's EPA Ad-

ministrator Michael Regan did not support the banning of internal combustion engines.

In May, when I asked Administrator Regan if he supported such a ban during an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing he responded: "No, not at all."

It is clear that more government interference cannot deliver innovation that Americans rely on.

There are fundamental issues of our Nation's infrastructure that would prevent us from transitioning to an all-electric model, including the state of our electric grid.

Under President Biden's Green New Deal agenda, we have seen coal-powered plants close, we have seen him stop the production of natural gas, and we have seen new drilling leases canceled from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico.

Instead of utilizing the power sources underneath the feet of my constituents, President Biden's administration has attempted to subsidize energy sources like wind turbines and solar panels that have been proven to be ineffective at providing our grid with the power necessary for charging electric vehicles en masse.

As we look towards the future of electric vehicles, the Chinese Communist Party is taking aggressive steps to position themselves as the leader in developing EV battery technology.

Through the CCP's control of the critical minerals and resources needed to make electric batteries, a full transition to these vehicles would be a boon for the Chinese economy while hurting Americans.

It has become clear that transitioning to a fully electric auto market would put China and not American autoworkers in the driver's seat.

Today, it is time for the House to pass the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act and allow American families and American consumers to choose the vehicles that they want and the vehicles that they can afford.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. The Governor of California does not have the right to determine what type of vehicle my constituents in Pennsylvania are able to buy. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), who is the ranking member of our Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee.

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

I rise in opposition to H.R. 1435. Make no mistake, we are at a critical moment in history. The climate crisis is here, and over 100 million Americans

live in counties with unhealthy levels of traditional air pollution.

Thanks to vehicle standards, incentives, and R&D policies, the U.S. auto industry is poised to lead the world in clean transportation innovation.

We should focus on supporting these policies, not weakening them.

Sadly, H.R. 1435 would toss aside decades of legal precedent, upending the California waiver process and threatening the innovation already underway.

Rather than restate what my Californian colleagues have said and will say about the history of the Clean Air Act and the importance of the waiver process to protecting public health, I want to look forward.

For over 100 years, America has been the greatest auto manufacturing nation in the world. This is largely because we have embraced innovation and we have embraced our skilled unionized workforce.

If we want to continue to retain this title, we need to embrace the changes that are occurring in that sector.

The transportation revolution is here. It is already creating jobs and reducing pollution, in large part thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

When we hear concerns about inadequate charging options, we need to remember that charging infrastructure is going to become much more widespread and better performing in the near future thanks to the \$7.5 billion enacted in the infrastructure law.

When we hear about stresses on the grid, let's remember that there are tens of billions of dollars in the infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act to make our electric system smarter, more resilient, and, yes, more capable of meeting these new demands.

When we hear that clean vehicles will support China, let's acknowledge that this will only be true if we fail to develop our own domestic supply chains.

Just 2 weeks ago, DOE announced \$15.5 billion in grants and loans to support retooling existing factories for the transition to EVs. This will be complementary to so many public and private investments that are enabling critical mineral processing and battery manufacturing here in the U.S.

We can continue to be the world's leader in automotive innovation for the next century, but only if we embrace the regulatory policies and the incentives that will drive us forward to a cleaner and healthier future, which is why I urge Members to oppose this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, States are not free under the Clean Air Act to regulate cars any way they want. Section 209 has conditions.

Also, the bill does not repeal or weaken any of the Clean Air Act levels. We have the strictest clean air regulations of any place in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, which is legislation I co-lead.

California's Air Resources Board has made the decision to ban the sale of new internal combustion engines by the year 2035. This action was a major component in the State's radical climate agenda that is being forced on their citizens.

Normally, the actions of one State would not require a Federal response; however, in this case, California's actions extend far beyond their State's borders and will have consequences for all Americans. This is because 17 other States follow California's standards, representing 40 percent of the Nation's car market.

When Congress first set up this process, it never intended for California to be able to dictate to the rest of the country what types of vehicles they can purchase. Instead, Congress wanted to give California additional tools to combat smog levels.

To make matters worse, California has not clearly considered the impact these actions will have on the Nation's electric grid. As officials from the DOE and FERC confirmed to me this week, we are going to need more power, not less power, in this country to meet consumer demand. If California's Governor is already calling on his residents to conserve energy now to avoid blackouts and brownouts, how in the world will the grid be able to handle the load with millions of additional electric cars?

Additionally, the Biden administration is doing nothing to address the problem of accessing all the rare earth minerals that we need to manufacture an all-EV fleet. These materials are controlled by Communist China who will stand to reap the windfall of these policies.

H.R. 1435 is a commonsense bill because it institutes a check on any State that seeks to exploit the Clean Air Act. The American people are the better arbiters of what vehicles will serve their families' needs, not bureaucrats with political agendas.

Let me be clear: This legislation does not prevent California from being able to retain a waiver from the U.S. EPA to combat their smog issues, which was the original intent of the Clean Air Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), who is the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 1435.

California has long been a global leader in the fight against air pollution. Whether it is greenhouse gases, smog, or other harmful pollutants,

California has often been the first State to protect our citizens from the terrible health impacts of dirty air.

You get a lot of criticism when you are a leader, and Californians are no strangers to criticism. Time and again, that criticism fades as the rest of the country, and often other countries, see the benefits of California's emissions policies.

In 1966, California established the first tailpipe emissions standard in the Nation. The country soon followed with the Clean Air Act of 1970, which created the EPA, and established the first national air pollution standards.

The Clean Air Act also recognized California's leadership by explicitly affirming California's authority to set more stringent emission standards.

Thanks to that authority, California continued to lead the fight against air pollution and adopted the first NO_x standards and the first particulate matter standards for motor vehicles.

□ 1430

In 2004, California adopted the first greenhouse gas pollution standards for vehicles. The EPA followed in 2010 with the first national standards for greenhouse gas pollution from vehicles.

Now, the impacts of climate change, caused by fossil fuel pollution, are becoming more numerous and deadlier. More frequent and more intense floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and heat waves threaten to make our communities unlivable.

This bill, however, enshrines the internal combustion engine in the Clean Air Act. We are leading the Nation with cutting-edge vehicle emission standards that will reduce greenhouse gas pollutants and lead the world in the fight against climate change. This bill is a love letter to Big Oil, legally mandating that Americans think first of the internal combustion engine before considering air quality or public health.

We have a chance to stop climate change before it is too late, but this bill would keep dirty gas and diesel cars on the road forever, dooming our children to face the worst impacts of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1435.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman RODGERS is doing a great job. We are so fortunate to be on this committee. I think it is the best committee in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation that I co-lead with Representatives JOYCE, LATTA, and the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

The California ban would have far-reaching national effects, not only indirectly forcing EV vehicles onto consumers outside of California and the 17

other States tied to California standards, but also likely increasing the cost of all new vehicles nationwide and giving consumers fewer choices. We are all about choices, Mr. Speaker.

Currently, auto manufacturers face significant losses with their EV divisions and rely on the profits from their gas-powered vehicle sales to maintain profitability.

If this California rule stands, auto manufacturers will likely be forced to increase retail costs on all their vehicle options to remain profitable.

Many of my constituents are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to humor California's or the Biden administration's radical green policies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this particular bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), a member of our committee.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1435.

Despite its name, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, this bill would actually reduce choice for both consumers and the States they live in.

By making egregious changes to the Clean Air Act's Section 209 waiver authority, this bill would add significant impacts on our collective ability to adopt clean vehicle technologies, combat climate change, and promote environmental justice.

It would not only imperil California's statutorily granted ability to seek waivers to implement more protective standards for vehicle emissions, but it would also significantly hamper the rights of any States that have chosen or may choose to follow California's lead.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, States may voluntarily adopt any California vehicle emissions standard that has been granted a waiver from EPA. To date, 17 States, including the State of Maryland, where I live, have done so.

No one is forcing States to adopt California's standards, but for many State across the country, like Maryland, doing so makes a lot of sense.

That is why, in March of this year, our Governor, Governor Moore, announced the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars 2 Rule, which will align our State with the emissions standards pioneered by California and speed our transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles.

According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, this will provide in-State health benefits of nearly \$40 million per year by 2040, to say nothing of the energy savings, climate impacts, and economic benefits of building out our green economy.

The bill before us today would take away Maryland's freedom to adopt regulatory standards like these that meet its needs and would encroach on the rights of all States that choose to follow California's lead in adopting vehi-

cle emissions standards that will provide benefits to each and every one of our communities.

H.R. 1435 is a blatant attack on States that are taking ambitious steps to curb air pollution from cars and trucks and create greener, healthier futures for their residents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), a leader and subcommittee chairman on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choices in Vehicle Purchases Act.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Environment, I am proud to support this bill led by my Energy and Commerce Committee colleagues, Representatives JOYCE, LATTA, BILIRAKIS, and OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 1435 is a critical step in protecting consumer choice and safeguarding Americans' access to affordable and reliable vehicles.

The legislation would prohibit the EPA from granting California a waiver for vehicle emission standards if the State's standards directly or indirectly limit the sale of new gas-powered vehicles.

Why is this important? California recently submitted a waiver request, which would require all new passenger vehicles in the State to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035, effectively phasing out new gas-powered cars.

Even worse, if California is granted that EPA waiver, 17 States, representing 40 percent of the U.S. market for new vehicles, are poised to adopt California's exact standards.

This would result in California effectively forcing their values and their mandates on all of us. How would that work out? Ask the Secretary of Energy. It was recently reported that on a road trip with her entourage to tout electric vehicles, her advance staff actually blocked a family with their baby in the car from the one functioning EV charging station at a particular stop until the Secretary arrived to recharge her luxury EV. Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to say that my constituents don't get that privilege.

Now, I want to be clear. This legislation does not prevent Americans from purchasing EVs if they want one. House Republicans are simply ensuring that all Americans can choose the car that best fits their needs right now and in the decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1435.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1435.

H.R. 1435 would have disastrous consequences, not only on California's

ability to regulate dangerous air pollution from its own transportation sector, but for all of the other States who have adopted its standards, including my home State of New York.

My colleagues, climate change is accelerating in real-time, and we are experiencing the impact to our own detriment.

The transportation sector accounts for nearly one-third of the Nation's greenhouse gas contributions. Heavy-duty transportation makes up a significant piece of this polluting sector. Heavy-duty vehicles make up approximately 6 percent of vehicles on the road but generate 59 percent of the nitrogen oxides and other dangerous pollutants that contribute to ozone and particulate matter.

An estimated 72 million people live near truck freight routes across the United States. These communities, whose residents are more likely to be people of color and vulnerable populations, have lower incomes and experience higher rates of adverse health effects.

This bill would harm and potentially reverse decades of progress on cleaning up our heavy-duty transportation sector.

Republicans are putting polluters over people by attempting to block States' ability to regulate air pollution from heavy-duty trucks, in direct contradiction to the Clean Air Act.

While my Republican colleagues continue to try to block commonsense air pollution control efforts, I, along with my fellow House Democrats, will continue to fight for cleaner air and a clean energy future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1435.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, just noting for the record, in a 2017 midterm review, the California Air Resources Board confessed this law could lead to long-term job losses in industries tied to manufacturing, supplying, and servicing of conventional vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. I feel like I am repeating myself, but this is yet another bill that would overturn a radical rule from the Biden administration's EPA.

The agency's recent actions to provide California a waiver request to strictly regulate vehicle emissions and its proposed emissions standards combine to a de facto EV mandate.

Allowing California to ban the sale of internal combustion engines by 2035 will significantly distort the market and manufacturing of vehicles throughout our country. This is entirely inappropriate.

The Federal Government is not in the business of dictating consumer choice, especially when it can be detrimental to the lives of Americans from all walks of life.

If people want an EV, they can make that choice. Many people have already

made that choice, and I suspect more will as these vehicles improve and become more accessible.

However, they are not the right choice for all Americans. For most, they are simply out of reach. They are too expensive, even with existing incentives, and do not have the range nor the reliability consumers desire yet.

Portions of my district are incredibly rural and simply not practical for EVs. My constituents deserve access to affordable vehicles that can be depended on.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS), a member of our committee.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to attack California for its forward-thinking policies to address dangerous air pollution, especially from the transportation sector.

California has indeed been a leader in reducing air pollution for decades because of our unique air pollution challenges. In fact, we were the very first State to regulate tailpipe emission pollution from vehicles.

The Federal Government followed California's lead by enacting the first iteration of the Clean Air Act in 1970, over 10 years after California had legislation to adopt standards for community air quality and motor vehicle emissions.

Since California already had tailpipe emission standards on the books, Congress drafted the Clean Air Act to accommodate their ongoing innovation and progress in addressing air pollution from the transportation sector, and all of this occurred under the governorship of Ronald Reagan.

Over the years, EPA has granted California dozens of waivers for its emission standards. That has enabled California to not only address its significant air pollution challenges but has also cemented California as a worldwide leader in deploying emissions reduction technologies.

Our ambitious standards in California paved the way for the invention of the catalytic converter and the dashboard "check engine" lights, in addition to the development of zero-emission vehicles.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1435 seeks to erase decades of historic progress on addressing air pollution, driving innovation, and protecting public health.

Frankly, the goal of this short-sighted bill is to keep us stuck in the past and our heads in the sand while the real, tangible dangers of climate change continue to harm our communities, our environment, and our economy.

We should not reverse decades of California's historic leadership in protecting public health and addressing air pollution from the transportation sector.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1435.

□ 1445

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

Electric vehicles will be part of our energy matrix for a long time, our transportation matrix. No Republicans deny that, but government is trying to pick what you drive, America.

Our electric grid does not support electric vehicles now. Power generation isn't there, and the infrastructure is far from ready across most of America.

Stripping away Americans' freedom to choose, government picking the type of car that you have to drive, that is like saying: I am from the government, and I am here to help. I know better than you do, America.

That is wrong. Americans ought to have the freedom to choose. If electric vehicles are going to be part of our mix in rural South Carolina, we have a long way to go to build out that infrastructure. I can tell you that Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, and Washington State are a long way from ready.

Most of the pollution California talks about is not generated in California. It is coming from Asia. China is building all the infrastructure, all the solar panels, a lot of components for electric vehicles. They are using coal-fired power plants to produce those renewable components, creating pollution that ends up on the West Coast.

This is wrong for America. Government should not tell people in South Carolina or Washington State or anywhere else what kind of vehicle to drive.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

It is disappointing and, quite frankly, dangerous that this political messaging bill is intentionally being brought to the floor, given its potential impact on ongoing labor negotiations that expire at midnight tonight.

Unfortunately, this is yet another Republican attack on the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to keep Americans safe from dangerous air pollution, and it will have widespread, harmful effects on the future of the domestic automotive industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to reject this false choice between protecting our environment and protecting our working families. We can and must do both.

The UAW opposes this bill. Sierra Club opposes this bill. LCV opposes

this bill. We must stand with men and women who know what is best and oppose this bill.

This bill prevents the EPA from granting a waiver of Federal preemption under the Clean Air Act for any California vehicle emissions standard that directly or indirectly limits the sale or use of vehicles with an internal combustion engine. On top of this, it directs the EPA to revoke waivers that were already granted more than a decade ago that don't comply with this vague metric. This would immediately put existing waivers dating back a decade in jeopardy.

This doesn't affect just California. It has nationwide ramifications that every Member should be concerned about. It infringes on States' ability to voluntarily adopt standards to protect their citizens from dangerous air pollution and climate change.

My Republican colleagues are always saying that we have to protect States' rights. They are not doing it in this.

Let's be clear: The Clean Air Act is explicit in the EPA having the authority to protect all Americans from dangerous air pollution, including in the transportation sector.

Do you know what worries me the most? It is whether we are going to be prepared to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Revoking past waivers would throw unnecessary uncertainty into the marketplace. Companies need certainty to be competitive. This creates confusion for both industry and consumers.

Beyond undoing standards to protect citizens from dangerous air pollution, it will also stymie future automotive innovation that drives this Nation forward.

I will not cede our American leadership in the transportation sector to any other country in the world. Europe has already exceeded selling electric vehicles beyond the 50 percent mark, and we can't allow partisanship to stand in the way of building these cars here in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIFFANY). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we cannot let future mobility be dictated to us by foreign competitors when we put the world on wheels.

I love my Republican colleagues, and they know that I do, but we couldn't get the defense bill this week so we are playing this game with the livelihood of my constituents, the autoworkers in my district.

I am not going to let these cars be built in China. I am not going to let them be built anywhere but in America, and that means we have to compete. I will fight for them every single day, and I am not going to stop.

This bill is not good for the American automobile industry, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the legislation.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

When I first read the Biden administration's plan to increase fuel standards, which require 67 percent of all new vehicles manufactured be all-electric by 2032, I was appalled. This plan does nothing to benefit America and everything to benefit our greatest adversary, China.

Electric vehicle batteries require at least a 1,000 percent increase in materials extracted from the Earth compared to a gasoline-powered vehicle.

Who dominates the extraction and processing of these materials? You guessed it: China. Nearly all the growth in mining to meet this demand is expected to come from offshore, non-U.S. mines. Who has been buying these mines? You guessed it: China.

China is the only one that stands to benefit from this drastic change in policy, and American consumers will suffer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1435, the so-called Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. The only choice H.R. 1435 preserves is Big Oil's choice to worsen the climate crisis.

In California, we boldly led the way on pollution reduction standards. H.R. 1435 is a direct attack on the progress we are just starting to make in transitioning cars from fossil fuels to clean energy.

It would devastate California's goal to transition to EVs by 2035, a groundbreaking policy I proudly supported while serving in the California State Legislature.

This bill is a regressive measure that would doom not only California's goals but also undermine the entire Nation's efforts to combat the climate crisis.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. I thank Congressman JOHN JOYCE for his leadership on this bill.

The electrification or nothing timeline of this administration is far ahead of what is possible, practical, and affordable.

Giving California authority to dictate to the transportation industry for almost half the Nation is just another tool this administration is using to force EVs on the American people.

Fuel distribution for our transportation industry was built over the course of 100 years. It is not reasonable to assume the same can be done for an EV industry in just a few short years.

While this administration seeks to mandate and subsidize electric vehicles at every turn, they lack any sense of a coherent plan to put this into reality.

EV inventories are piling up on dealer lots because, simply put, nobody is buying them. This legislation would make important strides to protect Hoosiers' ability to choose the car that they think best fits their families.

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

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

I hear the Republicans constantly talk about choice, a choice of vehicles. Let me just stress again that nobody is taking away your gas-powered vehicle.

We are actually providing you the choice, and the States that are adopting the California standards are providing you a choice of vehicles because if you pass this bill, then you are basically insisting that people have to have gas-powered vehicles because nobody's going to develop EVs.

The fact of the matter is, contrary to my colleague from Indiana's remarks, people are buying EVs, more people than ever. Even Republicans are buying electric vehicles.

This bill will discourage any manufacturing of hybrid or electric vehicles because there will be no incentives for the automakers to invest in the production of hybrids or EVs, and they would simply not be available.

People won't have a choice of a cleaner car either because of better emission standards if it is gas powered or because they might want to buy a hybrid or an EV.

The other argument that is being made here is about China, and I have to dispute that, as well. Republicans are making the claim that this bill protects America from playing into China's hands. I totally disagree.

Basically, Republicans think that China is leading in the EV space. Rather than relying on American industry and American ingenuity to compete with China, Republicans think we should step aside. They basically say we will just stand down.

While the global demand and the American demand for EVs is rising, if we don't compete, China benefits. If we step back, China ends up controlling all the supply chains.

Democrats aren't denying that China is very active in this space and controls a lot of the existing supply chains for electric vehicles, but rather than ceding more ground, we are investing in America's ability to compete. We are investing in domestic battery manufacturing, creating jobs here and reducing our dependence on foreign supply chains.

Republicans are operating under the assumption that by stepping away from electric vehicles, China's dominance in the space disappears. That is nonsense. In reality, it means that the growing global demand for electric vehicles will be met by China, and American progress and competitiveness just recedes.

One of my colleagues—I think it was Mr. PETERS—said that the Republicans are stuck in the past. That is exactly the problem here. They don't understand that the auto industry is innovating. The auto industry has been creating gas-powered cars with less emissions.

The auto industry is creating EVs here. Let them flower. Let them do what they can so, ultimately, we are in charge of manufacturing these vehicles so that Americans buy and the rest of the world buys our electric vehicles.

Don't let China continue to dominate the market. That is what this bill will do.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), the gentleman who is all about winning the future.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Madam Chair for that great introduction.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. We are here today because lawmakers in California want to outright ban the sale of new vehicles with an internal combustion engine. They are fed up with the pace of the free market and want to force their consumers to switch to more expensive electric vehicles.

This bill would simply prevent President Biden's EPA from granting California the waiver needed to approve this ban.

If the California waiver is approved, over a dozen other States could adopt identical standards to ban the internal combustion engine.

House Republicans believe that Americans should be able to purchase the vehicle that meets their needs. The fact of the matter is that consumers across America are wary of making the shift to electric vehicles.

As Cox Automotive experts pointed out in July, the unsold inventory of EVs across the Nation swelled nearly 350 percent this year. There are 92,000 EVs currently sitting unsold on dealer lots.

As shown during the Secretary of Energy's recent EV road trip, there are still major problems with owning and charging an EV in America outside of big cities.

Regardless of whether you want to buy an EV or a traditional internal combustion vehicle, House Republicans believe that you should have the choice to purchase the vehicle that is best for you and your family. This bill will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense bill.

□ 1500

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). The gentleman from New

Jersey has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 10¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1435.

This legislation specifically targets the ability of my home State of California and the ability of 17 other States to set their own auto emission standards, improve public health, and tackle the climate crisis.

With this legislation, my Republican colleagues are propping up the fossil fuel industry at the expense of the environment and pushing their polluters over people agenda, which endangers the health of the American people.

Over 100 million people live in counties with unhealthy air pollution, and air pollution is linked to more than 100,000 premature deaths in the United States every year. The transportation sector is the largest contributor to the emission of greenhouse gases, making up one-third of total pollution.

In the mid-20th century, California was plagued by smog from vehicles that spewed pollution into the air and caused hazardous health conditions for residents. With this reality in mind, my State took action.

California has been a national leader in addressing air pollution from the transportation sector for decades and has regulated vehicle emissions for years. In fact, California established the first tailpipe emission standards in the country in 1966, well before the Federal Government did.

A year later, then-Governor Reagan approved the Mulford-Carrell Air Resources Act to create the State Air Resources Board. You heard that right. Ronald Reagan, a conservative Republican, established a statewide agency to address air pollution. Clean air protections were bipartisan for years, with President Nixon signing the Clean Air Act into law, another Californian, I might add.

The Clean Air Act granted California the ability to receive a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency to establish vehicle emission standards that are more protective and aggressive than those at the Federal level. With that authority, Governor Reagan's Air Resources Board adopted the Nation's first nitrogen oxide emission standards for motor vehicles.

Here is what we have seen in the years since: Ambitious vehicle emission standards empower the auto industry to produce better, cleaner cars. They are a win-win-win for consumers, growing our domestic auto industry, and meeting our climate goals.

For more than five decades, the EPA has granted dozens of waivers to California, which has enabled my State to cut pollution from as much as 35 parts per million in 1970 to under 9 parts per million in 2018. The waivers have helped improve conditions for residents and have driven innovation in the auto industry.

California's ambitious emission standards have led the way for historic technological breakthroughs, such as the invention of the catalytic converter, the dashboard check-engine light, and, yes, the development of zero-emission vehicles.

H.R. 1435 looks to erase decades of progress on tackling air pollution, advancing technological innovation, and protecting public health. This bill attacks the Clean Air Act and the longstanding authority of States to make their own decisions to keep their air clean and climate pollution low.

Republicans frequently tout States' rights. Why is this case any different?

This bill would also force the EPA to revoke existing waivers going back to 2013, causing chaos and confusion for the entire auto industry and disrupting the transition to electric vehicles that is already underway across the country.

The regulatory framework that California and its 17 partner States have in place empowers the auto industry to produce better and cleaner cars that are cheaper to maintain and provide significant cost savings for American families.

H.R. 1435's reckless requirement that the EPA revoke existing Clean Air Act waivers jeopardizes over 50 years of progress and innovation. Not only would the auto industry suffer, but the American consumer would lose out on cheaper, cleaner vehicle options today and in the future.

Let's be clear. The only party that would benefit from this regulatory uncertainty in vehicle emission standards is the fossil fuel industry.

Ultimately, H.R. 1435 is not based on science, and it fails to recognize the effects that our constituents are already feeling from unmitigated climate change. It fails to acknowledge the public health consequences of air pollution. For this reason, 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 would strike the section of the bill that requires the EPA Administrator to revoke all existing waivers, which would throw the U.S. auto industry into chaos and regulatory uncertainty.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative JOYCE's H.R. 1435, Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, to prevent the EPA from imposing new regulations that would ban the sales of new motor vehicles with gas-powered internal combustion engines.

Last year, California enacted new requirements on automakers, effectively banning the sale of new gas-powered cars and light trucks by 2035 and limiting consumer choice in new vehicles to electric vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice presented before us today. We can expand California's failed and expensive green energy mandates to the rest of the Nation, or we can invest in liquid fuels to restore American energy independence, make gas affordable again, and secure our energy future. H.R. 1435 will accomplish these goals.

Electric vehicles are not for everybody. Just ask Secretary Granholm about her recent road trip throughout the United States. Spoiler alert: The police were called.

When you think about the costly and ineffective proposals like those from California and the Biden administration, they reject the proven benefits of the liquid fuel sector. Investing in ever-cleaner liquid fuels, like biofuels and conventional fuels, provides immediate environmental benefits, supports our domestic economy, and bolsters national security while keeping costs low.

When we asked the Secretary recently about how much electricity the United States uses on an annual basis, she couldn't answer it, nor can any administration official answer it, but yet they want to mandate this not just in California but throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1435, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time. I don't have much time left.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan, the car capital of the world, (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today supporting the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

Why wouldn't I? I deal in a sense of reality. I live in a State that produces automobiles. I live in a State right now that is at risk of having a major disruption due to a strike potential. I have autoworkers who are concerned about their jobs because of the push on EVs that isn't working. We even had one of the major chairmen of the auto companies attempt to take an EV trip across the Nation. They couldn't make it because we don't have the infrastructure available.

Beyond that, H.R. 1435 prevents a waiver for California to effectively ban the internal combustion engine. California's political agenda does not reflect how the rest of America operates, and I would suggest it doesn't reflect what a lot of Californians need.

Look no further than EV sales to know the American people don't want this forced transition. They may like the F-150 Lightning. It is a hot rod, but it doesn't do the job.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, autoworkers in Michigan also don't want this mandate. Let consumers and

innovators in the auto industry guide the future, not California's politicians.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time because I have very little time remaining.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Americans want choice. Consumers deserve it when they buy a vehicle. It is one of the biggest purchases they will make other than their home. Whether they choose an internal combustion vehicle or an electric vehicle, that decision should be left up to the consumer, not Federal bureaucrats. I amend that to say unelected bureaucrats.

This administration's rush to electrification has blinded their ability to recognize the inevitable consequences and shortcomings of such restrictive government mandates.

Take the Secretary of Energy's recent 4-day EV road trip debacle. Due to the limited availability of EV chargers in America, including in Grovetown in my district, the Secretary's advance team chose to use non-EV vehicles to reserve working chargers for the Secretary's use at the expense of my constituents. I didn't have a thing to do with that.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not have advance teams. Georgians who don't wish to wait for working chargers on a family trip should not have to do so. Demand for electric vehicles should be market driven, not government manufactured. I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1435.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. The Golden State is turning into a Soviet state. California's attempt to ban gas vehicles is yet another step toward Marxism.

It is no wonder people are fleeing California in droves, as their State attempts to partner with Biden's radical EPA by handcuffing customers with requirements to purchase electric vehicles.

The Biden administration is weaponizing Federal agencies to pursue his radical Green New Deal agenda, while saddling Americans with the costs involved.

Limiting consumer choice is a veiled attempt to force Marxist principles down the throats of consumers. Support of this bill pushes back against radical ideals and promotes the opportunity for free markets to prevail.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the time remaining on both sides again?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2 minutes

remaining. The gentlewoman from Washington has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am urging support for the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, which will prevent California from banning gas-powered vehicles.

I am as strong a supporter as anyone of clean energy, and I could not be more excited about the future of clean energy that awaits us, but the way to move rapidly towards that future is through innovation. It is not through regulation. No State has gone further down the road of overreaching, overbearing, inattentive regulation to the needs of its citizens than California has.

This particular measure that California is now attempting is more radical than any that came before it. Specifically, the California Air Resources Board approved a plan in August and is now asking the Environmental Protection Agency to approve a waiver under the Clean Air Act to implement its new rules that set yearly rising zero-emission vehicle rules starting in 2026 and would end the sale of vehicles only powered by gasoline by 2035.

This is no trivial matter. The majority of vehicles on the road today in the United States, 95 percent, run on internal combustion engines.

What is the consequence of this going to be?

First and foremost, there is the cost. The price of an electric vehicle is \$17,000 higher than a gas-powered car. This is going to make life even harder for people in California where we already have the highest energy prices, the highest gas prices, the highest cost of living, the highest poverty rate, and far too many people having to leave our State because it is simply too hard to get by.

Make our State more affordable. This bill will save Californians from this burden and help many of my constituents.

□ 1515

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I am strongly opposed to the so-called Preserving Choice in Vehicles Purchases Act. Not only does this bill hinder our efforts and investments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing the climate crisis, but it also reverses successful work already implemented across the country and in my home State of California.

This bill would stop California from getting waivers that allow it to implement stronger and more aggressive emission standards than the Federal Government sets. This waiver was signed into law by Richard Nixon.

Over the last 50 years, California has received over 100 Clean Air Act waivers; over that same time span, many pollutant levels have decreased between 75 and 99 percent, even while the State's population doubled and vehicles have quadrupled.

Mr. Speaker, 17 States and the District of Columbia have adopted all or part of California's stronger regulations. With California's leadership, we have seen benefits to the environment, the economy, and public health.

As someone who was appointed by two Republican Governors and one Democrat, I strongly oppose this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, a bill that I introduced with several of my colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural district in California. This bill does nothing more or less than preserving their ability to choose for themselves what vehicle works best for them.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that I represent over 100,000 people who commute long distances to get to work and back every day. If electric vehicles were a less expensive and more efficient way for them to perform that commute, they would already own them.

In addition, we have heard testimony that we do not have even a quarter of the copper we would need to convert the current fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles; not even a quarter for the current production year, and that is not to mention other critical minerals, such as graphite, manganese, cobalt, and lithium.

It would be much more efficient to convert our current vehicles to hybrid vehicles that only require a battery one-fifth the size. We can do five times as many hybrids as we could electric vehicles.

Unfortunately, the waiver that is being sought by the State of California would completely prevent hybrid vehicles from being sold in the State starting in the year 2035.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is common sense. If you believe in being good stewards of the environment, which I think everyone in this Chamber does, we should vote for this bill because five times as many hybrids is much better than one times as many electric vehicles.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to make a few things clear.

Our environmental groups are opposed to this legislation. The UAW, for those who don't know, the United Auto Workers, are opposed to this legislation.

This is not States' rights, and, frankly, it is absolutely mind-blowing that

after the hottest summer on record, this is what the majority party is pushing forward amidst talks of a government shutdown and the need to take on climate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

Democrats' radical Green New Deal agenda is once again being forced on the American people. This comes on the heels after the Biden administration has sold 40 percent of our oil reserves and none have been replenished, endangering our national security.

They passed the Green New Deal and multiple bills, the infrastructure bill, to build 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the U.S., even though there is no mass demand for electric vehicles. They are also forcing Americans to go net zero by 2035, a date that our current President will unlikely ever even see.

Forcing Americans to have no choice in the type of automobile that they drive, on the type of engine that they prefer is forcing every American's knee to bend to China, our worst enemy.

This is traitorous to autoworkers, traitorous to auto unions, and traitorous to every American auto consumer.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I hear a lot of complaints about what it is going to do for California. Well, don't cry for California. We do a lot of bad ideas that affect the whole country. Indeed, we have one-eighth of the country's population and a little over one-eighth of the country's auto sales.

So what does that mean? Well, we are not going to get a whole lot of help from the manufacturers or the CEOs because they want to get along with Washington, D.C., but we are here about preserving choice for all Americans on automobiles.

The California Air Resources Board is an unelected board appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom, who is not the guy that is on your side for freedom.

As well, recently, after this mandate in California came out by 2035, a few days later he said, oh, people, will you please not charge your electric vehicles right now because it is going to affect our grid because we don't have enough power in our grid—rolling blackouts, bans on hydroelectric dams. They almost took down our last nuclear power plant.

So California is not the place a lot of solutions are going to come from. You

said Republicans put these in place. Well, these have been weaponized in the 50 years since then with the Air Resources Board and all the other entities that have been put in place.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1435 will preserve choices for people. I have actually lived it myself as I have had a real job on a farm.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the motion to recommit and "yes" on H.R. 1435.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The gentleman from New Jersey has the only time remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear again. Nobody is taking away your gas-powered vehicles. If this bill were to become law, there would be no choice because the United States would not build electric vehicles and we would fall further and further behind China.

The Republicans are trying to legislate away years of American innovation and cleaner transportation in yet another attempt to do the bidding of their Big Oil friends. They are once again putting polluters over people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 681, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

Mr. LEVIN. 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:

Mr. Levin of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1435 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

Mr. Levin moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1435 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike section 2(b) (relating to effect on certain existing waivers).

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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 212, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 390]

YEAS—193

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

NAYS—212

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Aderholt | Biggs | Carter (GA) |
| Alford | Bilirakis | Carter (TX) |
| Allen | Bishop (NC) | Chavez-DeRemer |
| Amodei | Boebert | Ciscomani |
| Armstrong | Bost | Cline |
| Arrington | Brecheen | Cloud |
| Babin | Buchanan | Clyde |
| Bacon | Buck | Cole |
| Baird | Bucshon | Collins |
| Balderson | Burchett | Comer |
| Banks | Burgess | Crane |
| Barr | Burlison | Crawford |
| Bean (FL) | Calvert | Curtis |
| Bentz | Cammack | Davidson |
| Bergman | Carey | De La Cruz |
| Bice | Carl | DesJarlais |

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

NOT VOTING—28

Allred Jackson Lee
 Castro (TX) Lee (CA)
 Cohen Lucas
 Crenshaw Luna
 D'Esposito McBath
 DeLauro McCaul
 Diaz-Balart McCollum
 Himes Meeks
 Hoyer Nehls
 Ivey Peltola

□ 1547

Messrs. MOLINARO, NUNN of Iowa, COMER, MURPHY, CISCOMANI, GREEN of Tennessee, LAMBORN, BISHOP of North Carolina, LAWLER, and POSEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. CLARK of Massachusetts, SHERRILL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Messrs. SCHNEIDER, LARSON of Connecticut, and NORCROSS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 390.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 390.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 390.

Stated against:

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 390.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 190, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 391]

YEAS—222

Aderholt Flood Mann
 Alford Foxx Massie
 Allen Franklin, C. Mast
 Amodei Scott McCarthy
 Armstrong Fry McClain
 Arrington Fulcher McClintock
 Babin Gaetz McCormick
 Bacon Gallagher McHenry
 Baird Garbarino Meuser
 Balderson Garcia, Mike Miller (IL)
 Banks Gimenez Miller (OH)
 Barr Golden (ME) Miller (WV)
 Bean (FL) Gonzales, Tony Miller-Meeks
 Bentz Good (VA) Mills
 Bergman Gooden (TX) Molinaro
 Bice Gosar Moolenaar
 Biggs Granger Mooney
 Bilirakis Graves (LA) Moore (AL)
 Bishop (NC) Graves (MO) Moore (UT)
 Boebert Green (TN) Moran
 Bost Greene (GA) Murphy
 Brecheen Griffith Newhouse
 Buchanan Grothman Norman
 Buck Nunn (IA) Obernolte
 Bucshon Guthrie
 Burchett Hageman
 Burgess Harris
 Burlison Harshbarger
 Calvert Hern
 Cammack Higgins (LA)
 Caraveo Higgins (NY)
 Carey Hill
 Carl Hinson
 Carter (GA) Houchin
 Carter (TX) Hudson
 Chavez-DeRemer Huizenga
 Ciscomani Hunt
 Cline Issa
 Cloud Jackson (TX)
 Clyde James
 Cole Johnson (LA)
 Collins Johnson (OH)
 Comer Johnson (SD)
 Costa Jordan
 Crane Joyce (OH)
 Crawford Joyce (PA)
 Cuellar Kean (NJ)
 Curtis Kelly (MS)
 Davidson Kelly (PA)
 Davis (NC) Kiggans (VA)
 De La Cruz Kiley
 DesJarlais Kim (CA)
 Donalds Kustoff
 Duarte LaHood
 Duncan LaLota
 Dunn (FL) LaMalfa
 Edwards Lamborn
 Ellzey Langworthy
 Emmer Latta
 Estes LaTurner
 Ezell Lawler
 Fallon Lee (FL)
 Feenstra Lesko
 Ferguson Letlow
 Finstad Loudermilk
 Fischbach Luetkemeyer
 Fitzgerald Luttrell
 Fitzpatrick Mace
 Fleischmann Malliotakis

Van Orden Webster (FL)
 Vasquez Wenstrup
 Wagner Westernman
 Walberg Williams (NY)
 Waltz Williams (TX)
 Weber (TX) Wilson (SC)

NAYS—190

Adams Gomez Panetta
 Aguilar Gonzalez, Vicente Pappas
 Auchincloss Gottheimer Pascrell
 Balint Green, Al (TX) Payne
 Barragan Grijalva Pelosi
 Beatty Bera Peters
 Bera Harder (CA) Pettersen
 Beyler Hayes Phillips
 Bishop (GA) Himes Pocan
 Blumenauer Horsford Porter
 Blunt Rochester Houlihan Pressley
 Bonamici Hoyle (OR) Quigley
 Bowman Huffman Ramirez
 Boyle (PA) Jackson (IL) Jackson (NC)
 Brown Jackson (NC) Raskin
 Brownley Jacobs Ruiz
 Budzinski Jayapal Ruppertsberger
 Bush Jeffries Ryan
 Carbajal Johnson (GA) Salinas
 Cárdenas Kamlager-Dove Sánchez
 Carson Kaptur Sarbanes
 Carter (LA) Keating Scanlon
 Cartwright Kelly (IL) Schakowsky
 Casar Khanna Schiff
 Case Kildee Schneider
 Casten Kilmer Scholten
 Castor (FL) Kim (NJ) Schrier
 Cherfilus-Kristmann Kuster
 McCormick Landsman
 Chu Clark (MA) Larsen (WA)
 Clarke (NY) Larson (CT)
 Cleaver Lee (CA)
 Clyburn Lee (NV)
 Connolly Lee (PA)
 Correa Leger Fernandez
 Courtney Levin
 Craig Lieu
 Crockett Lofgren
 Crow Lynch
 Davids (KS) Magaziner
 Davis (IL) Manning
 Dean (PA) Matsui
 DeGette McClellan
 DeLauro McCollum
 DelBene McGarvey
 Guest Thompson (CA)
 Deluzio McGovern
 DeSaulnier Menendez
 Dingell Meng
 Doggett Mfume
 Escobar Moore (WI)
 Eshoo Morelle
 Espallat Moskowitz
 Evans Moulton
 Fletcher Mrvan
 Foster Mullin
 Foushee Nadler
 Frankel, Lois Napolitano
 Frost Neal
 Gallego Neguse
 Garamendi Nickel
 Garcia (IL) Norcross
 Garcia (TX) Ocasio-Cortez
 Garcia, Robert Omar
 Goldman (NY) Pallone

NOT VOTING—22

Allred Jackson Lee
 Castro (TX) Lucas
 Cohen Luna
 Crenshaw McBath
 D'Esposito McCaul
 Diaz-Balart Meeks
 Hoyer Nehls
 Ivey Peltola

□ 1556

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 391, H.R. 1435, Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 388, “nay” on rollcall No. 389, “yea” on rollcall No. 390, and “nay” on rollcall No. 391.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 388, “yea” on rollcall No. 389, “nay” on rollcall No. 390, and “yea” on rollcall No. 391.

TREATING TRIBES AND COUNTIES AS GOOD NEIGHBORS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1450) to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) 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.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, September 18, 2023, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5081

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 5081.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF COOK'S CORNER SHOOTING

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, first built in 1884 in south Orange County, Cook's Corner has become a historic and iconic staple in Califor-

nia's 40th Congressional District in Trabuco Canyon for local residents, motorcycle enthusiasts, and for tourists from all over southern California and from all over the Nation.

On August 23, 2023, our community was rocked by a horrific shooting at Cook's Corner that resulted in three deaths and six wounded.

We are grateful for our local law enforcement, especially the Orange County Sheriff deputies and first responders who responded quickly at the scene.

As our community mourns and picks up the pieces, we also know we are stronger together.

Today, I rise with bipartisan Members of our California delegation and ask all Members to join me in a moment of silence in the memory of the victims: Tonya Clark of Arizona; Glen Sprowl, Jr., of Stanton; and John Leehey of Irvine; and in solidarity with the communities that I represent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the many friends who hold him dear, we rise today to honor a beloved lifetime public servant, Governor Bill Richardson.

I first want to acknowledge his wife, Barbara Richardson, a woman of incredible grace who is leading a State, a Nation, and a world in mourning the Governor today in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I thank Chairwoman NANETTE BARRAGÁN for her leadership in organizing this moment of silence for our colleague, who like you, also served as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

I say Governor and chair, but Bill had many other titles during his illustrious career: U.S. Congressman, House Deputy Majority Whip, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. Secretary of Energy, candidate for President, hostage negotiator, and professor.

We are all humbled by his achievements, and most importantly, by the people he helped along the way.

Guided by an unflinching sense of duty, service, and justice, Bill opened the door for countless people throughout his career. He opened the door of opportunity for Americans seeking a better future. He unlocked the jail cells of political prisoners imprisoned by the most dangerous dictators. He never hesitated to seek dialogue with those he knew had the power to release the powerless, and he opened the doors of service, inspiring Latino leaders working tirelessly to improve their communities.

I am honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with my Hispanic Caucus “hermanos y hermanas,” “brothers and sisters,” and all of the colleagues who

have joined us today. We are sharing with each other in these last 2 weeks and hearing from so many of our colleagues moving and also fun stories of those who now serve in the people's House, either as Members or as staff who have come up to me and told me the stories of how they are in America today and serving in this House because of Governor Richardson.

Bill, we do not merely stand in this well of the people's House, as you did for over 14 years; we stand on your shoulders. We stand because giants like you blazed the trail for countless Latinos to serve their country in our Nation's highest offices.

From 12 members, when you served as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, to 42 members today, including Representative VELÁZQUEZ who served with you, the CHC traces our lineage back to you and others who “caminando hicieron el camino,” “walking we make the road,” who built the trail with each bold step you took forward.

Whether it is a minimum-wage worker who earned a bit more because of your work, a hostage who saw the sun again, or a young leader inspired to serve, you created hope in many of the most overlooked places and overlooked people.

Please join all of us as we bow our heads in a moment of silence honoring the legacy of former Congressman, Governor, Ambassador, and Secretary, Bill Richardson.

Governor, “que descansa en paz,” “may you rest in peace,” and God bless you.

CONGRATULATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANNY PEREZ

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate State Representative Danny Perez on being formally selected as the next Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives.

Most importantly to me and all of my fellow explorers, Danny Perez will be the first Christopher Columbus High School graduate to serve as Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives.

Senator MARCO RUBIO paved the way as the very first Cuban-American Speaker of the Florida House, and now Speaker-Designate Perez will be just the third Cuban American to ever serve in that role.

Speaker-Designate Perez is happily married to his wife, Stephanie, and has two beautiful children, Camila Lucia and Matias Daniel. He is an attorney by trade and a passionate advocate for children. He also serves as national chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council.

I look forward to continuing to work with Speaker-Designate Perez. I am confident that he will continue to be a champion for Miami-Dade County and

for the State of Florida and a responsible steward of our taxpayer dollars.

“Adelante,” “onwards,” Danny, “adelante,” “onwards.” We are all so very proud of you.

STANDING WITH AUTO WORKERS

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our workers, specifically our autoworkers. Right now, they are doing what many of us came here to do, which is to get wages up. They want to get their wages up. It is really important for this Congress to stand with them, not just for their families but for our economy.

They work for companies, great American companies, that have made tens of billions of dollars in profit. If we allow the profit to just be concentrated among a few, our economy won't grow as fast. If we say to the hundreds of thousands of autoworkers, yes, you deserve a very big raise, that means that the spending power will be distributed in a way that will grow our economy much faster.

I stand with our autoworkers. I believe in what they are doing, and I wish them the best luck as they continue to negotiate for better wages and better working conditions.

REMEMBERING JERRY WILLIS KEITH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jerry Willis Keith.

Jerry was born on March 28, 1937, in Waycross, Georgia, to Warren Lott Keith and Mary Emma Corbett Keith. He was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Jesup and a member of the Golden Rulers Sunday School Class.

He spent his adult life managing and operating retail grocery stores for several national food chains. There, he was always praised by many local employees as the best boss they ever had.

He was a very active member of many community organizations, including the Elks Club, Pine Forest Men's Golf Association, a Jaycee member, and an elite member of the Pond House crew.

He was a loving husband; a caring father of 7; a doting grandfather of 15; and great-grandfather of 6.

Mr. Keith's legacy will live on in the positive impact that he had on his community. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

CONGRATULATING JEREMIAS CASTILLO

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeremias Castillo, this year's \$25,000 National Honor Society Scholarship winner.

Castillo, a senior at Technology High School in Newark, was chosen from a pool of 13,000 applicants. He won because his commitment to enacting positive change in the country's healthcare system is what he is all about.

When his father passed away, Jeremias witnessed the health disparities that affect underrepresented groups, so he decided to do something about it.

He volunteered weekly at a local medical center, he collected medical supplies from the Newark Department of Health and Welfare, and he spoke about his passion to improve healthcare at a symposium that reached more than 3.6 million people.

Jeremias will use this scholarship to study neuroscience and political science at Harvard University, and he will continue to help create more equitable healthcare systems in America.

Again, I congratulate Jeremias for his dedication to his family, his community, and his country.

□ 1615

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JIM GIBSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to speak about the passing of a very good friend and an American hero, Lieutenant Commander Jim Gibson of Redding, California.

Pictured here at an Honor Flight here in Washington, D.C., I got to accompany him that day. It was a lot of fun and very gratifying.

Jim was a career Navy officer for 26 years. He joined the Navy as an engine man right out of high school and rose to the rank of ensign before becoming a commissioned officer.

After working his way through the ranks to captain, he was assigned command of a submarine rescue ship in the 7th Fleet. This vessel, the USS *Coucal*, had the worst reputation in the entire U.S. 7th Fleet. When Jim took command, he turned things around and made it the premier submarine rescue vessel in the entire U.S. 7th Fleet.

After retiring from active service, Jim remained devoted to the ideal of duty. He was very active in veterans' affairs, founding a submarine veterans group in northern California and serving as its president. He was instrumental in raising money for the Veterans Memorial in Anderson River Park. I was proud to have him as a member of my congressional advisory committee on academy appointments, where he did a great job of helping us screen the best new and brightest.

Jim was faithful to his fellow veterans to the last, working faithfully out of the Igo Veterans Cemetery. He was always there to ring the bell for the last watch when a Navy veteran was laid to rest.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou. My heart goes out to her and their family at this time of grief. They will be in our prayers.

We will miss him dearly. Fair winds and following seas, Jim.

SUPPORTING UAW

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, organized labor is a beautiful thing, and it is incredibly evident today in the final hours of the UAW contract negotiations.

I want all of my UAW friends, neighbors, and hardworking men and women of Michigan to know that I have their back from the Halls of Congress to the well of this very floor.

While working in the Obama administration during the auto rescue, while working on that auto rescue, we saw the union take concessions.

Madam Speaker, 14 years later, the companies have rebounded. They have record profits, and now is the time to deal workers back in.

That is what is being negotiated. That is what our friends in organized labor are pushing for—dignity and justice.

I stand with them today, tomorrow, and the tomorrow after that.

We will see you in Michigan, friends.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL JOHNATHAN LEE BENSON

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

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, on September 9, 2006, Corporal Johnathan Lee Benson from North Branch, Minnesota, succumbed to his injuries sustained in a roadside bombing during his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

By all measures, Johnathan was a courageous and enthusiastic young man with an infectious smile, a prankster's heart, and a love for adventure.

He was dedicated to our country and to the Marines. Tattooed on his back was the Bible verse: Greater love knows no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Madam Speaker, Johnathan not only laid down his life for our country, but he gave up his hopes, his dreams, and his future to preserve, protect, and defend ours.

For 15 years, I have worn this bracelet in his memory, and today, I am honored to enter his name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to recognize his wonderful parents, a Gold Star family, Marjorie and Steve Benson.

May God bless the Benson family and hold Johnathan in the palm of His hand.

CELEBRATING KRAFT FOODS' 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Kraft Foods Group plant in Champaign, Illinois, and its dedicated employees, including my dad, who once worked the third shift. These are the people who have helped produce the foods we all have known and loved for generations.

The Kraft Heinz Champaign plant opened operations in 1963, making margarine and salad dressings. Madam Speaker, 60 years later, it has added production of their most famous Mac & Cheese, Velveeta, Heinz Tomato Ketchup, and A.1. Steak Sauce and grown to fill an 88-acre site that produces more than 1.2 billion pounds of food each year.

The strong output of this plant has made it a key driver for our local economy and is an important part of the Champaign-Urbana community.

Many boxes of Mac & Cheese and Velveeta later, please join me in celebrating this exciting milestone and honoring the hardworking men and women at Kraft Heinz Champaign. Congratulations to them on their 60th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. FRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Constitution Day, which is this Sunday.

On September 17, 1787, the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign what would become the most important document in our country's history, the Constitution of the United States of America.

On Constitution Day, we remember the bravery and wisdom of the 39 men who signed the supreme law of the land. This document forever altered the world and has dutifully guided our country through times of change and challenge.

As we look back on its legacy and the values it holds for our country, let Constitution Day serve as a reminder that we are here to serve and to protect the liberties of we the people.

SUPPORTING AUTOWORKERS

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

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the

United Auto Workers powering the Big Three and all workers on the front lines in the fight for a future with fair pay, dignity, and the right to benefit from the profits of their hard work currently being hoarded by corporate CEOs.

In 2022, Ford's CEO raked in \$21 million, Chrysler's made \$24 million, and GM's made \$29 million. Right now, the maximum pay for Big Three UAW workers is \$66,000. You can't even see the line because that is how little they are paid in comparison to their corporate bosses.

It would take a UAW employee making the maximum salary almost 440 years to make what the CEO of General Motors makes in 1 year. Yet, these CEOs lie that their workers threaten our economy.

Let me be clear: Any company that can afford 40 percent raises for CEOs already raking in millions can afford 40 percent raises for their workers, who our clean energy economy depends on. These workers don't threaten our economy, but CEOs do.

To the Big Three, pay those workers what you owe them. Don't act like you forgot.

Solidarity forever.

FIVE-POINT PLAN TO ADDRESS BIG MONEY IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, the American people are frustrated and exhausted with the corruption and role of big money in the Halls of Congress. That is why I am introducing a five-point plan.

First, ban all PAC and lobbyist money to congressional campaigns. I don't take a dime of it.

Second, ban completely stock trading and Members of Congress from ever becoming lobbyists. Activists like Unusual Whales, Quiver Quantitative, and the leaders at CREW have been mobilizing for this.

Third, term limits for Members of Congress.

Fourth, term limits for Supreme Court Justices.

Fifth, an ethics code for Supreme Court Justices.

This is common sense. The people demand it. It is time we give them back their government and reform in Washington. We should have bipartisan support for this five-point plan.

STRENGTHENING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support strengthening the American economy. How? To keep on task creating living-wage jobs for

America's workers to lift them into the middle class and to clamp down on billionaires and tax cheats who don't pay their fair share of taxes to balance our budget to keep our economy growing.

If you look at what the United Auto Workers are fighting for as we are here on the floor today, they are fighting for what they have worked for. They deserve decent wages.

The August jobs report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 178,000 more jobs were added nationally.

This is a time of very high job growth in our country, and unemployment is at a near-historic low. Employers in Ohio and across our country have job openings and are hiring, but wages have to go up now, and not only for billionaire owners and financiers. They are not the only ones that should benefit, but the people doing the work—the autoworkers, the waitresses, the tech workers, the people across our country who work in supermarkets.

Madam Speaker, please heal your troubled, divided party. Bring us together. Let's not stall out American progress. Let's grow the economy and pay our bills through growth.

SUPPORTING OUR UNIONS

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

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise in support of our unions, including the 150,000 United Auto Workers nationwide and our Local 2250 in Missouri's First District.

Autoworkers have built a quarter of a trillion dollars in profits for the Big Three—for Ford, for GM, for Stellantis—in the past decade, including \$21 billion in the first 6 months of 2023. Yet, workers are currently making 10 percent less in wages, real wages, than they made last year.

Our workers deserve fair wages. Our workers deserve better benefits and safe working conditions. They deserve to be rewarded for the sacrifices that they made and the profits that they have built.

To UAW Local 2250, know that I have your back. I am proud to have delivered \$1.5 million in community project funding for the creation of a premier automotive repair training center in St. Louis, and I am proud to keep up the fight right here in Congress to pass and to finally enact the PRO Act. Our work continues.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CHRIS STEWART ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, the six-term Congressman from Utah, CHRIS STEWART, who retires from Congress this week.

Of all the things we have worked on together, I am most proud of passing the bill that created the 988 Mental Health Lifeline. Since it went live last summer, millions of Americans have received help in a moment of mental health crisis, with countless lives saved as a result.

As fellow veterans, we have seen firsthand the consequences of inadequate mental health care. We knew it could be an uphill battle to pass our bill, and it was. You wouldn't believe some of the stories.

That is why you need a partner you can trust. That is CHRIS. Beyond his admirable commitment to his family and this job, it is just hard not to like CHRIS.

He is an Air Force veteran who broke the world record for the fastest non-stop flight around the world. He is a successful businessman. He has authored multiple best-selling books. What can't this guy do?

Well, one thing he didn't have to do was take a lot of political risk to work across the aisle with a Democrat on a big bill like 988. Political courage means something to CHRIS. We need more leaders like him in Washington.

CHRIS, thank you for your service. We will miss you, and I wish you and your family only the best.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of congratulations and appreciation from the Massachusetts and Utah chapters of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

September 12, 2023.

Hon. CHRIS STEWART,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STEWART: The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP), Massachusetts chapter writes to congratulate you and wish you well as you leave Congress this month. We extend our thanks and appreciation for your outstanding leadership in finding bipartisan solutions to prevent suicide and help save lives.

Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States in 2021. We are grateful for your partnership with Representative Seth Moulton to establish the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and build out a comprehensive crisis response system. Since its launch just over a year ago, the 988 Lifeline has responded to millions of calls, texts, and chats from people needing life-saving support.

Our chapter also appreciates your work to address the youth mental health crisis and Veteran suicide prevention. Veterans are about 1.5 times more likely to die from suicide than their non-Veteran peers, and we appreciate your collaboration with Representative Moulton to bring needed attention to this important issue.

During your 11 years in Congress, you successfully worked across the aisle to help ensure that people struggling with their mental health are connected to timely supports and services. We thank you for your service, and we wish you and your family well.

Sincerely,

JESSICA VAN DER STAD,
Executive Director, Massachusetts Chapter,
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

September 12, 2023.

Hon. CHRIS STEWART,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STEWART: The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Utah chapter writes to congratulate you on your remarkable career in Congress and to thank you for your leadership on suicide prevention and mental health during your 11 years in office. We thank you for your collaboration to raise the visibility of suicide prevention and increase access to mental health services and supports, and we wish you well as you leave Congress later this month.

AFSP Utah celebrated alongside you when the bipartisan National Suicide Hotline Designation Act), a bill you led with Rep. Seth Moulton to establish the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, passed in 2020. We were especially proud that you built on the success of the crisis line in Utah to enact this bill, which represents a monumental opportunity to transform the way our country responds to suicide, mental health, and substance use crises. Since its launch in July 2022, the 988 Lifeline has helped millions of people in suicide and mental health crisis, and we have been honored to work alongside you to support its implementation.

Through your leadership on the House 988 & Crisis Services Task Force and the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, you took many concrete actions to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, educate other members of Congress and the public about mental health and ways to get help, and identify bipartisan solutions to prevent suicide. We are proud that AFSP recognized these significant accomplishments with several awards, including the 2018 "Allies for Action" Congressional Award and, most recently, the 988 Crisis Response Champion Award with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the #ReimagineCrisis campaign.

We thank you for your leadership and collaboration, and we would be happy to continue to serve as a resource for you. Hope to see you at our Central Utah Walk in Richfield on September 30, 2023. We wish you and your family all the best in your next chapter.

Sincerely,

TARYN HIATT,
Executive Director, Utah Chapter, American
Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

CALLING FOR INVESTIGATION INTO INSENSITIVE COMMENTARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today at this moment to call attention to a news story reported by CNN.

I have a news article that has been printed, and the style of the article reads: "Seattle police officer under investigation as footage shows him saying woman's life had 'limited value' after she was fatally hit by police car."

Madam Speaker, this lack of empathy and sympathy, this is what I would call, as has been called by others, shockingly insensitive commentary. It is something that cannot go unnoticed.

I do believe that there must be a thorough investigation. For those who

have not had an opportunity to see what I am calling to your attention, it is available to you on the internet.

This officer made a comment that concerns me, and I believe it would concern many others.

□ 1630

One of the comments made is the person is "... a regular person." A regular person. I believe that all people merit the same amount of respect. I don't know what a regular person is, but in this dialogue with another person, he is known to have said, "Yeah, just write a check," and then he laughs. Then he goes on to make the comment that I called to your attention earlier, "she had limited value." Limited value.

To the family, I do not know them, I extend my deepest sympathies, and I assure you that I stand with you when you have a demand for a thorough investigation, as is the case with India, the country of origin for this young lady who was killed by a police officer who was responding to a call.

I hope that this will not quietly go away. Her life meant something, and we ought to make sure that we do all that we can to thoroughly investigate and make sure that justice prevails.

Now, Madam Speaker, I will make my additional comments from another podium.

Madam Speaker, and still I rise, proud to be an American, proud to have this opportunity to serve in the Congress of the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to call to the attention of the Congress and to the attention of the Nation that we have a problem related to Black lives. Black lives still matter, and there is a reason for saying this that will become more apparent as I give my commentary.

I will start with this article that was printed in USA Today on September 4. This article, the title of which is, 2022 Hate Crimes Up 10 Percent Over Prior Year, reads in part: Study shows new record for 10 largest cities.

In another article from USA Today, it reads in one place: "Last year, as has been the case every year since the count began"—some things bear repeating.

"Last year, as has been the case every year since the count began, most hate crime victims were Black, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University San Bernardino, which collects and analyzes official State and municipal hate crime data sets."

Since the genesis of collection of this data, per this article, most hate crime victims have been Black. I will explain why, but first another article.

This one is styled, "Police fatally shot a pregnant Black woman in Ohio. The calls for accountability are growing." This is in Vox, dated September 8, 2023. This article talks about an organization named Mapping Police Violence, and there is the following language: "Mapping Police Violence, a

group that collects data on police shootings, found though Black Americans make up roughly 13 percent of the population, they comprised at least 20 percent of the people killed by law enforcement so far in 2023.”

This is not old news. This is contemporary. Blacks comprise 13 percent of the population, but at least 20 percent of the people killed by law enforcement so far in 2023. This relates to Black people. I will explain why in just a moment.

This article goes on to say, “Per The Washington Post tracker of fatal police shootings, the number of these killings has risen in the last few years.”

It goes on to say, “Because of incomplete policing data, the race of all police’s victims isn’t known. But from what data is available, it’s clear police also continue to shoot and use force against Black people at disproportionate rates.” I am paraphrasing slightly. “The Post’s data shows Black people are roughly twice as likely as White people to be the victim of a fatal police shooting, while Mapping Police Violence—that is the organization I mentioned earlier—“which tracks police killings by any means, found Black people are nearly three times more likely to be killed. Part of this disparity stems from the fact Black people are more likely to be profiled by police”—then it goes on—“for instance, Black Americans are 20 percent more likely to get stopped for traffic stops than White people.”

Now we get to something meaningful and substantive. This article in Vox says, “There are a number of factors behind police violence and racial disparities”—“There are a number of factors behind police violence and racial disparities, including deep-seated systemic racism. . . .” Remember, this is from Vox, an article dated September 8, 2023. This is from Vox.

“There are a number of factors behind police violence and racial disparities, including deep-seated systemic racism that dates back to how ‘slave patrols’ were used to police enslaved people who attempted to escape. . . .”

Madam Speaker, this takes us back to why Black people were brought to this country. Some say the initial introduction into the Colonies was on August 20, 1619.

There is a depiction that I would like to show. This represents the persons who were of African ancestry brought to this country on August 20, 1619, aboard this ship, the White Lion, and they were traded for goods. The Colonies took the people of African ancestry, and they, in turn, accorded the persons who were aboard the White Lion goods. People traded for goods. August 20, 1619.

Now, this, my friends, was the genesis of something that continued for more than 240 years. 240 years.

Why did this continue for more than 240 years? Remember, I will be getting back to what I said about the police and the killings and the hate crimes against Black people.

Why would this continue for more than 240 years? Because during that period of time, a decision was made to have in this country an identifiable, subservient, obsequious class of people, a class of people who would be identifiable. Black people are identifiable. They were to be subservient, enslaved for more than 240 years. However, it wasn’t to end. It was to continue. For 240 years, people were enslaved because there was a desire for an identifiable, subservient, obsequious class of people.

There was to be an upper class, and it existed; a middle class, and it existed; a lower class, that is what they called it at the time; and beneath that class, this subservient, obsequious class of people. They were to be submissive and obedient. They were to address the master’s son, who might be 5 years of age, to the same extent that they would address the master. They were to be obedient, and if they were not obedient, the master could take whatever actions desirable to chastise, and that is being polite. Whatever actions desirable to do whatever it was believed necessary to force them to comply and be subservient and obsequious. More than 240 years.

Babies were born into slavery. They were enslaved. Babies. Slavery was not just hard work, which is what a good many people think of it as, just hard work, that is all. No. The truth has to be told, and those who would deny the truth being told, Governor DeSantis, those who would deny it will be judged harshly by posterity. You will not find yourself within the annals and the halls of those who are considered great and noble people. History is going to judge you harshly.

However, it was more than hard work. They didn’t get any benefits. There were no benefits associated with being enslaved.

So let me tell you for just a moment what it was, as I make my case. It was kidnapping, yes, but it was more than kidnapping. People were kidnapped from their homes, their homeland. By the way, many of them were traded into slavery by their own people; own people meaning from the same continent, same country.

□ 1645

They were traded into slavery, so many were kidnapped. It was more than kidnapping; it was lynching. Once they traversed the ocean, those who were able to survive the harsh voyage, being shackled together, stacked on top of each other, it was cruel and inhumane what they did, it dehumanized from the very moment they were taken into captivity.

It was more than kidnapping. It was more than the brutality of having to suffer this transatlantic journey. It was lynching, because if you got out of line, you were lynched—or could be, not all were, but you could be lynched. Meaning, literally taken out, a rope thrown over some branch of a tree, some limb or branch, some part of it,

other means of doing it as well, noose tied around your neck, and there you were to hang until you died.

Thereafter, you would stay so that others could see the consequences of not being subservient and obsequious. It was more than kidnapping and the brutal transatlantic slave trip and the lynching that took place, it was also castration. Many men, enslaved human beings, who were not subservient and obsequious were literally castrated.

Remember, these persons were the property of another human being. Property at that time under the laws that existed, not ever in the eyes of God, property of another human being. Courts declared that these enslaved persons had no rights that a White person had to respect. It was more than the slave trade: crossing the Atlantic, being kidnapped, lynched, castrated. It was also rape.

It wasn’t just rape—and there is no way to say “just rape”—but it wasn’t rape where a person decides, I am going to show you who is in charge. It was also done to destroy the manhood of the woman’s significant other because it could be done in his presence to dehumanize him, to make him understand that he had to be subservient and obsequious.

It was all of these and more. It was also the separation of families at the auction block, literally. Children could be sold and go to one master, mother goes to another, father could conceivably go to another.

It was the dehumanization of human beings. By definition that is what dehumanization is. They were dehumanized. They had to be reduced to something less than a human being so that the rest of society could say, well, it is okay, these are not human beings. We would not treat a human being this way.

They were something less than human beings, and they were to be subservient and obsequious.

This, Madam Speaker, is what I agree has been called one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity. Crimes against humanity which continued for more than 240 years. Not only did it continue for 240 years, it then metamorphosed into convict leasing for almost another 100 years.

Convict leasing wherein there were Black codes and if you violated one these Black codes, you could be arrested. If you were arrested, you could be incarcerated. Then after incarceration, you could be leased to someone who could work you possibly for the rest of your life, so you were back into slavery by another name.

There was also lawful segregation. With this lawful segregation came the notion—it didn’t go away—that the persons who were segregated had to be obedient. They had to be subservient and obsequious. There was still the belief—that didn’t end with the ending of slavery. It was the passage of the 13th Amendment which ended slavery in this country. Of course, we had the

Emancipation Proclamation. I understand this, but it was the 13th Amendment that lawfully said: You can't do this.

The ending of slavery did not end the mentality that had been inculcated in society. Remember, society now had been corrupted with this mentality, and this was passed on through the generations that these people who were brought here to be this permanent subservient, obsequious class—some would say underclass—it didn't end with them being extricated from slavery by way of the 13th Amendment. It was still within society. It had been baked into society.

Even to this day it still resides in society, to a certain extent. Not to the same extent, but to a certain extent, but it was in my lifetime. Racism and invidious discrimination, which is what slavery and then the leasing of persons metamorphosed into. It then evolved and metamorphosed into something that we call invidious discrimination.

Racism didn't go away with the passage of the 13th Amendment. White supremacy didn't go away. To have this subservient class, this inferior class, you have to have a superior class. It didn't go away.

In fact, in my lifetime, I live to see racism so inculcated in society that preachers literally preached it, teachers taught it, police officers policed it, judges adjudicated it. In my lifetime, it was pervasive in such a way as to be visible. It is less visible now but it still exists.

This notion that Black people should be subservient and obsequious still exists. It exists to the extent that Black men cannot talk to police officers the same way White men can. I know. They cannot.

This is why parents have this, what they call "talk" with their children, if they have Black sons. Black women can't treat them the same as White women, but I am focusing on Black men for this moment. Black men are taught early—I was taught, and if you talk to any professional, they will tell you that they teach their boys more so than their girls, but the girls are taught as well—that when an officer stops you, you give him all of the deference that you can because they understand the consequences of being what the officer might perceive as disrespectful.

Many of these officers, many of them, not all of them—this is not to indict the entire police department, which is what my critics will say—which is not true. My uncle was a deputy sheriff. I have great respect and reverence for the police, but I don't have it for those who are the dastards who brutalize people without justification, just decide that you are going to teach people a lesson.

This class of people, the obsequious, subservient class, from time to time we assume that we have arrived, and on a dark night, we will make comments to a police officer. Well, those comments can cost us our lives.

I know that people would say to them: Give me your badge number. I am going to report you.

Black men can't do that.

There is still a belief that we have to be respectful at all times and show some degree of subservency. There is still this desire that we be obsequious.

This explains George Floyd. Those officers who held George Floyd down, they wanted to punish him. They wanted to teach him a lesson. It wasn't just about arresting him. You don't have to put your knee on a person's neck for this length of time to arrest him. They wanted to teach him a lesson. They wanted him to understand that he was to be subservient and obsequious.

As bad as that was, and it was bad because it cost him his life, they not only wanted him to understand, they wanted all of those onlookers to understand as well.

Just as when they would lynch a Black man, they wanted all of the other enslaved people to understand.

Just as when they would castrate, they wanted all of the other men to understand, to understand that you had to be obedient, that you had to be subservient, that you had to be obsequious.

If you failed to abide by this unwritten protocol of life in this country, then these are the consequences; what happened to George Floyd and what happened to many of those who were enslaved. They wanted to put fear into the minds of those who were the onlookers and cause them to cower and to understand that they did not occupy a space such that they could speak up and stand up for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this is why for 240-plus years we had persons enslaved, but to this day they have not been respected. They have been disrespected. The proof is readily available.

We in this country revere the enslavers and revile the enslaved. We revere the Confederate soldiers who fought to keep them enslaved, and we reviled the people that were being enslaved.

□ 1700

We have not given these persons whose lives were sacrificed for some 240-plus years the opportunity to be respected as they must and should be. They must be respected. They were the persons who planted the seeds, harvested the crops, fed the country, built the roads, built the bridges, built this very facility that I have the honor of standing in, and helped to construct the White House and many other prominent facilities. They are the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

They gave the United States of America a 240-year head start with free labor. You had to feed them, of course, and you had to clothe them, of course, to the limited extent that they were, but it gave this country 240 years of free labor that we all stand on. We all stand on the foundation, the economic

foundation, that was built upon the sacrifice of millions of lives. Some estimate more than 10 million lives were sacrificed to make America great.

To this day, we still have some of the remnants of this behavior that lasted for some 240 years, and this is why we, to this day, are seeing those persons disrespected. They are still being disrespected.

They are not being honored, and the ability to honor them resides right here in this House because, in 1956, the Congress of the United States of America honored the Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal. This is the highest honor that the House of Representatives can accord. The Senate also followed suit, and the President signed the legislation honoring Confederate soldiers.

These were the enslavers. We have revered them, yet we still revile those who were enslaved for 240 years.

It also can explain why this building is a symbol of national shame. This is the Russell Senate Office Building. For edification purposes, that means that this building is where Senators have space. The Russell Senate Office Building is a symbol of national shame. This building is paid for with taxpayer dollars.

Why is it a symbol of national shame? Because Richard Russell was a racist and a bigot. Senator Richard Russell was a racist and a bigot. Senator Richard Russell fought antilynching legislation, the legislation that would stop people from lynching. Lynching is a crime. It is to stop people from just deciding that you are going to take the law into your own hands as though there was no law that you had to abide by.

Richard Russell fought civil rights legislation, opposed it. Richard Russell was a coauthor of the Southern Manifesto. Richard Russell was a bigot and a racist, yet we have a Senate office building honoring Richard Russell.

That is why the building is a symbol of national shame, and the Senators ought to be ashamed to allow this to continue. They ought to be ashamed of themselves, a Senate office building paid for with taxpayer dollars named after a person who was a racist.

Why? Here is what some have said: We don't change the name until we can acquire another name, and we can't agree on another name.

That, my friend, is a facade. That is just a way of avoiding having to deal with the reality of the facts that make this a symbol of national shame. It is a poor excuse.

The Senators ought to be ashamed. They ought to be ashamed to even say this because here is what they can do, and I have a resolution asking them to do this. They can let the building revert back to the name that it had before it was the Russell Senate Office Building, and that name was the Old Senate Office Building. Let it revert back to this name and then take all the time you need, ad infinitum, to select another name.

I have no name to recommend. I have not suggested that it be named to honor any person, and I am not going to. I want Richard Russell's name off because I don't think that we should demean the people of color, the Black people, who have to go into this building by having his name on the building.

I don't go into the Russell office building unless I am going to protest Richard Russell. I will go there for protestation. In fact, I have written letters telling people who have invited me to speak in that building that I will not. I am not going into the Russell Senate Office Building. I will be more than honored to go in when that name changes, and it will change. It will change, but why is it still there?

I have explained to you the fact that there are people who say we can't agree on a name, but I am going to give you another reason why. It is still there because Black people don't have to be respected the same way White people have to be respected. It is true. They don't have to be. There are no consequences for those Senators.

I assure you that if this building had a name that was insulting to White people, the name would change. I can think of some names that if those names were on this building, they would come off immediately, if not sooner.

Again, Black people don't have to be respected. This is what is inculcated within the minds of many, not all, but many people in this country. They don't have to be respected to the same extent as White people. That is a belief that exists in this country.

This is why a woman in the park, Central Park, I believe it was, could make the allegation that a person of African ancestry was accosting her when it wasn't true, but in her mind, she knew that she could fall back on that. That was something that would trigger police action.

Black people are not respected to the same extent, and we know it. We feel it. We are not respected to the same extent.

The Senators know there are no consequences. Why remove the name? What are Black people going to do? What can AL GREEN do other than come to the floor and denounce this with facts? What can he do other than this?

No consequences. We are not going to lose an election because we are working in a building that is named after a racist. There are no consequences because Black people are not respected to the same extent as White people.

There is a belief still inculcated in this society that Black people ought to be subservient and obsequious. All people don't believe this, not all people, but a good many do, and a good many of them wear badges and carry guns, and a good many of them have raised their right hands and been sworn to uphold the Constitution and serve in the Senate of the United States of America.

The Russell Senate Office Building is a symbol of national shame. This is why we have a request for the Congressional Gold Medal for African Americans who were enslaved. I believe that if a Congress in 1956 can accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the Confederate soldiers who were the enslavers, surely we can do it for the enslaved. Surely, we can, but they don't have to.

What are the consequences of doing the righteous thing, not the right thing, the righteous thing? What are the consequences?

I would hope that there are no consequences for doing the righteous thing, but for not doing the righteous thing, there are no consequences. There are no consequences for deciding that there will not be a Congressional Gold Medal given to people who were enslaved for 240 years, who were the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country whose lives were sacrificed to make America great. There are no consequences.

We don't have to do it. Not much would be said about it, but there is this conscience agenda that I put forth. On this agenda, the conscience agenda, there is the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal. There is inculcating the date August 20 annually as slavery remembrance day. There is the removal of the name "Richard Russell" from the Russell Senate Office Building. There is also something else: the enacting of the Securities and Exchange Atonement Act.

This legislation would require the insurance companies that insured people who were enslaved, insured them so that the master, the owner, could receive some compensation when or if the enslaved person died for certain reasons, to atone. They have admitted that they have done it through their predecessor institutions as well as the banks.

I was the chairperson of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for Financial Services. The big banks came before us. There was an acknowledgment indicating that they knew of their predecessor institutions being engaged in the process of helping persons to buy and sell enslaved people, people who had been dehumanized. They did it, and I asked them the question: Do you think you have done enough to atone? The answer was, no, they didn't think they had, but they haven't given us reason to believe that they will. Therefore, this legislation will help them to move toward atonement.

There is more than this. There is a need for a department of reconciliation to deal with the transgressions our Nation has engaged in over the centuries—a department of reconciliation not just for the enslaved but a department of reconciliation to deal with the many other transgressions.

□ 1715

We hold ourselves out to be the bearers of the torch of liberty. We hold our-

selves out to be people who pledge allegiance and want liberty and justice for all to a flag that symbolizes our desire for liberty and justice for all.

We hold ourselves out to be the people who believe that all persons were created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We can't do this with the credibility that should be a natural corollary of holding ourselves out as such without having reconciliation. Reconciliation has to come to America.

I love my country. I salute the flag. I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I sing the national anthem. So I am not a person who hates this country. By the way, I should love it. My ancestors are the ones who made it great. They are the ones whose lives were sacrificed so that America could be great. Yes, I love what they have done. I love other people in the country, too. My religion requires that I love everybody. It doesn't require me to like everybody. So I love them.

This department of reconciliation would help us to achieve what we claim we represent. This department of reconciliation would have a secretary of reconciliation just as the Department of Labor has a Secretary of Labor and the Commerce Department has a Secretary of Commerce. This person would report to the President just as these other Secretaries report to the President.

This person would have a budget—this department would—just as other departments have a budget. I have suggested that it be linked to the Defense Department's budget, to some portion of it, so that it would always be funded. The money would not come from the Defense Department, but a percentage that would relate to what the Defense Department's budget is because the Defense Department is always going to be funded, notwithstanding current circumstances where we have difficulties arriving at agreements. We are going to fund the Defense Department, make no mistake about it, so this department would be funded.

It would deal with all forms of invidious discrimination. It can deal with the Trail of Tears. It can deal with what happened to the indigenous Americans, the aboriginal Americans, the persons who were here before Columbus, the persons who were here at the genesis of human beings being here. They were treated brutally. The only reason they exist in this country now is because they were strong enough to survive the attempts to impose genocide. They survived it. There has been no atonement for this, no proper atonement. No proper atonement.

The list goes on and on. All of these, the persons who were interned, American citizens interned. There has to be atonement. America owes it to itself to atone for these transgressions.

That is what this conscience agenda is about, our moral imperative. Our

moral imperative. The conscience is that thing within you that says this is the right thing to do. The moral imperative is the thing that says this is the thing I must do. So we have the conscience agenda, our moral imperative to do the righteous thing; to inculcate August 20 as Slavery Remembrance Day.

In Houston, Texas, we had a Slavery Remembrance Day event. I had the opportunity to present legislation and talk about it, and we had over 1,000 people to attend. This month, I was at Georgetown University where a slavery remembrance event took place. The students there were the sponsors. They did an outstanding job. We have had slavery remembrance events in other places, and there are now calls from additional institutions to have slavery remembrance events.

I look forward to inculcating August 20 as the annual day for remembrance of those who were enslaved.

This conscience agenda calls for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, calls for the removal of Richard Russell's name from the Russell Senate Office Building, calls for the enacting of the Securities and Exchange Atone-ment Act, and, of course, the establishment of the department of reconciliation.

All those things are doable. All these things I hope to see done in my lifetime, but if not, I believe they can be done. I believe that one lifetime may not be enough, but I do believe that in somebody's lifetime we have to have the genesis of all of this. To be the progenitor of it is in no way insulting to me.

I close now with what I have on my letterhead. After I sign my name right under my name on my letterhead we type in "Congressman AL GREEN, Ninth Congressional District of Texas." Then right under that you will see the words "scion"—scion is a way of saying descended, but it has nobility associated with it—"scion of the enslaved people whose lives were sacrificed to make America great."

And still I rise, to quote Maya Angelou: Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of—I will paraphrase and say—the enslaved. And still I rise.

Madam 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow fighter pilot, a pilot who is immediately recognizable to millions worldwide who have seen the movie "Top Gun: Maverick." I know my good friend is watching right now. Those fanboys and fangirls know him only from the credits as the "pilot in bar" who thanks his fellow captain for inadvertently buying a round of drinks.

That fighter pilot is my good friend Brian Ferguson, "Ferg," who is retiring from the Navy Reserve after 30 years of dedicated service next Friday.

Ferg's accomplishments in the Navy are too numerous to completely list here, so I will just provide a few highlights. After graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1993, he joined the Navy, went to flight school, and earned his naval aviator Wings of Gold. He spent the next 10 years flying F-18s from the decks of aircraft carriers in peace and war, including multiple night strikes into Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After 10 years on Active Duty, he transitioned to the Navy Reserve as an adversary pilot—being the bad guy—flying F-5s with Fighter Composite Squadron 13. As I can personally attest, the high point of any fighter pilot's career is the opportunity to command a squadron. Ferg took command of VFC-13 in 2012, and with the help of his enlisted sailors and tactically brilliant junior officer pilots, the squadron won awards for combat readiness, safety, aircraft maintenance, and personnel retention.

Following command, Ferg continued to serve in important roles with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, Carrier Strike Group Fifteen, the Sixth Fleet Navy Reserve Headquarters Unit, and then as the deputy commander of the Naval Air Force Reserve.

In 2018, an irresistible opportunity presented itself when Ferg was asked to be the Navy's technical adviser and aerial coordinator for the filming of "Top Gun: Maverick," an opportunity he declined at least twice because—despite being a TOPGUN graduate himself—of the time it would require him to be away from his family.

Of course, finally it was his wife, Susan, who is a lot smarter than Ferg—yes, we wrote that out, Ferg, and we mean it—said: If you don't help make the flight scenes in the movie look realistic and they don't, you will spend the rest of your life telling people you could have done it better—which he would—so just go do it yourself so you can't blame anybody else if the scenes don't live up to the hype.

So Ferg spent nearly 2 years working as the Navy's point man on the film. His hand is in every scene with an airplane, and as we all know, those flying scenes lived up to the hype.

In spite of all that he has accomplished in the air, Ferg will be the first

to tell you that the most important things in his life are on the ground: his lovely wife, Susan, and their four children. While Ferg was out flying fighter jets and other kinds of things all throughout his career, Susan raised four exceptional children. I will tell you as a fellow naval aviator, it is the spouses who endure most of the sacrifice and do the raising of the children. In Ferg's case I am very grateful that Susan was the one who did that; and of course she was working full time herself.

Their three sons, Cole, Evan, and Connor each earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Cole and Evan graduated college, and Connor is currently in college. His daughter, Cassie, earned her Girl Scout Silver Award and is a college student and skilled equestrian.

I also know that when Ferg was in leadership positions, particularly as the deputy to a two-star admiral, everybody's favorite thing, he often stayed late so that his sailors and junior officers could get home to be with their families.

It was the love and support of his own family that enabled Ferg to serve and succeed in the Navy for the past 30 years, and I rise today to recognize them for their service, as well.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I thank the Fergusons: Brian, Susan, Cole, Evan, Connor, and Cassie, for the sacrifices they have made for the Navy and our country over the past 30 years.

Fair winds and following seas, shipmate. You are an American hero. You will be missed in the Navy.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), my good friend.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today I stand before you proud as an American and the son of a Navy veteran. Throughout my life I had the opportunity to witness our servicemembers' unwavering commitment to this Nation.

I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force in the United States military.

In January 1973, the Department of Defense replaced mandatory service with an opportunity for brave men and women to voluntarily step up and serve.

Over 15 million proud Americans have served over the last five decades with more than 2 million voluntarily serving today. These American heroes epitomize patriotism through their courage, honor, and selflessness and represent the cornerstone of our military's unparalleled strength.

We may think of our military strength in regard to weapons systems and ships and aircraft, but, Madam Speaker, this does not highlight our biggest military advantage, which is our people.

We have the most professional military in the world with a clear command and control structure. As we face

recruiting challenges among the services, we must remind our younger generations of the honor to serve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

□ 1730

I have to tell you, I am very hopeful for our future when I think of the brave men and women who will join our all-volunteer force over the next 50 years.

I have to tell you, every Congress Member knows, as my good friend from Texas knows, one of the greatest privileges we have is to nominate young men and women to attend our military academies. I can tell you, those men and women give me great hope for the future of the United States military.

I thank all of those who volunteer, like Commander JAKE ELLZEY right here. Thank you for your service. I thank your friend Brian Ferguson, who I don't know, but I thank him for his service, and I thank him for working on that film. It is one of my favorites.

May God bless the United States and those who willingly defend it.

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, as many of you know, from time-to-time I address the House floor with my version of a speech that my childhood pastor would give every Sunday called "Joys and Concerns." During this time, he would highlight some of the remarkable things that members of the church were doing and some of their many accomplishments.

He would also take this time to bring up prayer requests. That would unite us as a congregation to pray for our community and those in need.

Recently, I had the opportunity to go to Hillsboro, Texas, which is a city in my district in Hill County. It is a remarkable place of wonderful people, and they all love their country. The local community college, Hill College, has a veterans' museum on campus.

If you take a moment before you walk into the museum, out front to the right is a small memorial, and it is a "Medal of Honor Memorial to Native-Born Texans." It is engraved on a headstone. During my visits, I am always drawn to those to see what I can find there.

My district is home to nine Medal of Honor recipients, and I would like to take a moment to introduce them to you. If you will indulge me, it will take a little time, but I think it is worth talking about as we worry about the future of this country and what we are made of and the greatness of our people. When I tell you their stories, you should have no doubt that there should be no doubt about our past and our future.

From Dallas, Commander Samuel Dealey, who served our Nation in World War II. He was born September 13, 1906, and served our Nation during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as com-

manding officer of the USS *Harder* during her fifth war patrol in Japanese-controlled waters.

Floodlighted by a bright moon and disclosed to an enemy destroyer escort which bore down with the intent to attack, Commander Dealey dived his submarine to periscope depth and waited for the pursuer to close range, then opened fire, sending the target and all aboard down in flames with his third torpedo.

Plunging deep to avoid fierce depth charges, he again surfaced, and within 9 minutes after sighting another destroyer, had sent the enemy down tail first with a direct hit immediately amidship.

Evading detection, he penetrated the confined waters off Tawi Tawi with a Japanese fleet base 6 miles away and scored death blows on two patrolling destroyers in quick succession. With his ship heeled over by concussions from the first exploding target and the second vessel nose-diving in a blinding detonation, he cleared the area at high speed.

Sighted by a large hostile fleet force on the following day, he swung his bow toward the lead destroyer for another down-the-throat shot, fired three bow tubes, and promptly crash-dived to be terrifically rocked seconds later by the exploding ship as the USS *Harder* passed beneath.

This remarkable record of five vital Japanese destroyers sunk in five short-range torpedo attacks attested the valiant spirit of Commander Dealey and his indomitable command.

From Hillsboro, Second Lieutenant James Harris.

Second Lieutenant Harris was born on June 27, 1916, and served our Nation during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 7 October 1944 in Vagney, France.

At 9 p.m., an enemy raiding party comprising a tank and two platoons of infantry infiltrated through the lines under cover of mist and darkness and attacked an infantry battalion command post with hand grenades, retiring a short distance to an ambush position on hearing the approach of the M4 tank commanded by Second Lieutenant Harris.

Realizing the need for bold, aggressive action, Second Lieutenant Harris ordered his tank to halt while he proceeded on foot, fully 10 yards ahead of his six-man patrol and armed only with a service pistol, to probe the darkness of the enemy.

Although struck down and mortally wounded by machine gun bullets which penetrated his solar plexus, he crawled back to his tank leaving a trail of blood behind him and, too weak to climb inside it, issued fire orders while lying on the road between two contending armored vehicles.

Although the tank which he commanded was destroyed in the course of the firefight, he stood the enemy off

until friendly tanks, preparing to come to his aid, caused the enemy to withdraw and thereby lose an opportunity to kill or capture the entire battalion command personnel.

Suffering a second wound, which severed his leg at the hip in the course of this tank duel, Second Lieutenant Harris refused aid until after a wounded member of his crew had been carried to safety. He died before he could be given medical attention.

God bless you, Second Lieutenant.

From Dallas, First Lieutenant Turney Leonard.

Turney Leonard was born on June 18, 1921, and served our Nation during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for displaying extraordinary heroism while commanding a platoon of mobile weapons at Kommerscheidt, Germany, on November 4, 5, and 6, 1944. During the fierce, 3-day engagement, he repeatedly braved overwhelming enemy fire in advance of his platoon to direct the fire of his tank destroyer from exposed, dismounted positions.

He went on lone reconnaissance missions to discover what opposition his men faced, and on one occasion, when fired upon by a hostile machine gun, advanced alone and eliminated the enemy emplacement with a hand grenade. When a strong German attack threatened to overrun friendly positions, he moved through withering artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire, reorganized confused infantry units whose leaders had become casualties, and exhorted them to hold firm.

Although wounded early in the battle, he continued to direct fire from his advanced position until he was disabled by a high-explosive shell which shattered his arm, forcing him to withdraw. He was last seen at a medical aid station which the enemy subsequently captured.

By his superb courage, inspiring leadership, and indomitable fighting spirit, First Lieutenant Leonard enabled our forces to hold off the enemy attack and was personally responsible for the direction of fire which destroyed six German tanks.

From Ennis, First Lieutenant Jack Lummus.

Jack was born October 22, 1915, and served our Nation during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as leader of a rifle platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands on March 8, 1945, right before the war ended.

Resuming his assault tactics with bold decision after fighting without respite for 2 days and nights, First Lieutenant Lummus slowly advanced his platoon against an enemy deeply entrenched in a network of mutually supporting positions.

Suddenly halted by a terrific concentration of enemy fire, he

unhesitatingly moved forward of his front lines in an effort to neutralize the Japanese position. Although knocked to the ground when an enemy grenade exploded close by, he immediately recovered himself and, again moving forward despite the intensified barrage, quickly located, attacked, and destroyed the occupied emplacement.

Instantly taken under fire by the garrison of a supporting pillbox and further assailed by the slashing fury of hostile rifle fire, he fell under the impact of a second enemy grenade but courageously disregarding painful shoulder wounds, staunchly continued his heroic one-man assault and charged the second pillbox, annihilating all of the occupants.

Subsequently returning to his platoon position, he fearlessly traversed his lines under fire, encouraging his men to advance and directing the fire of supporting tanks against other stubbornly holding Japanese emplacements.

Held up again by a devastating barrage, he again moved into the open, rushed a third heavily fortified installation, and killed the defending troops. Determined to crush all resistance, he led his men indomitably, personally attacking foxholes and spider traps with his carbine and systematically reducing the fanatic opposition until, stepping on a land mine, he sustained fatal wounds.

By his outstanding valor, skilled tactics, and tenacious perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds, First Lieutenant Lummus had inspired his stout-hearted marines to continue the relentless drive northward, thereby contributing materially to the success of his regimental mission.

His dauntless leadership and unwavering devotion to duty throughout sustain and enhance the highest tradition of the United States Navy service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

From Fort Worth, Second Lieutenant George O'Brien.

Second Lieutenant O'Brien was born on September 10, 1926, and served our Nation during the Korean war. He received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a rifle platoon commander of Company H in action against enemy aggressor forces.

With his platoon subjected to an intense mortar and artillery bombardment while preparing to assault a vitally important hill position on the main line of resistance, which had been overrun by a numerically superior enemy force on the preceding night, Second Lieutenant O'Brien leaped from his trench when the attack signal was given and, shouting for his men to follow, raced across an exposed saddle and up the enemy-held hill through a virtual hail of deadly small-arms, artillery, and mortar fire.

Although shot through the arm and thrown to the ground by hostile auto-

matic weapons fire as he neared the well-entrenched enemy position, he bravely regained his feet, waved his men onward, and continued to spearhead the assault, pausing only long enough to go to the aid of a wounded marine.

Encountering the enemy at close range, he proceeded to hurl hand grenades into the bunkers and, utilizing his carbine to the best of his advantage in savage hand-to-hand combat, succeeded in killing at least three of the enemy.

Struck down by the concussion of grenades on three occasions during the subsequent action, he steadfastly refused to be evacuated for medical treatment and continued to lead his platoon in the assault for a period of nearly 4 hours, repeatedly encouraging his men and maintaining superb direction of the unit.

With the attack halted, he set up a defense with his remaining forces to prepare for a counterattack, personally checking each position, attending to the wounded, and expediting their evacuation.

When a relief of the position was effected by another unit, he remained to cover the withdrawal and to ensure that no wounded were left behind.

By his exceptionally daring and forceful leadership in the face of overwhelming odds, Second Lieutenant O'Brien served as a constant source of inspiration to all who observed him and was greatly instrumental in the recapture of a strategic position on the main line of resistance. His indomitable determination and valiant fighting spirit reflect the highest credit upon himself and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Navy service.

From Palestine, Captain Steven Bennett.

Captain Steven Bennett was born on April 22, 1946, and served our Nation during the Vietnam war. Captain Bennett was the pilot of a light aircraft flying an artillery adjustment mission along a heavily defended segment of route structure.

A large concentration of enemy troops were massing for an attack on a friendly unit. Captain Bennett requested tactical air support but was advised that none was available. He also requested artillery support, but this, too, was denied due to the close proximity of friendly troops to the target.

Captain Bennett was determined to aid the endangered unit and elected to strafe the hostile positions. After four such passes, the enemy forces began to retreat. Captain Bennett continued the attack, but as he completed his fifth strafing pass, his aircraft was struck by a surface-to-air missile which severely damaged the left engine and the left main landing gear. As fire spread in the left engine, Captain Bennett realized that recovery at a friendly airfield was impossible.

□ 1745

He instructed his observer to prepare for ejection but was informed by the

observer that his parachute had been shredded by the force of the impacting missile. Although Captain Bennett had a good parachute, he knew that if he ejected, the observer would have no chance of survival.

With complete disregard for his own life, Captain Bennett elected to ditch the aircraft in the Gulf of Tonkin, even though he realized that a pilot of this type of aircraft had never survived a ditching. The ensuing impact upon the water caused the aircraft to cartwheel and severely damaged the front cockpit, making escape for Captain Bennett impossible. The observer successfully made his way out of the aircraft and was rescued.

Captain Bennett's unparalleled concern for his companion, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of U.S. military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

From Corsicana, Sergeant Candelario Garcia, who was born on February 26, 1944, served our Nation during the Vietnam war. He received the Medal of Honor for distinguishing himself with acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting team leader for Company Bravo, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam, on December 8, 1968.

On that day, while conducting reconnaissance, Sergeant Garcia and his platoon discovered communication wire and other signs of an enemy-based camp leading to a densely vegetated area. As the men advanced, they came under intense fire. Several men were hit and trapped in the open. Ignoring a hail of hostile bullets, Sergeant Garcia crawled to within 10 meters of a machine gun bunker, leapt to his feet, and ran directly at the fortification, firing his rifle as he charged.

Sergeant Garcia jammed two hand grenades into the gun port and then placed the muzzle of the weapon inside, killing all four occupants.

Continuing to expose himself to intense enemy fire, Sergeant Garcia raced 15 meters to another bunker and killed its three defenders with hand grenades and rifle fire.

After again braving the enemy's barrage in order to rescue two casualties, he joined his company in an assault which overran the remaining enemy positions.

Sergeant Garcia's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Finally, from Dallas, Specialist Robert Law, who was born on September 15, 1944, served our Nation during the Vietnam war. He received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

Specialist Law distinguished himself while serving with Company I. While on a long-range reconnaissance patrol in the Tinh Phuoc Thanh Province, Specialist Law and five comrades made contact with a small enemy patrol. As the opposing elements exchanged intense fire, he maneuvered to a perilously exposed position, flanking his comrades, and began placing suppressive fire on the hostile troops.

Although his team was hindered by a low supply of ammunition and suffered from an unidentified irritating gas in the air, Specialist Law's spirited defense and challenging counterassault rallied his fellow soldiers against the well-equipped hostile troops.

When an enemy grenade landed in his team's position, Specialist Law, instead of diving into the safety of a stream behind him, threw himself on the grenade to save the lives of his comrades.

Specialist Law's extraordinary courage and profound concern for his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the highest traditions of U.S. military service and the U.S. Army.

These men made the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow soldiers, their families, and their country. I was humbled and moved to see their names displayed for all those who visit to see, and I wanted to talk about them on the floor.

If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to visit this memorial to pay respect to those men whom we all owe a debt of gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Now, I want to recognize some members of our community who have gone above and beyond.

I congratulate Kira Neff from Midlothian on recently attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. This level of success is only accomplished through dedication and hard work. The many hours put into this badge are evident by her success.

I congratulate Kyle Austin from Palestine on being awarded the Anderson County Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award. I thank him for all he does.

I congratulate Laikahs Kelly from Corsicana on winning the State championship in powerlifting in her respected weight class—a tremendous accomplishment.

I congratulate Mason Couch from Palestine on his recent promotion to sergeant in the Correctional Division for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. Our community is very fortunate to have him take on this new role, and the citizens of Anderson County will benefit from his years of experience in law enforcement.

I congratulate Michelle Woodall from Mansfield and the students of Ben Barber Innovation Academy on being named DECA Chapter of the Year for 2022. Being recognized on a national level is an amazing accomplishment, and they should be proud of everyone who worked this past school year to help them earn this accolade.

I congratulate Nora Frasier from Mansfield on being awarded the 2022 Excellence in Leadership Award for the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership and for being recognized as one of 23 notable women in Texas hospitals, healthcare, and public policy by the Texas Hospital Association. These awards are a tribute to her courageous and selfless acts working in healthcare and the exemplary contributions she has shown to the hospital. I truly appreciate all that she does in the field of nursing and the outstanding service, compassion, and leadership that she shows toward her staff and those around her. I thank her for keeping our community's health a high priority.

I congratulate William Stewart from Palestine and the Palestine High School Student Council on winning the Sweepstakes Award and being recognized as a Sweepstakes Council by the Texas Association of Student Councils. It is an incredible accomplishment, and I know it took many hours of practice and dedication to reach this success.

I congratulate Paul Box from Waxahachie on placing third overall in the men's division at the World Marathon Challenge. It is an incredible accomplishment, and I trust that his hard work and enthusiasm for running will inspire others to exhibit the same discipline and leadership qualities that have helped him become a world-class athlete.

I congratulate Rustin Smith from Midlothian on also achieving Eagle Scout.

I congratulate Victor Campa from Ennis on being named Firefighter of the Year for 2022 from the Ennis Fire Department. This award is a tribute to his courageous and selfless acts as a first responder. I thank him for his willingness to serve Ennis and the State of Texas.

I congratulate Mary Gunter from Fairfield on 40 years of service for the Child Nutrition Department at Fairfield Independent School District. I thank her for her commitment and love for her students and families in her community.

I congratulate Mike Littrell from Dawson on being inducted into the Ag Teachers Association of the Texas Hall of Fame. I thank him for all his hard work in teaching ag through hands-on learning at Dawson ISD and feeding the world.

I congratulate Andy McClendon from Midlothian on his graduation from The American Legion Boys State program. I, myself, was a Boys State graduate. Being elected to participate as a delegate reflects his hard work, dedication, and strong leadership skills.

I recognize Curtis Putz from Corsicana for being awarded the Star of Texas by Governor Abbott. This honor recognizes his commitment to our community, which will have a lasting impact for many years to come. I thank him for the risks that he has taken, the sacrifices he makes, and his acts of selflessness for others. Navarro

County is a safer place to live because of him.

I also congratulate Waxahachie CARE for being awarded Nonprofit of the Year from the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce. I thank them for supporting the families in our wonderful community. Their commitment to helping families in need in our area is truly remarkable.

Finally, I thank Hill County Emergency Management, Texas A&M Forest Service, Hillsboro Fire Department, and White Bluff Volunteer Fire Department for their work containing the wildfire near Blum, Texas, on July 31. This deadly fire engulfed over 300 acres and claimed several buildings. Because of the dedication and the hard work of all those involved, no homes were lost and no lives were lost.

Finally, I congratulate Commissioner Lane Grayson, Neal Bryd, Chad Spence, Casey Crow, Ruben Benavidez, Brenda Blaylock, James Byrd, Neal Byrd, Jimer Cannaday, Rodney Dickerson, Russel Ellison, Dwight Koch, Fernando Limon, Adam Pryor, Chad Spence, Tim Zabojsnik, and Leon Zajic, all of Ellis County Precinct 2 for achieving 3,000 days of no lost time. This is an achievement that few construction crews can claim. It requires 3,000 days of no work-related injuries. I thank them for all of their hard work and, more importantly, putting the safety of their fellow coworkers and citizens above all.

These are just a few examples of some outstanding people living in Texas' Sixth District. When you think that there is no hope in our country, know that there is, that there are people in our communities and here in Washington working hard to leave this world a better place than when they got here. It is my privilege to honor them on the House floor.

Every Sunday after the joys would come the concerns, and there was never a shortage because everybody knew in Matthew, he says: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them."

I start with a concern from Katherine from Palestine, whose mother recently got diagnosed with cancer. She asked that we keep her in our prayers as she and her family go through this difficult time.

Tamra from Jacksonville asks us to keep all of our homeless veterans in our prayers. Many are battling with mental illness and unseen wounds from their time defending our country.

Neal from Irving is concerned about what he sees in the news with regard to fentanyl. While he does not understand why anybody would choose to take it, he knows it is a problem.

Mark from Whitney recently took his wife to the hospital for a collapsed lung and asked that we keep her in our prayers.

John from Whitney is joyful for the life that God has given him and is concerned about the chemo and radiation treatment he started this week. My

thoughts and prayers are with John and Shelby and their family.

To close out, I want to bring attention to a brave young lady who has been visiting us here in Washington this week and needs our prayers. Isabella Day is 12 years old. During a routine doctor visit, she was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma when she was only 9 months old. Since the day she was diagnosed, Isabella and her parents, Tim and Leslie, along with her sisters Anna and Jaelyn, have dedicated themselves to helping children with childhood cancer.

Back in May, I met Isabella in my office, and I was moved by her story. Before that, I met her out on the campaign trail. She came and talked to me and asked me some really hard questions. I was really impressed by her and asked her to come to the office.

This week, she has had the opportunity to share her story with Chairwoman GRANGER, Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW, Congressman STENY HOYER, Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, Congressman DAN CRENSHAW, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, and Congressman JUAN CISCOMANI.

If she was of age according to the Constitution, I think she would probably be put forth as a candidate for President. She is that impressive, and I am proud to know her.

I am thankful to each of my friends who took the time to visit with her. It changed my life. She has changed my life, and I know it did yours.

I mentioned the nine recipients of the Medal of Honor from different ages and eras, and I served with men and women who, no doubt, had we been in conflict today, would be deserving of that, too, so I just want to tell people that when you lose hope, there is much to be hopeful for in this country. We have incredible women here in this Chamber, incredible men here in this Chamber, Representatives up here in Washington, D.C., who sacrifice a lot of their time, a lot of time with their families, to serve.

Don't read the hype in the media. Understand that they are working very hard. Remember that when I talk about these Medal of Honor men who were drafted in World War II or Vietnam, they would tell you that they are just like any of the others of us called to do something great, and they were awarded a medal for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives and usually in the face of overwhelming odds.

What we face today is not overwhelming. We are the United States of America. We have and can continue to accomplish anything we set our minds to.

I ask that we keep all Americans in our prayers, keep joy in your hearts, hope in man, and faith in God.

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

□ 1800

WHEN WILL IT BE ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for his service to this great country, both in uniform and here in this body. I am honored to serve with him. I am honored to serve with all of the great Members of Congress that wore the uniform. I appreciate his remarks just now honoring many of those who have served and were properly awarded and recognized and many of his own constituents. It is an honor to serve with him, just as it is an honor to serve with the Speaker, also from Texas.

I am reminded, as I listened to my friend from Texas, of the engagements that I had with veterans that I represent in the 21st Congressional District in Texas between Austin and San Antonio just over August. One of the great things about when you are in your work period is engaging with your constituents. They have a funny way of reminding us why they sent us here.

I had countless veterans, civilians, asking me what is happening to their country, and many veterans, several men later in life, breaking down in tears asking questions like, what did they fight for to watch what is unfolding currently under this administration? What is happening to the country that they believe in?

My question right now for my colleagues in this Chamber is, when will it be enough? When will what we are experiencing, seeing with our own eyes every day be enough for us to act? I am not just speaking to colleagues on my side of the aisle, but the whole Chamber.

We have a responsibility under the Constitution of the United States to stand up in a government of separated powers and check an executive branch that is flouting the law on a daily basis. This is an administration that is engaging in utterly lawless acts on a daily basis, and it is resulting in the endangerment of not just individual American citizens but the Republic itself.

That is not hyperbole, and I don't say it lightly. I very much share the optimistic tenor of my colleague from Texas who just spoke on the floor talking about the hope that he has for this country, given the strength of this country in its past and the strength of so many of our American people.

As a friend of mine and a good, mutual friend of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) former Governor Rick Perry, wrote in the first chapter of a book about a decade ago: "America is great, Washington is broken." Unfortunately, it remains broken, badly broken. No longer following the constitutional guidelines set forth, no longer serving the American people, and as

the Constitution calls for, carrying out the general welfare of the people and securing the blessings of liberty. That is literally what our call is as servants in Washington.

My question, again, is when will it be enough?

There is a long laundry list of things that should be giving us great pause. Actual existential crises.

Spending. We will spend \$2 trillion more this year than we take in. We are \$32 trillion in debt, barreling toward \$33, \$34 trillion. We just passed a debt ceiling increase of \$4 trillion, frankly, probably more than that; and, oh, by the way, our interest payments are now more than we spend on national defense.

Inflation is rampant. Are we going to do anything about it? The resounding answer currently from this body is "No." We continue to fund appropriations bills that spend more than last year. It is just going up.

Are we going to do anything about spending? When will it be enough?

How about our Defense Department? This Defense Department is undermining our national defense by turning our military into what I describe as a social engineering experiment in a uniform. President Biden's Pentagon is outright ignoring the law by funding abortion tourism with taxpayer funding, in blatant violation of the traditional bipartisan agreement under the Hyde amendment to not do that. Let States decide, that is what the Court just said. We continue to fund it with Federal dollars.

President Biden's Pentagon is using millions of taxpayer dollars to fund gender-transition procedures. The Air Force released a memo entitled, Department of the Air Force Observance of LGBTQ Pride Month, which empowered installation commanders to plan and conduct activities in honor of Pride Month.

Color me crazy and reactionary that I think that every single dollar we fund to the Department of Defense ought to go to planes, boats, bullets, bombs, missiles, and training soldiers to use them.

Our military is paying chief diversity officers and inclusion officials upwards of \$183,000 a year. The United States Marine Corps University has a year-long program that is dedicated to exploring gender insecurity issues. According to the official syllabus, which we found because we saw it on Twitter when they were trying to defend their position, they discuss program themes like "gendering war" with questions like, what is gender and how is it different from biological sex or how war narratives are constructed through gender discourse?

Again, we are \$2 trillion in debt. Our recruiting levels are in the toilet at the Pentagon, China is building their military, and this is what we are funding. It is not like we have a \$2 trillion surplus.

What are we doing? Do you really think having marines discuss how "war

narratives are constructed through gender discourse” helps us win a war?

COVID, the hysteria and the tyranny are already on the march again. This week we learned that CIA whistleblowers told the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic that the CIA bribed its analysts to deny the lab leak theory. The whistleblower claims that six of seven analysts believed that the evidence pointed toward the Wuhan lab leak theory. The six were then given a “significant monetary incentive” to change their position.

Earlier this week, the FDA approved new COVID-19 boosters for children as young as 6 months old. Just one panel member argued that the new shot should initially be recommended only for older people. CDC’s own data shows that giving 1 million teens the COVID vaccine will save between zero and one life and cause between 100,000 to 200,000 side effects, all while Moderna and Pfizer make more than \$1.6 billion on the contract. Coincidence?

How about health? We are funding a healthcare system, broken by Washington and big insurance, and average Americans can no longer afford healthcare, no longer go to the doctors of their choice. ObamaCare is set to cost you 6 percent more in 2024. Some plans may spike 10 percent.

When I had cancer about 11 years ago, I went to MD Anderson. To the best of my understanding, under the ObamaCare plan that I would have to use as a Member of Congress, I wouldn’t be able to go to MD Anderson.

How is that coverage? How are we doing that to the American people?

However, don’t fear, big insurance revenue reached \$1.25 trillion and profits hit \$70 billion, a 300 percent increase in revenue and a 300 percent increase in profits from just 10 years ago. Life is good for big insurance.

UnitedHealth Group, \$20.6 billion up, 16 percent year over year. Cigna, \$6.7 billion up, 24 percent year over year. CVS Health, \$4.2 billion. Humana, \$2.8 billion. Meanwhile, the average American family spends more than \$22,000 a year on premiums, which is expected to increase 6.4 percent this year.

In 2023, we will spend more than \$1 trillion subsidizing insurance. Yes, we are borrowing another trillion dollars to subsidize those insurance companies I was just describing.

You like corporate cronyism? Well, you have got it.

How about energy? Are any of these things going to be enough? Healthcare, COVID, Department of Defense, wokeism, energy?

We are actively destroying our ability to have reliable energy to the benefit of China and a bunch of elitists who don’t live in reality.

The Inflation Reduction Act has essentially a \$1.2 trillion handout to subsidize billion-dollar corporations. Something like 90 percent of the subsidies are to billion-dollar corporations. Pretty much heavily led by very rich, White, elitist liberals, making

money hand over fist with your subsidized money, giving money to China to fund solar panels from China, battery-powered cars, batteries with cobalt mined in the Congo almost entirely by slave labor, heavily including children.

Your taxpayer dollars and borrowed money at work.

Yet, it is not even producing a good result for the American people. Energy prices have increased by 40 percent since Biden took office, gasoline is up over 50 percent, electricity is up almost 30 percent. While oil is at \$90 a barrel, our Strategic Petroleum Reserve is at its lowest level since 1983 because the President has been dumping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to try to keep gas prices down while advancing a radical leftist agenda that is making it impossible for us to have affordable energy.

The Inflation Reduction Act expands subsidies for electric vehicles, 78 percent of which are claimed by Americans making over \$100,000—of course—because the average EV costs \$17,000 more than one with an internal combustion engine, which this administration wants to end. They don’t want you to have an affordable car.

Then Secretary Granholm decides to go on a trek across the country to prove how great electric vehicles are. She goes up to a charging station, they are running behind. Oh, oh, we have got to find a charging station. They take a gas-powered vehicle, put it in a slot, block the slot, so the Secretary can get a photo op, and a family with a baby with an EV was sitting there waiting for a slot and couldn’t get one.

That is your Biden administration at work trying to promote the propaganda of a leftwing radical vision for energy that is destroying hardworking Americans’ ability to live their lives.

Poor people across this country, working-class people across this country are wondering how they can afford a car because this administration is living in a dreamland that won’t dent carbon dioxide. India and China are dumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. You can get rid of every internal combustion engine in America and you will drop CO₂ production by like 1½ percent. It is insane.

We are unilaterally disarming our competitiveness, our security advantage with respect to energy, and empowering China in the process.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration’s EPA has implemented a rule that would enforce two-thirds of the new vehicles sold in the United States to be EVs by 2030. You can’t make this up. That is a direct assault on the well-being of the American people.

What are we in Congress doing about it?

We passed a bill today trying to pull back on some of California’s nonsense. We are really good at that, ladies and gentlemen, passing bills, knowing they will die in the Senate, going home, and campaigning about how crazy the ad-

ministration is, and then putting all our eggs in the basket of one day in the future, trust us, when we have the biggest majority in the House and we have 60 in the Senate, and we have that President, one day, all at once, trust us, we will get it done.

How is that working out for you?

When will we use the tools we have before us right now? We have the power of the purse. Last time I checked, Republicans have the majority in this body. We should use the power of the purse to stop the radical abuses of this President and his administration.

Again, spending, \$2 trillion deficit. Are we going to do anything about it besides, oh, it is a little better than what they would have done?

Are we going to do anything about energy? Oh, we passed a bill. Are we going to do anything about it?

Are we going to do anything about those healthcare prices?

Are we going to do anything about the continued advancement of COVID tyranny, mask mandates, vaccine mandates, and importantly the subsidy of vaccines to be forced upon American people? Are we going to do anything about it?

Anything about the Pentagon?

The Department of Justice, instead of focusing on locking up bad guys—and I say this as a former Federal prosecutor who locked up a few bad guys—instead of doing that, this Department of Justice is advancing a politicized form of injustice against American citizens and a former President.

My friend, Scott Smith, in Loudoun County, Governor Glenn Youngkin just pardoned Scott Smith. Now, remember, he was targeted as a domestic terrorist in conjunction with the National School Boards Association and the Department of Justice for going to a school board meeting to defend his daughter.

Mark Houck in Philadelphia, he was targeted, had a SWAT team show up at his door in Philadelphia because he dared to defend his son while engaging in his free speech rights in front of an abortion clinic.

□ 1815

The FBI is weaponizing the so-called FACE Act to target pro-life Americans, overwhelmingly targeting only pro-life Americans when they go engage in their free speech rights. Of course, they are targeting former President Trump; doing all they can to target the former President while also doing all they can to ensure that Hunter Biden and President Biden do not face justice.

Under the Department of Justice, we have the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Earlier this year, the ATF issued a rule banning pistol stabilizing braces that are intended for recruiting shooters with physical disabilities and disabled veterans. That rule potentially makes felons out of up to 40 million Americans. It wasn’t made in Congress, wasn’t codified here. It was made by bureaucrats.

Now they are targeting private sales, trying to promote a universal background check, despite the fact Congress has rejected it.

How about your food? Will we do anything about food? We are ceding control of our food supplies to foreign nations because our government is making it really difficult, if not impossible, to farm in this country. The USDA projected the U.S. will become a net importer of food for the first time in its entire history in 2023.

Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land doubled from 2009 to 2019. China's agriculture investment in other nations has grown by more than tenfold since 2009, and Chinese companies are purchasing land near key defensive installations.

What are we doing about it?

What is this Republican majority and this Congress doing about it?

The IRS. We are still fully funding an IRS, and it just received a massive expansion. Yet, this IRS targets political opponents.

In 2021, the IRS targeted the non-profit status of my friend Bunni Pounds' group, Christian Engaged, for simply being an organization that encourages Christians to vote.

It is not the first time. Remember, Lois Lerner?

The IRS has a history of this.

What are we doing about it?

We keep writing the checks to fund the bureaucrats that are at war with the American people. We do it every day, and everybody just shrugs. They just walk around and they say, CHIP, don't you understand? The Democrats control the Senate. Joe Biden is in the White House. We just got a position to win an election next year, and then, then we will fight.

Do you know how many times I have heard that? When I was Senator CRUZ's chief of staff 10 years ago, when I was a lawyer on the Senate Judiciary Committee 15 years ago, it is all I have ever heard.

Trust us. One day. One day we will use the power that we have in this body to change the trajectory of this country and to stop this weaponization of the Federal Government against the American people. You can't ignore that that is what it is.

When the Department of Justice is not blind and it is targeting people based on their political beliefs and targeting a former President instead of the current President because of its political beliefs, that destroys the rule of law in this country.

When the Department of Defense is more concerned about being woke than actually be weaponized against our enemies, that destroys morale and recruiting.

When the IRS is targeting people for their political beliefs, you don't have faith in your system of government. When your Department of Energy is more concerned about advancing a radical leftist agenda than ensuring our own national security and our own

ability to power our people, our jobs, our ability to travel, you are funding the very mechanisms in government that are undermining the liberty and the freedom of people's right to go have a job, a right to go provide for their family.

Perhaps worst of all, the southern border.

In July alone, Border Patrol encountered across this country 240-something-thousand individuals. Reports today indicate that preliminary CBP data show migrant encounters for August are on track to surpass 230,000, making it the sixth month in 2023 above 200,000.

On Tuesday, a report surfaced that CBP apprehended more than 7,300 individuals across the southern border; I believe maybe 9,000 nationally.

Three of the four busiest Border Patrol sectors were in Texas:

The El Paso Sector had 1,100 illegal crossings.

The RGV Sector, 1,400.

The Del Rio Sector, 1,800.

We have had 10,000 criminals caught at the border in FY23.

Here is the thing. With over a million got-aways, who are we not catching? What do we do about the story we just saw unfold in Pennsylvania where a guy was charged with crimes in Brazil; he came to our country, brutally stabbed to death his girlfriend, then he's on a jailbreak in Pennsylvania? Illegal. Not legally present.

How about the 11-year-old boy in Ohio who just died because someone released by the President ran into a schoolbus on the first day of school. An 11-year-old boy, dead by someone here illegally released by this President.

According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS has the wrong addresses for 177,000 of the nearly 1 million people released into the United States between the spring of '21 and the summer of '22. Think about that.

Many of those addresses were used more than 50 times each. A car dealership, a bus station, a restaurant in Maryland, a church in Illinois were the addresses used.

Who are they and where are they?

If 99 percent of them are great people looking for a better way of life, God bless them. What about the other 1 percent?

You feel good about that? You feel secure in the United States, do you? Because as you drive around your suburban enclaves and you feel safe and secure, this is going to catch up to you, just like the New Yorkers who are starting to wake up and say, oh, this is kind of a problem.

Yeah, it is a problem.

The problem is there is a human toll. These are human beings. An illegal immigrant in Baltimore who was being held up for ransom for \$23,000 while his wife and little girl were in a stash house in Fort Worth, Texas. They called them up and said: We are going to rape your little girl if you don't give us \$23,000.

Is that what we are for in this country?

Are we for perpetuating the sex trafficking trade, the human trafficking trade, and slave labor?

Are we for what is happening to our Border Patrol, where we are losing Border Patrol because they are being lied about by this Department of Homeland Security?

Are we for a million people being released into the United States in a year?

Are we for the criminal activity we just saw in Pennsylvania or the boy in Ohio?

Are we for all the migrants now in New York?

Are we for the young man who came in as an unaccompanied alien child, a family took him into their home and he stabbed the father and killed them?

Is that what we are for?

If we are not for it, what the hell are we going to do about it? Besides preen, posture, campaign, and say, oh, yeah, we are going to do something about the border one day. Trust us. One day.

Well, that day is now. If we don't secure the United States, we shouldn't fund the agencies that refuse to secure it. That is what this is about.

When my Democratic colleagues complain in October if we are unable to find a resolution to fund the United States Government, I want them to look squarely in the mirror. It is you who is causing it. It is you who is abandoning your responsibility to secure the border of the United States.

It is you that is causing little girls to get sold in the sex trafficking trade. It is you that is causing ranches in Texas to get overrun. It is you that is causing criminals to get released into the United States. It is you that is undermining our strength in the Western Hemisphere, empowering China, empowering cartels to undermine our national security.

Over my dead body am I going to say that I am going to support funding a government that refuses to do its job to secure the border.

That is what the House of Representatives should be saying, in unison, to a President flouting the law.

That is what this is about.

Our Founders gave us the power of the purse. James Madison wrote about it in the Federalist Papers. It is not just a happenstance that the House of Representatives has that power.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them"—the people—"under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

When they created our government and gave us the Constitution, they gave us tools to avoid that, but let's be very clear. What happened to us?

The Declaration of Independence outlined 27 grievances. I have listed more

than that just here. A complete abandonment of the job and the responsibility of the Federal Government, leaving the State of Texas \$10 billion poorer while it tries to do the job the Federal Government is suppose to do.

The American colonists protested because they weren't represented in Parliament. I would suggest right now that the American people, frankly, aren't being well represented in this body because this body is letting the executive branch run over them every bit as much as King George III was doing to the colonists in 1776.

You think it is hyperbole.

Look at our border; look at our system of justice; look at our energy, economy; look at our level of spending—a complete abandonment of our job.

Where are we? Why even go home this weekend?

Why were we gone in August?

Why aren't we right here forcing the conversation, forcing Senator SCHUMER and the President to come down to the Republican-led House of Representatives and say enough. It is enough. Enough to open borders, enough to a devastating energy policy, enough to lawlessness, enough to targeting the American people, enough words, enough promises. It is time to fight.

If we are not going to secure the United States of America, we shouldn't fund the government that refuses to do so. We should stand up and fight to defend the people that sent us here to fight for them.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 18, 2023, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1880. A letter from the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Affordable Connectivity Program [WC Docket No.: 21-450] received August 29, 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-1881. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act; Implementation (RIN: 0970-AC92) received August 10, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1882. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-

wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No.: 4] received August 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1883. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Use of Acquisition 360 To Encourage Vendor Feedback [FAC 2023-05, FAR Case 2017-014, Item I; Docket No.: 2017-001, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN43) received August 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1884. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Small Disadvantaged Business Threshold [FAC 2023-05, FAR Case 2023-004, Item II; Docket No.: 2023-0004; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO52) received August 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1885. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Update to ASSIST Database References [FAC 2023-05, FAR Case 2022-008, Item III; Docket No.: 2022-0008, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO45) received August 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1886. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary of final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No.: 4] received August 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1887. A letter from the Director, Office Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2023-05; Item IV; Docket No.: FAR-2023-0052; Sequence No.: 3] received August 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1888. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's notification of availability — Accepted Means of Compliance; Airworthiness Standards: Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1442] received August 22, 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-1889. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0927; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00013-T; Amendment 39-22461; AD 2023-12-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1890. 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-2023-0935; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01311-T; Amendment 39-22491; AD 2023-13-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1891. 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-2022-1479; Project Identifier AD-2022-00703-T; Amendment 39-22497; AD 2023-13-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1892. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1487; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01626-T; Amendment 39-22504; AD 2023-14-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1893. 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 Yaborã Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1163; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00571-T; Amendment 39-22487; AD 2023-13-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1894. 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-2023-0427; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01370-T; Amendment 39-22488; AD 2023-13-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1895. 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-2022-0458; Project Identifier AD-2021-00633-T; Amendment 39-22494; AD 2023-13-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1896. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; AVOX Systems Inc. (Formerly Scott Aviation) Oxygen Cylinder and Valve Assemblies; and Oxygen Valve Assemblies [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0015; Project Identifier AD-2022-01281-T; Amendment 39-22496; AD 2023-13-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1897. 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-2023-0656; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01433-T; Amendment 39-22498; AD 2023-13-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1898. 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-2022-1296; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00628-T; Amendment 39-22495; AD 2023-13-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1899. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1653; Project Identifier AD-2023-00899-A; Amendment 39-22519; AD 2023-15-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1900. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1043; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01295-E; Amendment 39-22515; AD 2023-15-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1901. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Ipeco Pilot and Co-Pilot Seats [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0661; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00737-Q; Amendment 39-22510; AD 2023-14-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1902. 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 Yaborã Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1636; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00369-T; Amendment 39-22514; AD 2023-15-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1903. 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 Yaborã Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1646; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00065-T; Amendment 39-22516; AD 2023-15-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1904. 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-2023-1038; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01584-T; Amendment 39-22509; AD 2023-14-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1905. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0937; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00134-R; Amendment 39-22507; AD 2023-14-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1906. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0016; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00416-R; Amendment 39-22506; AD 2023-14-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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-1907. 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-2023-1654; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00920-T; Amendment 39-22520; AD 2023-16-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 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. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 663. A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act; with an amendment (Rept. 118-196). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3371. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-197). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2872. A bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 118-198). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1530. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; with an amend-

ment (Rept. 118-199). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NICKEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CHU, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5456. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective action; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 5457. A bill to support carbon dioxide removal research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. YAKYM:

H.R. 5458. A bill to direct the Patient Center Outcome Research Institute to prepare

and release a report on home cardiorespiratory monitors for infants, and for other purposes; 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. FLOOD (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5459. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension initiative research and extension on precision agriculture workforce development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

H.R. 5460. A bill to direct the Department of Homeland Security to bolster security against threats posed by ghost guns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 5461. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require PDP sponsors of a prescription drug plan under part D of the Medicare program that use a formulary to include certain generic drugs and biosimilar biological products on such formulary, and for other purposes; 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. SANTOS:

H.R. 5462. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to require that the slaughter date, package date, freeze date, and country of origin be labeled on meat and poultry products; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 5463. A bill to expand arts education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. STRONG, Mr. PALMER, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 5464. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MANN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. FRY, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. CRANE, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 5465. A bill to require the head of each agency to allow members of Congress access to certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 5466. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the definition of eligible land for the purposes of the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 5467. A bill to prohibit the sale of a firearm unless the firearm or packaging carries a label that provides the number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 5468. A bill to amend the Social Security Act, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to require that the value of children's savings accounts be disregarded for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive certain benefits under such Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, 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. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 5469. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. CARL, and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 5470. A bill to extend temporary authority regarding license portability for certain practitioners to be able to practice across State borders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 5471. A bill to halt removal of certain nationals of Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5472. A bill to make improvements to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 5473. A bill to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 5474. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FRY, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 5475. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to require the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to require disclosures in patent applications regarding ties to the People's Republic of China and other foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 5476. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. NICKEL, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 5477. A bill to provide lawful permanent resident status for certain advanced STEM degree holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLEGUO (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 5478. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish the Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 5479. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to give the Secretary of Defense authority to build capacity of foreign security forces with respect to certain fishing operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 5480. A bill to restore protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. GUEST (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 5481. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. COLE, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. HERN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HUNT, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 5482. A bill to prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Budget, 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 Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H.R. 5483. A bill to promote water supply reliability and improved water management

for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 5484. A bill to strengthen and expand the Green Ribbon Schools Program at the Department of Education by boosting the capacity of participating States to expand the number of engaged schools, applicants, and nominees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 5485. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for greater transparency and protections with regard to Bank Secrecy Act reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mrs. BICE, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. MACE, and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 5486. A bill to protect and expand access to pasteurized, donor human milk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5487. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 5488. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party funding by foreign persons, to prohibit third-party funding by foreign states and sovereign wealth funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5489. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create the Pell Plus program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 5490. A bill to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 5491. A bill to establish due process requirements for the investigation of intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5492. A bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed

Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 5493. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Tribal Relations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 5494. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve access by Indian Tribes to support from universal service programs of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ISSA, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 5495. A bill to prohibit providers of email services from using filtering algorithms to flag emails from political campaigns that consumers have elected to receive as spam; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 5496. A bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5497. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 improve the integrated public alert and warning system relating to active shooters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 5498. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide to certain aliens covered shelter or housing on military installations located in the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ROSE, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 5499. A bill to amend the Antiquities Act to increase congressional oversight with respect to the designation of national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself and Ms. SALINAS):

H.R. 5500. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an initiative to support peer learning relating to a wide range of agriculture conservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MOYLAN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 5501. A bill to amend section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to raise the mandatory minimum of years of imprisonment for engaging in the trafficking of any persons under the age of 18; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 5502. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5503. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to include Indian Tribes in certain provisions relating to priority resource concerns; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. CARL):

H.R. 5504. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 5505. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to remove a prohibition on the use of funds relating to the provision of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, and Ms. BUZINSKI):

H.R. 5506. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title 10, United States Code, to provide no-cost coverage for the preventive distribution of opioid overdose reversal drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. ELLZEY):

H.R. 5507. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to establish a Disinformation Governance Board; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 5508. A bill to protect the rights of the people of the United States under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 5509. A bill to modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 5510. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require coverage of 3 primary care visits without cost sharing each year 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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5511. A bill to provide subsidized summer and year-round employment for youth

who face systemic barriers to employment and viable career options and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 5512. A bill to require United States financial institutions to ensure entities and persons owned or controlled by the institution comply with financial sanctions on the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus to the same extent as the institution itself, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. KILEY, and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 5513. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the National Labor Relations Act to clarify the standard for determining whether an individual is an employee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 5514. A bill to authorize a pilot program to expand and intensify surveillance of self-harm in partnership with State and local public health departments, to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in hospital emergency departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5515. A bill to authorize the Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to issue direct loans to certain small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5516. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services to other law; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 5517. A bill to reauthorize programs of the Economic Development Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 5518. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require individuals the choice to opt in to enrollment in employer group waiver plans under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:

H.R. 5519. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose information on pay raises made to executives and non-executive employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 5520. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TURNER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GALLEGGO, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. WEXTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. ROSS):

H.J. Res. 89. A joint resolution requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. MEUSER):

H. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that all trade agreements the United States enters into, should provide reasonable access and collaboration of each nation involved in such an agreement, for the purpose of search and recovery activities relating to members of the United States Armed Forces still missing and unaccounted for from prior wars or military conflicts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CARL, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. STEWART, Mr. BOST, Mr. LATTA, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. COLE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. SELF, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 684. A resolution condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving

the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. ROY):

H. Res. 685. A resolution honoring Hiram "Hank" Williams on the 100th anniversary of his birth; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Ms. ADAMS):

H. Res. 686. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2023, as "National Stillbirth Prevention Day", recognizing tens of thousands of American families that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 687. A resolution expressing support for dance as a form of valuable exercise and of artistic expression, and for the designation of September 16, 2023, as "National Dance Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MAST, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H. Res. 688. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as "National Estuaries Week"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 689. A resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of "Public Radio Music Day" and its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. WILD):

H. Res. 690. A resolution supporting the designation of September 17, 2023, as "National Physician Suicide Awareness Day" to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 5456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

The single subject of this legislation is: Labor

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 5457

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Carbon Removal Research and Development

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 5458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study the use of home cardiorespiratory monitors (medical devices that track the respiratory effort and heart rate of a sleeping infant) to reduce and prevent sleep-related sudden infant death syndrome or sudden unexpected infant death.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 5459.

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:

This bill prioritizes precision agriculture workforce training and development within certain federal grant programs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 5460.

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 direct the Department of Homeland Security to bolster security against threats posed by ghost guns, and for other purposes.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, 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:

Generic and biosimilar placement on Part D formulary.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 5462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution, Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to require that the slaughter date, package date, freeze date, and country of origin be labeled on meat and poultry products.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Arts education

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 5464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To rename the community outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 5465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the head of each agency to allow members of Congress access to certain Federal buildings.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 5466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Conservation Reserve Program improvement

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 5467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

suicide prevention

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To exempt Children's Savings Accounts from counting against asset limits in TANF, SSI, LIHEAP, and SNAP.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 5469.

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 U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18 The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is:

The purpose of the resolution is regarding education.

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 5470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

License Portability for VA disability exams

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 5471.

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 codify protections afforded to Vietnamese refugees in the United States under a 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. and Vietnam.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make improvements to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 5473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

"Regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Eliminates the sunset in the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) to the definition of building codes to include the last 2 cycles plus allowing for amendments, and updates

the definition of building codes in Section 205 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Grants to Entities for Establishment of Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Funds.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 5474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would establish a grant program to support dual enrollees and early college high schools that serve low-income students.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 5475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill prohibits the issuance of patent to any person or entity subject to certain national security restrictions.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5476.

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:

Designating the Washington Crossing Post Office as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office"

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 5478.

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:

Education

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 5479.

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:

Adds countering illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing operations as an authorized purpose for which the Secretary of Defense may support another nation's national security forces.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 5480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Social Security

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 5481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 5482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 5483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1, Article 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To promote water supply reliability and improved water management for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 5484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will strengthen and expand the Green Ribbon Schools Program at the Department of Education by boosting the capacity of participating States to expand the number of engaged schools, applicants, and nominees.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for greater transparency and protections with regard to Bank Secrecy Act reports.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 5486.

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:

increasing access to donor breast milk

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 5488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. 1, § 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To restrict the foreign financing of litigation in American courts.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 5489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish the Pell Plus program.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 5490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Updating the US Fish and Wildlife Service maps for the original Coastal Barrier Resources Act

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 5491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have

power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation establishes due process protections for individuals and institutions of higher education being investigated by certain athletic associations.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 5492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Defense

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 5493.

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 Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 5494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Internet

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 5495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Stopping political bias in email filtering algorithms

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 5496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Emissions

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 improve the integrated public alert and warning system relating to active shooters.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

21 H.R. 5498.

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:

Prohibit Federal funds from being used to house specified aliens on military installations within the 50 United States and DC

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 5499.

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:

Provide congressional oversight of the Antiquities Act

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 5500

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 Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 5501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to raise the mandatory minimums for those convicted of Sex Trafficking Minors

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

labor

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Add tribal consultation to the Priority Review Concern determination process.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 5504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Repealing regulations related to the Endangered Species Act of 1973

By Mr. OGLE:

H.R. 5505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to remove a prohibition on the use of funds relating to the provision of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 5506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1. 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:

Health.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 5507

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the use of federal funds to establish a Disinformation Governance Board.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 5508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill protects the rights of the people of the United States under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 5509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 5510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 5511.

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:
Paid work-based learning opportunities for opportunity youth.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 5512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Reforming financial sanctions against Russia and Belarus

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:
Amending the Fair Labor Standards Act and National Labor Relations Act to clarify the standard for determining whether an individual is an employee.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill establishes two grant programs—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must award grants to state, local, and tribal health departments to expand surveillance of self-harm, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration must award grants to hospital emergency departments for programs to prevent suicide attempts among patients after discharge.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause III

The single subject of this legislation is:
To authorize the Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to issue direct loans to certain small businesses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Government reform

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Economic Development

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 5518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Medicare

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 5519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Expending the number of required disclosures for a public company under 15 USC 78m

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 5520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Creates a new grant program, administered by HHS's Office of Minority Health, to expand access to culturally and linguistically appropriate care, encourage innovation, and address persistent health disparities and chronic disease challenges.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.J. Res. 89.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this law under clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is for foreign policy.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 40: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 82: Mr. DUARTE.

H.R. 134: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 196: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 354: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 355: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 419: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 427: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. STRONG.

H.R. 496: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 531: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 533: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 559: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 618: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 619: Mr. SANTOS and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 621: Ms. CARAVEO and Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 655: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 724: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE,

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 882: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 920: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 939: Mr. OWENS and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 987: Ms. SALINAS and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 997: Mr. CLYDE and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1002: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1065: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1088: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1150: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 1250: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1259: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1270: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1276: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. MCCORMICK.

H.R. 1277: Ms. BROWN.

H.R. 1298: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 1325: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 1385: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 1413: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1425: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 1437: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 1477: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1478: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1491: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1570: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1572: Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 1582: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1608: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 1610: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1634: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1691: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BARR, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 1721: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 1763: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 1770: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1777: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 1785: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 1788: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 1794: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 1801: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1807: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1822: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1826: Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 2367: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 2400: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2424: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2443: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BALINT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2480: Mr. TONKO, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 2493: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 2510: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2548: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 2601: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 2620: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2630: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2642: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2663: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. FROST, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 2666: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 2672: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2673: Mr. KILEY, Ms. LEGER

FERNANDEZ, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. DUARTE, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 2693: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KILMER,

Ms. CRAIG, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2695: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 2723: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 2742: Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. CARAVEO,

Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 2783: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 2814: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 2827: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2841: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2852: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2871: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 2933: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 2940: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mrs.

MCBATH.

H.R. 2965: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 2978: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 3079: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 3128: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3165: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3170: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3176: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 3206: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 3209: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 3212: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 3213: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 3216: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 3232: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 3240: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3251: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 3276: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3347: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3354: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 3381: Mr. DONALDS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3409: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 3419: Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 3423: Mr. YAKYM.

- H.R. 3433: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3463: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 3468: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3475: Mr. TONKO, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3492: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 3497: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3520: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3545: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 3600: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 3608: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3624: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 3639: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3651: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CHU, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FROST, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3713: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3718: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3730: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3755: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 3774: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3792: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 3817: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 3841: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3867: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3876: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 3940: Mr. CAREY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3946: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3949: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 3965: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3974: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 4030: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4031: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4035: Mr. YAKYM, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 4059: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 4068: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 4074: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 4091: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4104: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4157: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. CHU, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. TITUS, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER.
H.R. 4167: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 4231: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. JACOBS, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4232: Ms. PELOSI, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LIEU, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4233: Ms. PELOSI, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 4235: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 4260: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4274: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 4278: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4315: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4323: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 4328: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4329: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4335: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4355: Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 4417: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 4426: Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 4438: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 4534: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 4563: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 4576: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 4583: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4587: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 4619: Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 4626: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 4627: Mr. BURCHETT and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4632: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 4661: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 4697: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 4709: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 4714: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4721: Mr. FALLON, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. BUCK, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 4731: Ms. WILD and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4756: Mr. MOLINARO and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4758: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4815: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4818: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4851: Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4860: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 4865: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4886: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4897: Mr. CASTEN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CARAVEO, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4933: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4936: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4951: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 4956: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 4974: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 4999: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 5009: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5010: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5020: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5030: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 5041: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 5044: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 5048: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 5073: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 5077: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 5084: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 5103: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 5110: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 5134: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 5138: Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 5140: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5169: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 5171: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5182: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5203: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5239: Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 5249: Ms. PETERSEN and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5250: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 5256: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 5266: Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 5308: Mr. BACON and Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 5326: Mr. MORAN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 5328: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 5337: Mr. ESTES, Mr. BARR, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5343: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 5349: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5353: Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5357: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 5363: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5383: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 5387: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5390: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5399: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5403: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 5411: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 5415: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 5420: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 5432: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 5433: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5437: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 5440: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 5455: Mr. GOODEN of Texas and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.J. Res. 65: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.J. Res. 72: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. MULLIN.
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. WOMACK.
H. Con. Res. 13: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. LAWLER.
H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. EVANS.
H. Res. 50: Mr. NORMAN.
H. Res. 108: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H. Res. 149: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H. Res. 243: Ms. SALAZAR.
H. Res. 258: Mr. JAMES, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. MACE, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H. Res. 285: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H. Res. 341: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H. Res. 378: Mr. MFUME.
H. Res. 596: Mr. FALLON.
H. Res. 618: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H. Res. 625: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H. Res. 627: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. EZELL.
H. Res. 636: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 674: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H. Res. 679: Mr. KILMER.
H. Res. 683: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 68: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 5081: Mrs. BOEBERT.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 7, September 12, 2023, by Ms. DELAURO on House Resolution 611, was signed by the following Members: Ms. DeLauro, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Thanedar, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Strickland, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Thompson of California, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Jeffries, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Clyburn, Ms. Meng, Mr. Lieu, Mr. Jackson of Illinois, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Auchincloss, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts,

Mr. Casten, Ms. Salinas, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Deluzio, Ms. Budzinski, Ms. Pettersen, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Jacobs, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Casar, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Morelle, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Brown, Ms. McClellan, Mr. Horsford, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Espaillat, Ms. Tokuda, Ms. Caraveo, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Frost, Mrs. Ramirez, Mr. Crow, Ms. Sherrill, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Bush, Mr. Jackson of North Carolina, Mr. Green of Texas, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Omar, Mr. Landsman, Mr. Keating, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Lee of Nevada, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mr. Huffman, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mrs. Sykes, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Mr. Trone, Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Payne, Mr. Hoyer, Mr. Pallone, Ms. Balint, Mr. Magaziner, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Peters, Mr. Carbajal, Ms. Leger Fernandez, Mr. Kim of New Jersey,

Mr. Neguse, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. DeSaulnier, Ms. Crockett, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Goldman of New York, Ms. Kamlager-Dove, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Pocan, Mrs. Cherfilus-McCormick, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Velázquez, Ms. Titus, Mrs. Foushee, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Robert Garcia of California, Mr. Soto, Ms. Chu, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Hoyle of Oregon, Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Himes, Mr. Mrvan, Ms. Manning, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Jayapal, Mrs. Dingell, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Kuster, Mr. McGarvey, Ms. Craig, Ms. Wild, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Slotkin, Ms. Scholten, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Panetta, Ms. Spanberger, Ms.

Houlahan, Mr. Harder of California, Mr. Foster, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Correa, Ms. Underwood, Mr. Levin, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Mfume, Ms. Wexton, Mr. Sorensen, Ms. Waters, Mr. Takano, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Wilson of Florida, and Ms. Lee of California.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—

ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 6 by Ms. PRESSLEY on House Joint Resolution 25: Mr. Stanton, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Caraveo, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Gallego, and Mr. Norcross.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

No. 149

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of love, as we begin today's legislative session, we pause to acknowledge Your sovereignty. You are a God of might and miracles, and we are sustained by Your mercy. Today, lead our lawmakers beside still waters and replenish their spirits with Your power. As they grapple with the challenges of our time, give them a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe. Lord, provide them with the wisdom to hear Your voice and the courage to obey Your precepts. Let Your hand rest on our Nation and lead it to a greatness that glorifies You.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

AI INSIGHT FORUM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, Senators from both sides of the aisle participated in one of the most informative and historic discussions ever held in the Congress.

Many of us came out of our first AI Insight Forum exhilarated. The debate was illuminating; the discussions, candid and unvarnished, and direct.

I want to thank Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG for joining me in leading the discussion. They helped make yesterday an all-out success.

I want to thank every Senator who attended. We had great turnout. I am told about 70 Senators from both parties attended, and I think we all left with a greater understanding and appreciation of AI's importance and complexity.

By the end of the day, everyone in the room did reach a consensus on a few important points.

First, Congress must play a role—must play a role—in regulating AI. One of the most striking moments at the forum was when I asked all of the participants—the critics, the experts, the developers alike—to raise their hands if they agreed that government had to be involved, and we had universal support. Not one person had their hand down.

Second, most everyone agreed that the government must also play a role promoting what we call transformational innovation. Bill Gates talked about AI's potential for combating hunger worldwide. Eric Schmidt talked about the way AI could help doctors do their job. Senator ROUNDS, in a touching moment, talked about losing his wife to cancer, which hit home to a lot of people in the room, as it does with millions and millions of Americans. And it led to a conversation about how AI can be used one day to model never-before-seen drugs to do the unthinkable: cure cancer.

But at the same time and with equal vehemence—maybe even more—we had a consensus on the need for guardrails for a sustainable innovation, because just as AI can be used to design cancer cures, it could also, if things went wrong, be used to make terrible bio-weapons or other dangers.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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I think everyone at the forum agreed that if we don't do anything on AI, then the lowest common denominator can occur: Racial bias that is in our society would be enshrined in AI; massive job displacement and even more unthinkable doomsday scenarios. So we talked about the need for not only transformational innovation that does the positive but for sustainable innovation, where the government installs guardrails to minimize these risks.

It is called sustainable because AI won't be able to go forward if we don't have guardrails to prevent the very serious downsides. And we agreed that only the government can fill the hole of creating and enforcing these guardrails, because even if a good number of private companies do the responsible thing and regulate themselves, there will always be outlier companies that don't, and that brings the lowest common denominator way down.

Finally, there was a consensus that we need to find balance between innovation and guardrails. This won't be easy, but it is essential. You can't go too far in either direction. We want to both maximize the benefits and minimize the risks, and if you go too far on one side, you may hurt the other. So Congress must pay attention to both. That ain't easy. This is going to be one of the toughest jobs the Congress has ever undertaken but one of the most important and one of the most necessary.

To be sure, we didn't cover everything in today's forum. We are just at the beginning. The conversation that began yesterday will continue into the fall and beyond when we host even more AI Insight Forums. Our committees, which will have to do the work—the real work—of crafting legislation, have already held a dozen hearings and are going to hold a lot more, using what we learn at the forums to help craft legislation.

Well, we have a lot of work in front of us, but yesterday's conversation gave the Senate a strong sense of where to begin, and it was a decided blow to the ostriches around here who might put their heads in the sand and say: It is too complicated. It is too difficult. Let's do nothing.

Thanks to all of our participants who came to yesterday's AI forum. Thanks to Senators ROUNDS and YOUNG and HEINRICH for hosting with me, and thanks to all of my colleagues who joined. Let's now look ahead to our second day AI Insight Forum, which will happen very soon.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Now, Mr. President, on Senate business, today, the Senate will take the next step in our bipartisan appropriations process. Later this morning, we will hold a vote on the motion to proceed to the minibus, which contains three spending bills: MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-Housing, affectionately known around here as T-HUD.

Earlier this week, the first vote on this bill got an overwhelming 85-to-12

vote. That is yet another example of the bipartisan nature of our work here in the Senate to date, and I hope both sides come out in strong support of the vote in a few minutes. We should not slow this process down because once we are on the bill, I look forward to a constructive debate where both sides can secure votes on amendments.

Off the floor, the work of advancing the President's highly qualified nominees also continues. Today, the Judiciary Committee will hold a markup on another seven district judges, two U.S. attorneys, and other nominees.

I thank Chairman DURBIN and my colleagues on the Judiciary for their work. They have helped the U.S. Senate confirm over 140 judges, including 36 circuit judges, 104 district court judges, and, of course, Ketanji Brown Jackson, the historic nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

REPUBLICAN AGENDA

Mr. President, on Republican extremism, a lot has changed since I first arrived in Congress but nothing more so than the seismic shift in the Republican Party's support for the members of our great Armed Forces.

When I arrived in the House, Republican Representatives used to fall over each other to give speeches expressing support for those in uniform—the same when I arrived in the Senate. Their policies didn't always match the rhetoric, but the support truly seemed real and genuine. It no longer does. Oh, some of them may still use the rhetoric, but these days, the actions we see on the other side say more than all of the patriotic rhetoric on Earth.

Look at where we are. In the House, the Republicans can't even agree to debate a bill to fund the Defense Department and the intelligence community, and they balk at providing emergency aid to a democratic partner fighting off a Russian invasion. In the Senate, our Republican colleagues are more supportive of our Ukrainian friends, to their credit, but extremists in their ranks are blocking the promotion of hundreds of military leaders. And what does the Republican leadership do? Nothing—tacit approval of this nakedly cynical tactic. They are shrugging their shoulders and letting it go forward. The result? Real lives—real lives, families—trapped in limbo because a select few want to push the MAGA hard line on women's choice.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, these servicemembers—the finest our military has to offer—are seemingly just numbers on the Senate calendar. The Senator from Alabama claims that no one is being harmed by his obstruction and that the leadership of his conference supports him.

Well, I say to my friends: These are not just numbers. Our armed services members are real people who have dedicated their lives to serving and defending our great country. They are real families, spouses, children whose lives have been put in limbo by the callous calculation of the Senator from

Alabama; officers who cannot assume their new assignments, spouses who cannot find jobs in new locations, families who cannot get settled in their new homes; kids who have to go to a new school can't start.

The bottom line is this: This is a Republican problem. It was created by the Senator from Alabama—no one else—and it is up to Republicans to put pressure on him to back off, plain and simple.

We already see that pressure mount. Last week, one of the major Republican Presidential candidates said that the Senator from Alabama ought to back off. Just a few days ago, the House chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee—one of the most respected, conservative Members of the House—said the same thing. But Senate Republican leaders need to step up. Yet here we are with extremists—extremists—of one party choosing to upend the lives of hundreds of dedicated and honorable military families.

I will continue to find a way to break this logjam and get these lives back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, America's example and the threats posed by Russia and China are leading major allies and partners in Europe and Asia to step up their commitments to collective security and dramatically increase investments in their own defense.

It is worth pointing out once again that the United States is not—I repeat "not"—shouldering the burden for European free riders. In fact, when it comes to security assistance to Ukraine as a share of GDP, 14 of our European allies are actually giving more.

Lithuania—a small nation by any measure—has sent tens of thousands of rifles, handguns, and grenade launchers and millions of rounds of ammunition. Denmark and Estonia have sent their entire inventory of certain critical artillery. Larger allies, like the United Kingdom and France, are making remarkable contributions themselves, including longer range systems than the United States has provided. Even Germany, despite slow and sometimes agonizing decision making, has provided historic support to Ukraine and is the continent's largest provider of security assistance to Ukraine. Europe has more than doubled American economic and humanitarian assistance, not to

mention the massive cost of hosting millions of Ukrainian refugees.

But, like America, our allies are not in the business of philanthropy. As far away as Tokyo and Seoul, leaders are making a sober calculation about their interests. Our friends are making historic new investments in growing their arsenals and modernizing their militaries.

More than half of our NATO allies are now on track to hit the alliance's 2 percent spending target by the end of next year. Sweden, not yet a full-fledged NATO member, is increasing its defense spending next year by nearly 30 percent to invest in modern capabilities and meet its 2 percent of the GDP target. Lithuania, which spent less than 1 percent of its GDP on defense back in 2014, is set to spend over 2.5 percent next year.

To bolster their security, many of our allies are buying American. Since Russia's escalation began last February, our allies and partners across the globe have purchased over \$120 billion in advanced, American-made weapons systems.

Germany, Switzerland, Finland, and the Czech Republic have all moved quickly to sign contracts to purchase F-35s. Indonesia has signed up for nearly \$14 billion in F-15 fighter aircraft made in St. Louis, MO. Bulgaria—an economy roughly the size of the State of Maine—has spent \$1.5 billion on Stryker combat vehicles that are produced in Lima, OH, and Anniston, AL. Poland has ordered \$12 billion worth of Apache helicopters produced in Mesa, AZ, and is planning to buy 486 HIMARS launchers. They will have the biggest HIMARS inventory in the world.

Here is the most important part: When our friends and allies "Buy American," they are buying into a closer security relationship with the United States. They are building more interoperable militaries to strengthen deterrence. They are also lowering costs for the American taxpayer as we rebuild our own capabilities. They are sharing the burden of collective defense.

These investments are not a coincidence; they are a demonstration of the confidence our allies have in American leadership. But make no mistake, that confidence is perishable. As we saw with the disastrous retreat from Afghanistan, America can lose trust far more quickly than we can earn it.

If we pull the plug on our commitment to stand with Europe, our largest trading partner, I can guarantee it will shred our credibility as a security partner worldwide. It will make it harder to convince our allies to stand together against Chinese aggression—the single biggest threat to our own security and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE DUNCAN

Mr. President, today, I join folks in my home State in thanking Mike Duncan for his decades-long service to the Kentucky Republican Party as he steps down as our national committeeman.

In Washington, it is rare to find an individual equally skilled at navigating the worlds of business and politics, but my good friend Mike is just that rare hybrid. Despite his success in standing up a chain of community banks, Mike chose to commit his considerable talents to public service. He would serve terms as Governor of the U.S. Postal Service, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, on top of a number of impressive positions under five Republican Presidents. In my home State, Mike has served as a national committeeman for the Kentucky GOP since 1992, advising the Republican leaders at the local, State, and national levels his entire career.

Early on, Mike had a gift for giving that he shared generously with the people of my home State. When Mike and his wife Joanne first moved to East Kentucky, they committed to spending at least 1 day a week doing something to benefit their community.

Since then, Mike has devoted decades to student mentorship, training young people in Appalachia, and sponsoring their continued education. His lifetime of civic service has been recognized by a number of prestigious organizations.

Somehow, between raising a family and serving his country, Mike found time to develop a close circle of friends, which I am grateful to be a part of. Mike has been a trusted source of counsel, and I am thankful to always have him in my corner.

So as Mike steps away from his national role, I am grateful he will continue to be a leader in our State party and in his own community.

Thank you, Mike. Thank you for your decades of friendship and your service to our country. Elaine and I wish you and Joanne all the best.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I urge all of our colleagues who have come to me and to the Senator from Maine to talk about the need for regular order to vote yes now on this motion to proceed. I will have more to say about what we all need to do to keep this process moving, but this vote is important if we want to make sure that Senators will have the opportunity to speak out for their values and their constituents.

So I urge a yes vote on the motion to proceed, and let's get going on an agreement, as soon as possible, so Sen-

ators can vote and debate and act on amendments. That is what regular order is, and that is what everyone has told me is exactly what they want and what I have been hearing all year from Senators on both sides of the aisle.

Let's keep up the bipartisanship. Let's get to work.

VOTE ON MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 228 Leg.]

YEAS—91

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Grassley | Reed |
| Barrasso | Hagerty | Risch |
| Bennet | Hassan | Romney |
| Blackburn | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Booker | Hirono | Rubio |
| Boozman | Hoeben | Sanders |
| Britt | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Brown | Johnson | Schumer |
| Budd | Kaine | Scott (SC) |
| Cantwell | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Capito | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Cardin | King | Smith |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Casey | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cassidy | Lee | Tester |
| Collins | Manchin | Thune |
| Coons | Markey | Tillis |
| Cornyn | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Cortez Masto | McConnell | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | Menendez | Vance |
| Cramer | Merkley | Warner |
| Crapo | Moran | Warnock |
| Daines | Mullin | Warren |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Welch |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Murray | Wicker |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Fischer | Padilla | Young |
| Gillibrand | Paul | |
| Graham | Peters | |

NAYS—7

| | | |
|--------|----------|------------|
| Braun | Lummis | Scott (FL) |
| Cruz | Ricketts | |
| Hawley | Schmitt | |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Duckworth | Luján |
|-----------|-------|

The motion was agreed to.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1092

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I call up substitute amendment, No. 1092, and ask that it be reported by number. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for Mrs. MURRAY and Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 1092.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 7, 2023, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 1205 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I call up my amendment, No. 1205, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] proposes an amendment numbered 1205 to amendment No. 1092.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:
SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1207

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to commit H.R. 4366 to the Appropriations Committee, with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to commit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered No. 1207.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To change the effective date)

At the end of division C, add the following:

SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 8 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4366

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment No. 1092 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 4366, H.R. 4368, as reported in the House of Representatives on June 27, 2023, and H.R. 4820, as reported in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2023, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; further, that it be in order for the following amendments to be made pending and that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the following amendments to the Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption and with no further amendments or motions in order to the amendments: Paul No. 1157, Vance No. 1125, Ernst No. 1123, Blackburn No. 1155, Lee No. 1121, Stabenow No. 1115, Peters-Cornyn No. 1122, Rosen No. 1117, Padilla No. 1139, and Schatz No. 1120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am both surprised and disappointed that the Senator from Wisconsin is objecting to this unanimous consent agreement. The Senator from Wisconsin has repeatedly said—and I agree with him—that we should not end up with an omnibus bill—a 4,000-page bill—at the end of the year, with little consideration and having been largely drafted by a small group of people.

So why is the Senator from Wisconsin objecting to proceeding to three appropriations bills that were reported unanimously—unanimously, each one of them—by the Senate Appropriations Committee after a great deal of work? Furthermore, the Senator is objecting to Republican amendments being offered to this package—amendments by Senator PAUL, Senator VANCE, Senator ERNST, Senator BLACKBURN, Senator LEE—and that is just the first tranche of amendments.

Negotiations are ongoing, and there will be additional amendments; but if we cannot proceed to consider this bill and the other two appropriations bills unanimously reported by the Senate committee, then those amendments offered by some of our Members cannot be considered.

Is the Senator from Wisconsin opposed to the amendments that are offered by Senators PAUL, VANCE, ERNST, BLACKBURN, and LEE? Because, by objecting, he is preventing them from being considered by the full Senate.

We have worked very hard to clear amendments for consideration by this body, but if we can't even get passed the procedural amendments that allow us to bring the Transportation and Housing appropriations bill and the Agriculture appropriations bill to add to the MILCON-VA bill, then the Senate is broken once again.

Senator MURRAY and I, along with all the members of the Appropriations Committee, have worked so hard to achieve bipartisan consensus. We held nearly 50 hearings and briefings, asking tough questions, reviewing the President's budget request, evaluating the numbers in the budget. And we worked hard to develop, draft, and approve all 12 of the appropriations bills for the first time in 5 years.

How can a Member stand up and object and, at the same time, say: Oh, I don't want an omnibus bill. Well, that is what we are heading for.

We lost last week. I wish that the Democratic leader had brought this to the floor last week. We are now losing this week, and needlessly so.

There has been a great openness by my Democratic colleagues to consider Republican amendments. We just asked unanimous consent for the first five to be considered. Yet that is objected to.

Members cannot have it both ways. They cannot block floor consideration of appropriations bills that were unanimously reported by the committee and yet maintain that they don't want an omnibus bill. It is one or the other, or a government shutdown—even worse.

So I would ask my colleague from Wisconsin to think through this and think about the fact that he is blocking Republican amendments from getting a vote on the Senate floor. He is setting us up for either an omnibus bill or a government shutdown, and none of those outcomes serve the American people well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let's be clear. To all of my colleagues who told me and Senator COLLINS and the American people that we have to get back to regular order, that is exactly what we are working to do here. We have been working in good faith to set up amendment votes and to get the ball rolling on this bill. Now there are a few colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are dismissing all of this out of hand, any kind of reasonable agreement to move this process forward, and blocking all of the agreements we put together to move forward.

Listen to this. If we all want regular order, a key part of this is allowing Senators to come down, have amendments voted on, and moving forward

with an amendment process so Senators can make their voices heard on our funding bills. So we can't move at a glacial pace, and we can't have Senators obstructing this process needlessly.

I do hope they reconsider and work with us on a timely, serious process so all Senators, especially those who do not serve on the Appropriations Committee, can come here and speak up for their values and their constituents.

I know colleagues are ready to bring forward amendments, some of which I don't agree with and will likely vote against, all of which I am prepared, with my colleague from Maine, to discuss and debate. But the Senate should be allowed to work its will and to debate these issues here on the floor, and the American public should be able to see for themselves where their elected leaders stand on those issues as we consider the legislation that will fund the U.S. Government.

That is regular order, but that cannot happen until everybody in this body gets serious about coming to this agreement about how we move this process forward, period.

Now, I want to be clear. While there are a few Senators who are determined now to derail this process—this bipartisan process—the vast majority of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have put forward serious efforts into crafting these genuine bipartisan bills. I know that because the Senator from Maine and I took great pains to make sure everyone could weigh in here. We made extraordinary progress in the Senate Appropriations Committee. I have heard about it from so many of you, on both sides of the aisle, all week.

How did we do it? We agreed early on to have an open, bipartisan process for our funding bills—exactly what many Senators have been calling for. We said: Let's stick to the bipartisan debt limit deal, which we all passed in July, and let's keep out partisan poison pills, and let's give Members a chance to weigh in and make their constituents' voices heard. In other words, let's show the American people Congress can actually work.

Let's be clear. The bills we are considering aren't Democratic or Republican spending bills. They are bills both sides—Democrats and Republicans—wrote after a lot of negotiation and compromise. Together, this package that we have reflects input from Senators from across the country and across the political spectrum, working on behalf of the people who sent them here. That is exactly why all of these bills in this package passed our committee unanimously.

The American people are watching. They are wondering can Congress still work, if we can actually come together and reach common ground, even on something as fundamental as funding our government. They do not want to see grandstanding or chaos. They want to see results. The vast majority of

this body wants to show them that we take this job seriously, that we take their problems seriously, which the Senator from Maine and I greatly appreciate.

I hope that the few holdouts who are now keeping us from moving forward and reaching an agreement so we can line up amendments and votes will see reason. Let us show the American people that Congress is still capable of working in good faith to help people and solve problems, just like they sent us here to do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

H.R. 4366

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I am very happy to join Senator MURRAY today in presenting the fiscal year 2024 and 2025 appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs and for the Department of Defense military construction.

I am proud to be a part of this first minibus as we continue the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process and the return to regular order. As in years past, this subcommittee crafted the bill in an open and bipartisan way, and I expect to continue that today as we consider this bill on the floor.

This bill takes into consideration the needs of our veterans, their families, and our servicemembers, and, within that framework, we have created a thoughtful and responsible path for both Departments and our related Agencies.

This bill provides \$154.352 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$184 million over last year's level. Within that, the Department of Veterans Affairs is provided \$134.8 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$85 million over last year's level. Included in that level is \$121 billion for veterans' medical care, a \$2.3 billion increase over last year.

This bill funds priority accounts to prevent veteran suicide, increase rural access to healthcare, and support critical mental health programs. It helps to prevent veterans' homelessness and provides funding for innovative medical research.

The bill provides \$19.07 billion to support military construction and family housing needs and funds a total of 163 major military construction projects, which we desperately need.

This bill will give the Department of Defense the resources it needs to project power globally, enhance our warfighting capabilities, and train the forces. This bill also provides \$1.9 billion to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

I also want to note that the bill includes \$471.3 million for our related

Agencies, which include the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

I want to thank Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS for their leadership with the total committee, and also I want to specifically thank Chair MURRAY and her staff and my staff for the hard work they have done in crafting this bill to get us to where we are at today. So we appreciate them.

Also, we will be encouraging votes so that we can actually get these bills across the finish line.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator BOOZMAN for being such a great partner and for his work on this bill and all the appropriations bills. I look forward to working with him as we continue to try to bring this up and get it rolling and moving on the floor. So I thank him very much.

Mr. President, as I said, we are working in good faith to set up amendment votes and get this ball rolling on the bipartisan appropriations package that the senior Senator from Maine and I assembled, along with all of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, so we can return the Senate to regular order for the first time in a long time, which many of our colleagues have called for.

In the meantime, today, I want to talk about the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill that is included in this funding package and why the investments in this bill are so important for our military readiness, for our military families, and especially for veterans across our Nation who have sacrificed so much for us.

As chair of the MILCON-VA Subcommittee, I worked closely with the senior Senator from Arkansas, who just spoke, to get input from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and draft the strongest possible bill, even under tough top lines from the debt limit deal. I am very pleased that the bill we put together, which did pass our committee unanimously, makes crucial investments and gets our military and our veterans the support they need.

This bill provides \$19.1 billion for military construction—that is an increase over the fiscal year 2023 level—and supports hundreds of construction projects at base installations so we can improve the quality of life for our servicemembers and families, modernize maintenance and training facilities, and make military installations more resilient against growing threats like climate disasters.

The \$2.4 billion for quality-of-life improvements in this bill will support projects like building new barracks and housing and, just as critically, maintaining existing housing so that the

homes military families are living in right now do not fall into disrepair. I am proud that our bill provides funding for eight new child development centers so we can expand childcare access for our military families. These types of quality-of-life investments are essential to our recruiting and retention and overall readiness. More importantly, they are what our troops deserve and what we owe them for the sacrifices they make.

This bill also funds other essential military construction projects like training and vehicle maintenance, improving energy resilience on bases, and making sure that our installations are better prepared to face severe weather events because, as our generals and admirals have made crystal clear, climate change is a national security threat, and we absolutely cannot afford to let it undermine our troops and our military readiness.

The bill we are considering also includes investments to strengthen our alliances and partnerships around the world, including by supporting NATO infrastructure projects and providing funding to strengthen our global presence, including over half a billion for this work in the Indo-Pacific.

I am also glad we were able to include funding to address PFAS and other toxins—forever chemicals—at former installations that could put our communities and military families especially in harm's way. PFAS are a serious health hazard, and they have been found in the water supply at hundreds of military bases across our country, including in my home State.

Then, of course, there is the VA funding in this bill, which is just as essential. I am someone who previously chaired the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I specifically asked to be assigned to that committee as soon as I came to Congress, and I am really honored to have been the first woman ever to serve on that committee because, as the daughter of a World War II veteran, I take our Nation's commitment to care for our veterans personally.

When my father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which eventually forced him to stop working, his VA benefits were crucial to making sure he could get the care he needed. So I know firsthand how essential VA care is for veterans and their families, and I am constantly meeting with veterans in my State about their experiences too.

Living up to our obligation to those who served our country is simply non-negotiable for me. I know many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle feel the exact same way, and that is especially true for my partner across the dais on our subcommittee, the senior Senator from Arkansas. We have worked closely together for many years on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, so I knew when we started on this bill that he was someone who cares deeply about our men and women in the military and takes our obliga-

tions to our veterans seriously. In other words, he is exactly the kind of partner you want across the table to negotiate a bill like this with.

I am pleased to say we were able, together, to draft a bill that ensures that we keep our promises to servicemembers and veterans by fully funding the VA's budget request.

That means increasing funding for mental health and suicide prevention programs since we know, tragically, that suicide is the leading cause of death for veterans, especially our younger veterans.

It means increased funding for rural healthcare so veterans in every corner of the country can get the care they need, homelessness prevention programs that help with the challenges of returning to civilian life, and for the caregivers program, which I fought to expand along with so many of my colleagues last year.

Of course, it means increased funding for women veterans' care. Women are the fastest growing demographic of our veterans.

I am also especially pleased to say this bill includes funding to expand the childcare pilot program that I helped establish because, as I always remind my colleagues, we have a childcare crisis in this country, which is why I worked to include funding to expand childcare sites at our VA facilities so lack of childcare doesn't keep our veterans from getting the care they need.

In addition to the VA funding in here, let's not forget that last year we actually passed the largest expansion of VA care in decades by passing the bipartisan PACT Act, and earlier this year, Congress worked to live up to that expansion by passing more than \$20 billion in funding for the Toxic Exposures Fund, as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. This is already making a difference for veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other toxins.

Another crucial investment in this bill is the funding increase for VA infrastructure because we cannot let veterans' healthcare be undermined by the challenges related to VA's aging medical facilities or, for that matter, jeopardized by botched rollouts like we saw with the electronic health record modernization program. I was glad to see that the VA did put a pause on the rollout of the EHR earlier this year—something I had been pushing them to do—and we made sure that pause was reflected in our funding bill because I was raising the alarm from day one about how the botched EHR rollout was hurting Washington State veterans. It is a challenging situation now with EHR. We can't just flip on a switch and fix it, much as I wish we could.

But I am watching closely to make sure we see changes that provide real results for our veterans and our VA providers because, at the end of the day, these investments are not just about programs and contracts; this is about our promise to get our veterans

the benefits they earned and need to stay healthy—prescriptions, mental health care, cancer screenings, and so much more—and to make sure every woman and man who serves our country in uniform gets the support and the training and the equipment they need to be at their best.

Before I wrap up, I also want to say a little bit more about some of the items in this bill I fought hard for that are especially important in my State.

When it comes to military construction, there are several projects that I worked very hard to get funding for, like new barracks and a parachute rigging facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord; bulk storage tanks at the fuel supply in Point Manchester; updated electrical infrastructure at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to help prevent unexpected power outages; and funding to advance other projects across my home State, like equipment, maintenance, and platoon training facilities.

When it comes to support for our veterans and our VA facilities, I pushed to make sure this bill includes funding to help the American Lake VA Medical Center upgrade its facilities and provide quality care and funding for the Tahoma National Cemetery and its work to ensure we honor the veterans we have lost.

It is worth noting that while those are some of the projects I am most excited about in my State, we made sure that all Senators on both sides of the aisle could weigh in on this bill, and I know many other Members worked very hard to support similar projects and get funding that is important to their States.

So I urge my colleagues to come to the floor and talk about some of the projects you have in this bill and why this funding is so important to your families back home. I also invite them to talk to me and the Senator from Maine about amendments and ideas for how we can make these bills better. Our staffs are working around the clock, and so are we.

We do want to set up a managers' package. We do want to set up votes on amendments. We want to get this funding package passed in the Senate and passed into law because—let's be clear—this is a bill that can actually be passed into law, and that is because of all of the hard work and careful consideration and, in many cases, compromise that went into producing this bipartisan bill.

This is a responsible bill that we wrote together, Democrats and Republicans. How? By listening to our communities and listening to each other so we can help people solve problems. That is how this process should work. That is what we were all sent here to do.

So let's work together and show the American people that Congress can do its job, that it can actually give our communities the resources they need in a timely and responsible way and help people and solve problems.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISAN PRIMARY CARE AND HEALTH
WORKFORCE ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking Senator MARSHALL of Kansas for his very hard work on the bill that we have introduced today after being on the floor with me this afternoon to briefly discuss it. And I also want to thank his staff and my staff for putting in an enormous amount of time on this bill over the last several months.

Most Americans understand that our healthcare system is broken. We are spending nearly \$13,000 a year per capita on healthcare. That is an astronomical sum of money, almost twice as much as most other countries. And yet despite all of that spending, some 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. And there are estimates out there, believe it or not, that some 60,000 Americans die each year because they do not receive the healthcare they need when they need it. And our life expectancy as a nation is actually in decline, despite all of that spending.

Frankly, as broken as our general healthcare system is, our primary healthcare system is in even worse shape. As everyone knows, I don't think there is any debate on this, we face a major shortage of doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, and dentists. And those shortages will only grow as a result of the COVID burnout that many providers experience and the aging of our healthcare workforce.

According to the most recent estimates that I have seen, over the next decade, our country faces a shortage of over 120,000 doctors, including a huge number of primary care physicians. The nursing shortage may be worse. Over the next 2 years alone, it is estimated that we will need more than 200,000 nurses. And despite the very serious mental health crisis we face, we are facing a massive shortage of mental health providers—psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, et cetera.

Now, that is not the point that BERNIE SANDERS is making or Senator MARSHALL has made. This is a point of view of virtually every major medical organization in the country.

And on this matter, let me quote from a recent Washington Post op-ed by Elizabeth Rosenthal, a contributing editor at Kaiser Family Foundation Health News. This is what she writes—and I hope our colleagues hear this:

American physicians have been abandoning traditional primary care practice—internal and family medicine—in large numbers.

Those who remain are working fewer hours. And fewer medical students are choosing a field that once attracted some of the best and brightest because of its diagnostic challenges and the emotional gratification of deep relationships with patients. The percentage of US doctors in adult primary care has been declining for years and is now about 25%—a tipping point beyond which many Americans won't be able to find a family doctor at all.

She writes:

Already, more than 100 million Americans don't have usual access to a primary care doctor—a number that has nearly doubled since 2014.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full article.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post]

THE SHRINKING NUMBER OF PRIMARY-CARE
PHYSICIANS IS REACHING A TIPPING POINT

(By Elisabeth Rosenthal)

I've been receiving an escalating stream of panicked emails from people telling me their longtime physician was retiring, was no longer taking their insurance or had gone concierge and would no longer see them unless they ponied up a hefty annual fee. They said they couldn't find another primary-care doctor who could take them on or who offered a new-patient appointment sooner than months away.

Their individual stories reflect a larger reality: American physicians have been abandoning traditional primary-care practice—internal and family medicine—in large numbers. Those who remain are working fewer hours. And fewer medical students are choosing a field that once attracted some of the best and brightest because of its diagnostic challenges and the emotional gratification of deep relationships with patients.

The percentage of U.S. doctors in adult primary care has been declining for years and is now about 25 percent—a tipping point beyond which many Americans won't be able to find a family doctor at all.

Already, more than 100 million Americans don't have usual access to primary care, a number that has nearly doubled since 2014. The fact that so many of us no longer regularly see a familiar doctor we trust is likely one reason our coronavirus vaccination rates were low compared with those in other countries.

Another telling statistic: In 1980, 62 percent of doctor's visits for adults over 65 were for primary care and 38 percent were for specialists, according to Michael L. Barnett, a health systems researcher and primary-care doctor in the Harvard Medical School system. By 2013, that ratio had exactly flipped and has likely "only gotten worse," he said, noting sadly, "We have a specialty-driven system. Primary care is seen as a thankless, undesirable backwater." That's "tragic," in his word—studies show that a strong foundation of primary care yields better health outcomes overall, greater equity in health-care access and lower per capita health costs.

One explanation for the disappearing primary-care doctor is financial. The payment structure in the U.S. health system has long rewarded surgeries and procedures while shortchanging the diagnostic, prescriptive and preventive work that is the province of primary care. Furthermore, the traditionally independent doctors in this field have almost no power to negotiate sustainable payments with the mammoth insurers in the U.S. market.

Faced with this situation, many independent primary-care doctors have sold their practices to health systems or commercial management chains (some private-equity-owned) so that, today, three-quarters of doctors are now employees of those outfits.

One of them was Bob Morrow, who practiced for decades in the Bronx. For a typical visit, he was most recently paid about \$80 if the patient had Medicare, with its fixed-fee schedule. Commercial insurers paid significantly less. He just wasn't making enough to pay the bills, which included salaries of three employees, including a nurse practitioner. "I tried not to pay too much attention to money for four or five years—to keep my eye on my patients and not the bottom line," he said by phone from his former office, as workers carted away old charts for shredding.

He finally gave up and sold his practice last year to a company that took over scheduling, billing and negotiations with insurers. It agreed to pay him a salary and to provide support staff as well as supplies and equipment.

The outcome: Calls to his office were routed to a call center overseas, and patients with questions or complaining of symptoms were often directed to a nearby urgent care center owned by the company—which is typically more expensive than an office visit. His office staff was replaced by a skeleton crew that didn't include a nurse or skilled worker to take blood pressure or handle requests for prescription refills. He was booked with patients every eight to 10 minutes.

He discovered that the company was calling some patients and recommending expensive tests—such as vascular studies or an abdominal ultrasound—that he did not believe they needed.

He retired in January. "I couldn't stand it," he said. "It wasn't how I was taught to practice."

Of course, not every practice sale ends with such unhappy results, and some work out well.

But the dispirited feeling that drives doctors away from primary care has to do with far more than money. It's the lack of respect for non-specialists. It's the rising pressure to see and bill more patients: Employed doctors often coordinate the care of as many as 2,000 people, many of whom have multiple problems.

And it's the lack of assistance. Profitable centers such as orthopedic and gastroenterology clinics usually have a phalanx of support staff. Primary-care clinics run close to the bone.

"You are squeezed from all sides," said Barnett.

Many ventures are rushing in to fill the primary-care gap. There had been hope that nurse practitioners and physician assistants might help fill some holes, but data shows that they, too, increasingly favor specialty practice. Meanwhile, urgent care clinics are popping up like mushrooms. So are primary care chains such as One Medical, now owned by Amazon. (Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder, owns The Post.) Dollar General, Walmart, Target, CVS and Walgreens have opened "retail clinics" in their stores.

Rapid-fire visits with a rotating cast of doctors, nurses or physician assistants might be fine for a sprained ankle or strep throat. But they will not replace a physician who tells you to get preventive tests and keeps tabs on your blood pressure and cholesterol. The doctor who knows your health history—and has the time to figure out whether the pain in your shoulder is from your basketball game, an aneurysm or a clogged artery in your heart.

Some relatively simple solutions are available, if we care enough about supporting this

foundational part of a good medical system. Hospitals and commercial groups could invest some of the money they earn by replacing hips and knees to support primary-care staffing; giving these doctors and patients more face time with each other will be good for their customers' health and loyalty if not (always) the bottom line.

Reimbursement for primary-care visits could be increased to reflect their value—perhaps by enacting a national primary-care fee schedule, so these doctors won't have to butt heads with insurers. And policymakers could consider forgiving the medical school debt of doctors who chose primary care as a profession.

They deserve support that allows them to do what they were trained to do: diagnosing, treating and getting to know their patients.

The United States already ranks last among wealthy countries in health outcomes. The average life span in America is decreasing, even as it increases in many other countries. If we fail to address the primary-care shortage, our country's health will be even worse for it.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, now, what this article points out is certainly not news to the people in America. In Vermont and all over this country, our people often have to wait months in order to get an appointment with a doctor; and in some cases, they have to travel very long distances to get the healthcare they need.

And let us be clear: There is no debate upon this. Some people think we don't have to act on it now; let's do it next year, next year, following year. Wrong. The crisis is only going to get worse, and every day we delay it, it becomes even worse.

Now, why is this happening? Well, there are a lot of reasons why. One of the reasons is that it turns out that the United States—despite all of our spending on healthcare—spends about half of what other nations do on primary healthcare. We spend approximately 7 percent; most of the country spends at least twice as much.

And the absurdity of that situation is that everybody knows that "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure." And if there is anything that Senator MARSHALL and I are talking about, that is exactly what we are talking about. You spend money—we are spending money to save money. Keeping people healthy saves money. In other words, common sense tells us that if we can prevent disease, do a better job keeping our young people healthy, if people can access the medical care when they need it not when they are just very, very sick—if we can do those things, we can keep them out of the hospital. And hospital costs are just extremely, extremely high.

Common sense also tells us that it is literally insane that millions of Americans with nonemergency healthcare needs get their primary care in a hospital emergency room, which, in some cases, is 10 times more than the care provided them in a community health center.

Let me just give one other example of the irrationalities of our current system. In my own small State of Vermont, last year, our major hos-

pitals spent \$125 million in 1 year on traveling nurses because we don't have enough local nurses to support the needs of the hospital and many other facilities in Vermont. Meanwhile, young people want to become nurses. They are applying to nursing school, but the nursing schools don't have the faculty to educate them.

I recently talked to a Senator who told me that, in her State, some 1,100 young people were applying for a space in nursing school; the school could only provide 80 openings.

So we have a nursing crisis. We are not addressing it. Hospitals are spending three, four times as much money on traveling nurses as they are on homegrown nurses because we are not educating our young people at nursing school. This may make sense to somebody; it does not make great sense to me.

The legislation that Senator MARSHALL and I have introduced today does not solve, by any means, all of the healthcare crises we face. But if this legislation is passed, it will not only save us substantial sums of money, not only provide a medical home for millions more Americans, not only significantly increase the number of doctors and nurses that we desperately need, but it will go a long way toward transforming primary healthcare in America—something that is so long overdue.

With that, I want to turn the floor over to Senator MARSHALL.

And I would say this, that Senator MARSHALL has a unique perspective on this. Not only is he a Senator from a rural State, he is also a practicing physician and has interesting insight into the crises in healthcare that many of us don't.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Thank you so much for sharing this moment with us. You know, one of my mentors here on the Hill has a saying that some Senators come here to make a point and others come to make a difference. The first time Senator SANDERS and I sat down together, he said: ROGER, do you want to make a difference?

We have worked so hard on this issue together, developing rapport, confidence in each other, in our staff—they have all done an incredible job—as we try to get through this riddle from healthcare challenges throughout this great Nation.

I think as both of us travel back to our home States of Vermont and Kansas, what we found is that not everybody has meaningful, affordable access to primary care. So we went out and tried to find the best actors, what is the best outcome, who is making a dent? And I think we both discovered that our community health centers were doing a great job. They had taken many pilot programs, and they were improving them.

I am not sure what Senator SANDERS would talk about some of his, but what I saw was this meeting patients where

they are a concept, integrating all the different elements of primary care—not just your blood pressure, not just your Accu-Chek, but also your mental health. Dental needs, as well, are just a few more things we are seeing being integrated into the community health centers—nutrition coaching, something that has seldom been done in clinics before. So I think we saw these community health centers as doing a great job. And we asked each other: How can we improve upon that?

And Senator SANDERS and I agreed on this lofty goal that we could get more Americans into these clinics, and that was a great solution for primary care. So for the past 3 months, we have had a very thoughtful approach to this problem. And even before then, our committees had multiple hearings with different folks as they tried to address the problem as well. And then we had multiple Zooms and meetings with folks back home: How do we solve this primary care problem and, again, this mental health epidemic slapping us in the face every time we go back?

And, certainly, I think most of our committee would agree that the community health centers are a great solution, but they need to be bolstered and need to continue that mission across this great Nation.

So I am proud of the work that we have done on the community health centers in this legislation—again, thoughtful legislation. And our goal is to make sure it doesn't cost American taxpayers any more.

Again, Senator SANDERS and I both said many times this country is spending plenty of money on healthcare, but maybe we need to refocus a little bit more of it to primary care. That is what we have done with this legislation, again, with a thoughtful approach. And our goal, again, is to make sure it is all paid for and it doesn't cost the American taxpayer any more.

I think the other big issue that we found in common with folks back home is a nursing shortage and a primary care doctor shortage. If there is one thing that this bill would do, it would turn around the nursing crisis in a matter of just 3 years.

My own wife is a community college graduate nurse. Ninety percent of the nurses in our hospitals in Kansas, especially the rural hospitals, are 2-year community college graduates. So what we have done with this legislation is bolster more money for nursing programs. And the other program, like Senator SANDERS said, the other challenge, is colleges cannot afford the faculty, the nursing faculty. So we have some money to help bolster that program up as well.

We have young men and women standing in line for incredible jobs in healthcare, but we don't have the faculty to bring them in. So we help with scholarships. We help with the faculty. That alone will change the dynamics across America if we have more nurses who are just the glue to this healthcare

system. And then the next challenge of the attack here is just a shortage of primary care doctors in so many ways as well.

So the legislation addresses that. It is great steps forward. I have been very proud, again, to work with Senator SANDERS and his team, finding common ground. And I think we made incredible strides.

Senator SANDERS and I have talked many times about our community health centers. I might just ask him about the successes that you are seeing in your community health centers and what your vision going forward looks like.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this is an issue I have worked on since I have been in Congress. And one of the results of that—working with others—is that, in my State of Vermont, I think—I think—we are leading the Nation in terms of the number of people per capita who participate in the community health center program.

Senator MARSHALL, my understanding is that in Vermont, one out of three Vermonters get their primary healthcare or dental care at a community health center. And one of the things that I love about community health centers is that they really are community health centers. In Vermont, they are not just for low-income people, as important as that is. They are for everybody in the community. We used to have a Supreme Court Justice of the United States of America who vacationed in Vermont. Guess where he went? To a community health center.

My understanding is, the Governor of the State of Vermont gets his primary healthcare at a community health center, and that is what I love about them.

And as you well know and as you mentioned, what they do is not only provide primary healthcare, many of them provide dental care, which is a huge issue. Many of them provide mental health counseling, which, as you indicated, we have a major crisis in. And they also provide lower cost prescription drugs.

What they say is that, regardless of your income, if you have Medicare, come on in; if you have Medicaid, come on in; if you have private insurance, fine; if you have no health insurance, we will work on a sliding scale.

By expanding these community health centers all over America, we are going to provide millions of people the opportunity to get the healthcare they need. That is what exists in Vermont right now, and we want to see that expanded all over the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Senator SANDERS and I discussed this vision of what primary care looks like in the future, making sure we are meeting patients where they are.

Some of our community health centers back home are bringing in the food

bank; they are bringing in the WIC Programs, social services, basic mammography. We lose track of the patients when we have to say: Come back in a month for your mammogram. Instead, it is a great thing to say: Let's get it done today.

One of the biggest underserved areas of medicine is dental. I know that one of Senator SANDERS' visions, specifically, in this legislation is to address the dental crisis. As an obstetrician myself, the only known cause of preterm labor is poor dental health, caries, cavities, whatever you want to call it. There are lots of links to having cavities and poor gum health to having heart attacks as well. It is a way underrecognized challenge for primary care.

I can't tell you how many times I have been called at 10 at night or 2 in the morning on a Saturday with one of my OB patients who is obviously very pregnant, but she has a cavity, and now, it turned into an abscess. I can't get her into a dentist. I call all my buddies. It is Saturday, 10 p.m., and all my buddies, the dentists, are gone.

Share your vision on dental and how this bill impacts that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Thank you very much for raising the issue of dental crisis in America. I can tell you that in Vermont, we have a crisis. We made progress, but we have a serious problem. The cost of dental care is very, very high. In the southern part of my State, Bennington County, if you are a poor child, you are probably on Medicaid. You probably can't find a dentist.

What we have done in this bill is put \$3 billion one time—just one time—into capital improvements for community health centers. That is long overdue because if you want to expand community health centers, they need money for their own expansion and infrastructure.

Building a dental operatory—and that is the dental chairs and the good equipment that dentists need—is a very expensive proposition. So by putting \$3 billion into capital improvements, much of which I suspect will be going to those dental operatories, we are going to be able to provide communities all over this country with the ability to access dental care in a way they are not doing it today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. I want to turn this discussion to what our vision is for these primary care community health centers.

I think we all realize we have an obesity epidemic in this country, too, and a type 2 diabetic epidemic in this country that we need to address on the front end.

I am so happy to see some of my community health centers coming in and doing nutrition classes. They are doing cooking classes. I think so many

folks of our current generation maybe learned how to do some cooking, but fast foods were a little bit too easy. It is that out-of-the-box thinking you get with different programs. I call it coaching. We need to be coaching folks up and teaching them but also give them the opportunities. So whether we are on the Ag Committee and working on food programs, we try to bring all these pieces together in the program as well.

I know Senator SANDERS is also certainly committed to helping us address this. He has been a leader on this issue, trying to take care of folks with diabetes as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator MARSHALL raised this issue from almost the first time we sat down and seriously discussed it. If we are going to talk about prevention, we have to talk about obesity, among other things, because we are looking at a major—you tell me if I am wrong, Doctor—we are looking at a major diabetic epidemic in this country that will not only cost massive amounts of suffering, but it is also going to be a very expensive healthcare bill. Certainly, one of many of the contributing factors is obesity. What Senator MARSHALL has talked about from the very beginning is we have to do a better job in nutrition education. Community health centers are very well-situated to be able to do that.

At Senator MARSHALL's insistence—and I was delighted to work with him—we have language in here that will make it easier for community health centers to work on nutrition programs in a variety of ways with their clients.

Mr. MARSHALL. I might close with a couple of thoughts. Again, we came in with the lofty expectations that we could make a difference in primary care for people across the Nation. I think our bill accomplishes just that.

Again, I can't thank the staff enough for their support through this. Senator SANDERS and I spent most of the August recess—and our staff spent every moment of every hour of every day on this August recess—working on this legislation. I think it is a good product. I think there is always opportunity for improvement. We are welcome to those ideas.

I appreciate the Senator using traditional Hyde protections at the appropriate places, so we maintained that, which is important to many folks, including to myself. I think we addressed primary care issues. I think we have a plan to increase the nursing workforce. Again, in 3 years' time, we can turn that problem around and long-term address some of the primary care issues. Addressing dental, as well, I think will be a huge improvement.

At the end of the day, you cannot overestimate how much money this will save in programs like Medicare and Medicaid and the health insurance back home and help drive the cost of healthcare down for people. I am glad

to see us try to emphasize maybe some better ways to spend the American taxpayer moneys.

But most importantly to me, the physician, is just this is the right thing to do. This is absolutely the right thing to do. It is a chance to improve the health of Americans. I am just proud to stand here beside Senator SANDERS and introduce this legislation. Thank you.

Mr. SANDERS. Let me thank Senator MARSHALL and his staff so much for their hard work and say, as he just said, we think there are other ideas that can improve it. We are open to new ideas. We hope to be marking up and intend to be marking up this bill next Thursday. We look forward to talking to all of the members on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee for doing what is really important.

Senator MARSHALL started his remarks off by saying, I think, exactly the right thing. We can come here and all give great speeches. We can all talk about how next year, we are going to get to something or, 5 years from now, we will get to something.

Everybody in America—in Vermont, Kansas, and all over this country—understands we have a primary healthcare crisis. This is the greatest country on Earth. We spend more money on healthcare than any other country. It is not asking too much that when you get sick, you are able to find a doctor, that you are able to find a dentist. It is not asking too much that when you are in a hospital, there are enough nurses there, that our young people who want to become nurses are able to get that education so they go out and get really good jobs. That is not too much. That is all we are doing in this legislation. We are looking at the real world as it exists.

Senator MARSHALL is a physician and understands that world quite well. We are looking at that world saying: You know what, let's not wait 5 years from now. We have a crisis today. Let's deal with it. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me, as I know the Senator from Michigan, the Presiding Officer, does, in standing in solidarity with thousands of UAW workers in Ohio and Michigan and around the country who demand that automakers—a simple demand really—respect the work they do to make these companies successful. There is still time, the rest of the day and, really, beyond this, for the Big Three to avert

a strike, which we know is always a last resort for workers.

My wife is the daughter of a utility worker in Ashtabula, in the far northeast corner of the State. She, first of all, credits her dad's union card with saving her life. She was 16 years old and had an asthma attack, I believe at school, and was picked up in an ambulance and taken to the Cleveland Clinic and spent more than a week there—something she could not afford without her dad's union card and her dad's healthcare benefits from the utility workers union and from that company.

She also said that, twice during her growing up, the union struck because their backs were against the wall; they thought they had no choice. She acknowledges that the workers never really recover the lost wages from a strike.

These UAW members in Michigan and Ohio, in Toledo, in Cincinnati, in Dayton, and all over our State and in other States, they want to be on the job. They don't want to strike. They don't want to be on the picket line. But when companies refuse to recognize the work they do, workers are backed into a corner.

It is why union cards matter. A union card means workers can stand together for fair pay and benefits, for better working conditions, for safer workplaces, for control over their schedules, for a voice in their company, and a voice in their community—because, to be clear, autoworkers surely are the engines behind these companies' success. GM, Ford, and Stellantis—people around the country know Stellantis as the old Chrysler—the Big Three wouldn't be making a dime, of course, in profits without the workers who actually make their cars and trucks.

Remember, autoworkers—this is the most important thing. Autoworkers stood up and made sacrifices a decade ago, especially at GM and Chrysler—Stellantis—because those companies were in trouble. And taxpayers stood up, and government stood, finally, on the side of those companies, and the workers made sacrifices to help the American auto industry when times were tough.

Who remembers the depths of the recession? UAW workers stood behind the Big Three when a whole lot of politicians in this town wanted to abandon these companies. Now that times are good, all that workers are asking for is their fair share.

Let's be clear, times now are very, very good for these companies and very, very, very good for these CEOs. We know auto executives—I don't know how many. But I know auto executives in all three companies—many, many of them—make more than a million dollars a year. Some of them make tens of millions of dollars a year.

Together GM, Ford, and Stellantis brought in \$21 billion—that is with a "b," a thousand million—\$21 billion in profits the first half of the year alone.

Think about that. These companies were struggling a decade ago. They

were in real trouble. They were losing money. They were in trouble during the recession. Workers gave them major kinds of givebacks, gave them major kinds of concessions. They took less money for themselves and set up a three-tiered rate structure that hurt workers, but they had to do it to save these companies. They agreed to do that.

But, now, times are really, really good for these companies. Again, GM, Ford, and Stellantis together brought in \$21 billion of profits just in the first half of 2023, but they don't want to share those profits with these workers.

And who makes these profits possible? Again, the history: These companies were in trouble. The government helped them. Workers gave up a lot. Workers sacrificed. Workers gave back money they shouldn't have had to give back because they wanted to save the companies. Now, the companies are doing well. Now, the executives are doing very, very well with \$21 billion in profits, and the company is not willing to appreciably share in those profits.

The CEO of GM makes 362 times what its median worker makes. With Ford, it is only a modest 281 times that. Think of that. The GM CEO—a company that, when struggling, was saved because of worker concessions—is making 362 times what the median—not the lowest paid worker but the median—worker of that company makes. So, frankly, I hesitate to call names, and I am really not. I don't want to hear whining from companies that they can't afford to pay workers what they are worth. And that goes for all workers, all autoworkers making all kinds of vehicles—cars and trucks and SUVs.

I know what the future is. I know these companies. These companies plan to be overwhelmingly making batteries, making electric vehicles. That is their decision, to be sure. But I don't want those—because some politicians whine about, "Well, we don't want electric vehicles"—these are the companies' decisions, the companies' plans, the companies' futures. But I don't want those jobs—those politicians that whine, if they get their way, they are going to see these electric vehicles made in Japan and China and Taiwan and overseas.

We went through that already. We know what my hometown of Mansfield, OH, looked like. I know what Dayton, OH, looked like. I know what Hamtramck and cities in the Presiding Officer's State looked like. I know what happens to those counties, those workers. And do you know what? I know what happens to those cities, those communities.

I grew up in Mansfield, OH, a town of 50,000. I went to Johnny Applesseed Junior High School. That was really its name—Johnny Applesseed Pioneers. And I went to school with sons and daughters of autoworkers at GM, rubberworkers at Mansfield Tire, electrical IUE members at Westinghouse—there were several thousand at one

point—machinists at Tappan Stove, and the sons of daughters of pipefitters and plumbers and electricians and bricklayers, millwrights, insulators, and laborers and—I am forgetting others—and operating engineers.

And do you know what? Within 10 or 20 years, most of those jobs were gone. They were gone because companies, always looking for lower wages, wanted to go to non-union States.

First, they went to Alabama. That wasn't good enough. So then they jammed, and I mean "jammed"—sorry to say it this way—by buying off a whole lot of politicians—they jammed these trade agreements, like NAFTA, through the Congress, and then it got worse.

It wasn't just the companies going to Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Then they weren't greedy enough; they wanted even cheaper labor. Then they went to China and Mexico. That means that in my community of 50,000, where I grew up, you just don't see the prosperity there that you did when I went to school with those kids.

So, as I said, we have heard a lot of politicians blaming electrical vehicles for the dispute, as if, somehow, corporations wanting to squeeze their workers was a new development.

I will make it clear. I don't care what kind of car Americans drive. My wife and I drove Chevy Cruzes for a while, and they were made in Lordstown, OH, by GM, about an hour and a half from our home. Now, we each drive a Jeep Cherokee, made about 2 hours from our home, in the other direction, in Toledo. So people can drive what they are going to drive. I always hope, and I know the Presiding Officer thinks the same way, that people buy union-made cars made in the United States. But I see what happens when both parties—both parties—frankly, unfortunately, it wasn't a partisan thing. My party was almost as guilty as Republicans on this—the push for NAFTA—which sent thousands of jobs overseas.

We fought them. When politicians said, "Let these companies die; they are not worth saving; foreign automakers can do this better," we fought them every step of the way.

Now, today, for anyone who doubts that autoworkers in Ohio are the future of this industry, for anyone who wants to give up on these plants or force workers to settle for less, we will fight the way I fought NAFTA my first year in Congress, the way I fought permanent normal trade relations, the giveaway to the Chinese—not Chinese workers, but giveaway to Chinese Communist Party officials and corrupt leaders—a different kind of corruption from American leaders who sold them short, but nonetheless.

We know this industry is changing. Forty years ago, when Jeep rolled out the Jeep Cherokee—Chrysler now—most people had never heard of an SUV. Now they dominate the market. Twenty-three years ago, hybrids came

along. Whatever the auto industry looks like in 20 years, in 50 years, in 100 years—I am not an auto expert. I don't know what they are going to look like 20 or 50 or 100 years from now, but I do know this: Ohio autoworkers, American innovation will be leading it, if we let them, if we reward these workers and don't let companies searching for cheap labor and going to anti-union States, moving overseas—as long as we don't let them run the show.

I was in Lordstown a couple of weeks ago. That is where the Chevy Cruze plant was, near Youngstown. I was at UAW Local 1112. I have been to that union, I don't know, 50 times in my life, with my friend Dave Green, a UAW superstar who came up through that plant. There were two locals at that plant. I don't remember if he came from 1112 or the other one. These are the workers now at the new Ultium cell battery plant. Many of them worked for the Cruze plant before GM closed it. There are reminders everywhere of what bad trade deals did to the Mahoning Valley.

But, do you know what? GM was paying. This was a joint venture. This was GM and a Korean company called LG. This was a joint venture, 50-50. Those workers at this Ultium plant were making \$16 an hour. And I said to GM: Well, how can you do this?

They voted for a union, by the way, the UAW there, just recently, by a 90-plus percent vote.

I said to GM: How can you pay them \$16 an hour when you have the national UAW contract? It is much more generous than that and negotiated, earned together.

They said: Well, we can't do anything because this is a jointly owned plant, and we are just half of it.

Well, they are General Motors. Of course, they can do something about it, and, of course, they need to do something about it.

Well, we were able—I hate to say it. We were able—partly by shining a light on General Motors and what they had done and what their history is—we were able to get a \$4- to \$5-an-hour raise working with Dave Green of UAW Local 1112 and getting thousands of dollars in stock buybacks for those workers that had been there a year or more.

These workers are, again, at the forefront of their industry, and they are not getting paid like it. America should continue to lead the global auto industry, but the Big Three can't do it without their workers. There is still time for this to happen, for these autoworkers and auto companies to agree to a fair contract. There is still time for these great American companies to do the right thing.

It means something we probably don't do enough of here. It means listening to their workers. It means foregoing strike-busting tactics, like we saw the last time, when UAW workers were forced to picket. In 2019, GM cut off striking workers' health insurance,

a bad-faith tactic that not only hurts their most vulnerable asset, their workers, but it hurts their families and really hurts their communities.

I was at Local 14 in Toledo, talking to one worker. Here is what happens when an auto company uses its prowess and its power and its anti-union fervor, when they do that and take away healthcare. There was one worker whose healthcare was cut off at the Local 14 in Toledo, at the Chrysler plant. His 4-year-old daughter Chesney needed surgery, but she couldn't get it because GM canceled the family's health insurance.

They are workers who had a contract. They paid in. They were picketing because they didn't think over these 10 years GM and Chrysler and Ford lived up to their side of the bargain.

I have a bill with Senator CASEY, who sits next to me, to make sure it doesn't happen again, the Striking Workers Healthcare Protection Act. We shouldn't need that. We shouldn't need for companies to be strong-armed or forced by government to honor the dignity of work. That shouldn't be necessary when these iconic companies have done so well, paid good dividends, and rewarded their executives with compensation nobody would have dreamed up a generation ago. We shouldn't have to do that. But until these companies understand, "You should respect the dignity of work," if they don't, then maybe it is time that government says: OK, we are going to have a Striking Workers Healthcare Protection Act. It is time to do the right thing, to bargain in good faith, and to agree to a contract that indeed honors the dignity of work.

I yield the floor.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL C. CASEY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend the Senator from Oklahoma, who is also a member of the Intelligence Committee, a subject of which I am going to speak to, and I appreciate the courtesy of allowing me to go first.

Today, Mr. President, I rise to say a few words about someone who has been an essential part of the Senate community for many, many years.

I am proud to note that earlier this week—as a matter of fact, on Tuesday evening—with the support from the Senator from Oklahoma, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Mike Casey to serve as Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. We know, at a time when the United States is facing tremendous foreign intelligence and security threats, it is important to have a Senate-confirmed leader as the head of the NCSC, which is charged with protecting against insider threats, supply chain risks, and other counterintelligence issues.

The truth is, the position has been vacant since the end of the last administration. So, as chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am glad that we will finally now have a Senate-confirmed leader in place to lead the efforts to protect against foreign threats, to protect U.S. critical infrastructure, to advance the counterintelligence and security mission, and—maybe most importantly—to be on constant call of the Senate Intelligence staff to make sure that efforts to reform security clearances is at the top of the agenda.

But while I recognize that this is a great step for our country and our national security, it is a real loss to me personally, to members on both sides of the aisle on the Intelligence Committee, and to our staff, because we are losing Mike Casey, who has been the staff director for the last 8 years. And while he doesn't look Medicare-eligible, the truth is, he has been working up here for 28 years, starting in the House of Representatives and, eventually, joining the staff of the House Armed Services Committee before Senator FEINSTEIN brought him over to the upper Chamber as staff director for the Senate Intel Committee in 2016.

I have worked extraordinarily closely with Mike over my years as a member of the committee but particularly when I bumped up to the position of vice chair. I think a lot about our kind of bonding and, in many ways, I think of the committee's bonding when, under the able leadership of then-chairman Richard Burr, the committee took on the responsibility of the investigation into the outside interference of the 2016 national elections. Our staff and, at that point, the majority committee's staff worked so seamlessly together.

While we got a lot of grief from folks all across the political spectrum—and a lot of this was due to Mike Casey—one of the things that I was most proud of was, as a variety of people came before the committee to testify on what could have been, otherwise, a totally partisan matter as it was in the House of Representatives, witness after witness said they didn't know, as they were being questioned, whether they were being questioned by majority or minority staff. A lot of that was due to Mike Casey's leadership.

The truth, as well, is that Mike—I had to push him at times. You know, he used to think that the job of the Intelligence Committee was basically just to do oversight on the 17, 18, 19—depending on the week—number of IC Agencies that we oversee. He didn't realize that, actually, the IC's responsibility—and I know sometimes the Presiding Officer and I have had clashes—was literally everything that touched technology in our country.

Again, Mike, while sometimes reluctant, has stepped up to that task. And I am proud of the fact that it was our committee that initially worked on the CHIPS bill and that it was our committee that first pointed out some of

the challenges with 5G and Huawei as well as some of the more recent work.

One of the ways we were able to do that—and we have got a lot of the committee staff behind us—is because, literally, Mike Casey knew everyone in the IC and the DOD. He knew where they were. He knew where the bodies were buried, both literally and figuratively, and could make sure that, as we tried to go off into other directions, that basic core function of oversight was never, never undermined. Again, he did this always—after a little nudging—in a bipartisan way.

I am extraordinarily proud of that and proud of the service that he has provided in educating me on a lot of issues that I was not that familiar with as I came on to the committee and in keeping our Intel Committee staff together. That bipartisan nature has continued under his leadership in our workings with Vice Chair RUBIO and his team as well.

So, while we say goodbye to Mike, we also wish him well as he embarks on his critical new role. As Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, Mike will face many of the same challenges we have wrestled with on the Intelligence Committee.

As we all know, the truth is that national security is no longer simply about who has got the most tanks and guns and ships and planes. It really is about who is going to lead in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, cyber security, synthetic biology. All of these are areas in which Mike, in his new job, will also have to point out threats, both external and internal, to America's leadership.

He will—as I mentioned, he is committed—respond to our staff member John Rosenwasser at any moment, day or night, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to make sure that we finally finish security clearance reform and make sure, in terms of insider threats, that we don't see repeats of what has happened, unfortunately, too many times. So while Mike Casey might be leaving our staff, it is safe to say he will not be leaving my speed dial.

We will miss you, Mike.

Most importantly, I give him these final words of advice: Don't screw it up.

I yield the floor to my good friend, the Senator from Oklahoma.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

MR. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I do appreciate the leadership on the Intelligence Committee and for the leadership that has been there.

I would concur. You have a spot to be able to lead and a task to be able to be done. You have studied this, so that must mean you know it. We look forward to your leadership in the days ahead. I appreciate that very much.

NATIONAL DEBT

MR. PRESIDENT, I do want to speak on a very different subject as well, and it is a subject that we are all going to face in the days ahead. It is this wonderful issue of a government shutdown.

We seem to forget, at times in this body, the issues that press around us, but the one that seems to get slipped under the rug most of the time is that of national debt: where we are and how we are going to try to address this in the days ahead. The conversation comes up—it seems to be on a regular basis now—about are we going to have a government shutdown; and the conversation of a government shutdown ends up being a very small portion of the very large debt that we face.

The challenge is, how do we actually address that based on its size? Well, let me just give you a little bit of context as to what I am talking about.

We are, right now, preparing, within days, to cross into \$33 trillion in total Federal debt—\$33 trillion. To give some context of that acceleration of Federal debt and what is happening during this time period, from the time of Andrew Jackson—who was the last President who was President when we had no debt at all. From the time of Andrew Jackson until Ronald Reagan, our Nation accumulated \$1 trillion in total debt. From Andrew Jackson to Reagan, there was \$1 trillion in total debt. From Reagan to the present, now we are \$33 trillion in total debt. We are in a rapid acceleration of debt that has not slowed.

To give you again the picture of where things have gone just in the last several years, if you go back 20 years ago to 2003, our total spending was just over \$2 trillion. If you go back to 2013, which was 10 years ago, our total spending was less than \$3.5 trillion. Our spending this year will be right at \$6.5 trillion. So in the past 20 years, our spending has increased from just over \$2 trillion to \$6.5 trillion.

To give you the acceleration in spending just in the last few years, if I were to go back to 2018—before COVID, the 2018 time period—our total spending was just over \$4 trillion. This year's estimated spending is just under \$6.5 trillion. That is \$2.5 trillion of accelerated spending just from 2018 until now. Again, to set this in context, the revenue that is coming into the Federal Treasury this year is estimated at \$4.8 trillion—\$4.8 trillion. We are spending an estimated \$6.4 trillion.

Now, I know these are a lot of numbers, but let me give you one just as a takeaway. We have almost \$1.5 trillion of deficit—that is, overspending—just this year. By some estimates, depending on what happens in the next few weeks, it could be almost \$2 trillion in total overspending just this year.

To put this in context, with the record revenue that is coming in this year at about \$4.8 trillion, if we were spending the same this year as we did in 2018, which is a short 5 years ago—if we were spending the same this year as we were in 2018, prior to COVID, we would have a \$700 billion surplus this year rather than an almost \$2 trillion deficit this year. Because of the record amount of revenue coming in this year compared to what our spending was 5

years ago, we would have been in surplus this year; but we are not, and it is \$1.5 trillion over that.

We have a very serious issue. We should have very hard conversations about our revenue, about our spending, about the direction in which we are actually heading, and about how we get out of a \$33 trillion debt. This is not going to take 1 year or 2 years.

There are folks I have talked to recently even who have talked about the time in the early nineties—when we were at a balance of around \$100 billion—of the work that was done by the Bush administration and the Clinton administration—two administrations in a row—to be able to get us back to a balance. Two administrations in a row had to work on that. But here is the frightening thing: Our overspending this year is more than the total spending during the Clinton administration—just our overspending this year. This is not going to be a simple process to be able to come out of. This is not even going to be two administrations in a row making agreements to be able to get back to balance. This is going to take decades. My concern is that many here are not willing to start the first year of decades of work to be able to get us out. So we have work to do on this.

Myself and Senator MAGGIE HASSAN, a Democrat from New Hampshire, sat down several years ago and started having a conversation about how do we end government shutdowns and actually get into a real dialogue about how do we actually deal with debt and deficit issues. From those productive conversations, she and I created a piece of legislation that is designed just to prevent government shutdowns. All of the conversation right now among the media seems to be about if a government shutdown is coming at the end of this year. We should not have one at the end of this month, at the end of the fiscal year. We should continue to be able to keep going, but we should also have a debate of what direction we are going to go.

So Senator HASSAN and I came up with a very simple proposal. It is not a partisan proposal. It is a completely nonpartisan proposal. It is a simple proposal, quite frankly, that is equivalent to two things I had growing up. One was, if you don't finish your homework at school, you have to actually stay after class to be able to finish it. If you don't finish all of your work that you had to get done there, stay after class; keep finishing it; and when you are done, you can leave. The second one was, when my older brother and I would get into an argument—which, of course, as brothers, we never did get into an argument—but in that rare moment we got into an argument, my mom would put the two of us in a room and say: You guys settle this, and when you are done, you can come out.

We slammed those two ideas together into one simple proposal on how to end government shutdowns. If we get to the

end of the fiscal year and the appropriations work is not done, like it is this year, we stay in session 7 days a week, and the only bills that can actually come up, that actually can be called up during that time period, are appropriations bills. The second part of it is, there is no travel for anyone, so we couldn't fly home and fly back. No official or campaign funds could be used to be able to travel.

So we are in session 7 days a week. The only bills that are allowed to be brought up are appropriations bills. There is no travel.

The next part of it is simple. There is what is called a continuing resolution to maintain the government to be open so that the American people and Federal workers are held harmless. It puts the pressure on this room, not on Federal workers who are working for FAA, not on people who are working for the Housing Administration, not on our Border Patrol. Those individuals don't get a vote on this. They should not feel the pressure of a government shutdown.

We can keep the system moving while we still have our arguments to be able to resolve those things.

Why is this so important? A couple of reasons. One is, we are the United States of America. We should actually have an organized system because the rest of the world watches us to try to figure out how to do government. When we look dysfunctional, the rest of the world says: How are we going to figure this out if even the Americans can't figure this out? We, as Americans, lose track of that at times, but the rest of the world is watching us.

We should have our arguments. We are a representative republic. Every single voice counts, and we don't all agree. Great. Bring it. That demonstrates us at our best. But let's actually resolve those issues rather than having government shutdowns and chaos ensuing, because we need to set a better example for the world.

The second issue is much closer to home. We need to stop having government shutdowns because the American people are calling Federal Agencies and expecting someone to answer the phone, expecting to get help with passports or permits or whatever process it may be that they have to interact with the Federal Government. They need to be able to get somebody to answer the phone to be able to resolve that. This puts the American people struggling to be able to just get basic answers.

The third is the Federal workforce. We have millions of people who work in the Federal family. They work all over the country. When there is a government shutdown, there are two sets of things that actually occur. If you are a contractor, you are just out. Those contractors may be doing janitorial services in one of our buildings or they may be supplying food services to someone. They are just out. They don't get repaid; they just lose money, period.

Those who are actually on the Federal payroll—they don't get their check during that time period. They have this crazy, weird, essential, non-essential, some people laid off, some people not, but everyone is in chaos in that process.

For those folks who are in the Federal family, even though they may be declared essential or nonessential, do you know what—their car payments still come in, their mortgage still comes in, they still have to put food on the table, but they are not getting a check during the time of a government shutdown. So those individuals who live paycheck to paycheck, like many Americans do, suddenly have a gap—not by fault of their own but because this body couldn't resolve what we were going to do on the budgeting issues.

The fourth issue I have already partially mentioned, and that is the contractors. Let me just give you an example of what this means. Our southern border right now has the worst border crisis that we have ever faced as a nation. To give you a perspective on it, in the last few days, we have had up to 9,000 people illegally crossing our border a day—a day in the last few days. We have one border crossing area just in Tucson where they had 2,000 people who crossed in a day. Those folks are being cut loose and released into the country. It is chaos along our border.

Our Border Patrol and CBP and all those folks who are in law enforcement are doing their best to be able to help watch for safety and security of Americans while literally thousands of people are being cut loose into the country. They depend on some folks who are contractors in that area to help sometimes with transportation, with processing, with food, with medical care—all those things. Those contractors are very important to be able to help our Border Patrol in the chaos of what is actually happening. When there is a government shutdown, those contractors aren't going to be there, and the chaotic border we have now will be even more chaotic at that moment. That should not happen because we can't resolve our differences here. We need the national security on that.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LANKFORD. I would yield to Senator CORNYN.

Mr. CORNYN. I just want to ask the Senator from Oklahoma—9,000 a day. I had to get out my calculator to figure out what that means. Are you talking about 3 million, 3.285 million—

Mr. LANKFORD. That is possible.

Mr. CORNYN.—a year—

Mr. LANKFORD. That is possible.

Mr. CORNYN.—if the current rate—

Mr. LANKFORD. If the current rate sustains, yes.

Yielding back my time for Senator CORNYN and for others as well, 2 weeks ago, our Nation crossed a threshold that most people just missed. We have just over 6 million people who have illegally crossed our southern border in

less than 3 years under the Biden administration—just over 6 million people. That 6 million number is the same as both terms of the Obama administration and the Trump administration combined. The Biden administration has allowed more people to illegally cross our border in less than 3 years than the previous 12 years along our border.

Border Patrol needs help right now. They don't need a government shutdown; they need help coming alongside them.

So what Senator HASSAN and I have done is proposed a very simple proposal. Let's stop government shutdowns. Let's end those. Let's not have the drama and the countdown clocks on 24-hour cable news TV. Let's have the arguments we need to have. Let's talk through the appropriations that need to be done. That is work we are required to do. But let's hold the Federal workers harmless in the process, and let's hold Federal contractors harmless in the process so we can settle the issues and do real planning.

This ending-government-shutdowns bill is very straightforward. We just want to prevent government shutdowns. We just want to be able to stop the chaos and actually show the American people that this body can have the arguments, resolve our differences, and move forward.

This is something we should be bringing to a vote. This is something that has wide bipartisan support. Let's resolve this piece while we still have more to be done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The senior Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, here we are, 16 days before the end of the fiscal year, and the Senate has finally begun—we are not finishing; we are just beginning—taking up the annual appropriations process.

Just to remind everybody, there are 12 individual appropriations bills. There is no time for us to finish this process before the end of the fiscal year, which is actually part of the majority leader's plan. He never intended to have a normal process by which the appropriations bills would be considered because what we call the regular order around here means you take them up one at a time, all 12. It is a transparent, open process where the American people can see it, where every Senator—all 100 Senators—gets to participate in crafting those bills. If they believe the spending needs to be cut in a certain area, they can offer an amendment to do that. If we need different priorities in the spending bills, well, you can do that by offering an amendment and getting it passed.

Earlier today, the Senate voted 91 to 7 to begin debating this legislation that funds military construction projects and supports America's veterans. This bill is important because it bolsters our military readiness by in-

vesting in new and existing facilities at our military bases around the world. That includes, in Texas, places like Fort Bliss, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, and Fort Cavazos. It also helps us fulfill the promise we made to America's veterans by investing in mental health care, telehealth, housing, and other critical services.

Today, Texas is the proud home of 1½ million veterans, and this is one important way we keep our commitment and honor their service and the many sacrifices they have made for our country.

This legislation passed the Appropriations Committee earlier this summer with unanimous support. Every Democrat, every Republican voted for it—all 28 members. But this is just 1 of 12 funding bills the committee passed this summer with strong bipartisan support.

Earlier this week, the majority leader, the Senator from New York, spoke about the Senate appropriations process thus far, and he referred to it as “the gold standard in good governance.” When I read that, I nearly fell out of my chair. He calls this process, which is doomed to failure because of his refusal to bring these bills to the floor on a timely basis, the gold standard of good governance.

Given the fact that we are 16 days from a government shutdown unless the House and the Senate can agree on a continuing resolution, I would say this is far from the “gold standard.” As a matter of fact, I think you could say we have sunk about as far as we can.

But it is important to remember that this funding deadline didn't surprise us. It didn't pop up out of nowhere. It arrives every year on September 30. So the majority leader had plenty of time to plan, prepare, and to carve out time to pass all 12 appropriations bills, just like the rules contemplate. But here we are, September 14, 16 days ahead of the funding deadline, and the Senate has not passed a single funding bill for the government.

If the majority leader's gold standard comment had been in reference to the committee process, I would have agreed with him. The Appropriations Committee did their job. Senator MURRAY, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COLLINS, the ranking member, and all 28 Senators on a bipartisan basis did their job on a timely basis—the first time they have done that in 5 years. But the committee's productivity was no accident. The chair and vice chair of the committee, Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, promised to return to regular order, and that is exactly what they delivered.

Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee worked across the aisle, which is the way you are supposed to work around here, to pass all of these bills by the end of July. They put the Senate in a strong position to debate, vote, amend, and then finally pass appropriations bills before the end of this month. So the committee process cer-

tainly was the gold standard of good governance, but that outstanding product has been squandered. You might even say this whole process was designed to fail because the majority leader refused to bring those bills to the floor on a timely basis.

Let's look at the MILCON-VA—Military Construction-VA—funding bill as an example. This legislation was approved by the committee on June 22, more than 2½ months ago. The majority leader, the Senator from New York, could have brought this legislation to the floor anytime between then, June 22, and now. He could have said, well, this is important work, so we maybe need to shorten the Senate's 2-week recess for the Fourth of July so we can get our work done, or he could have scheduled a vote during the July 4th period instead of working on nominations.

He could have canceled or—my preference would have been—delayed the 5-week August recess. If we had to cut that back to 4 weeks, do you think anybody would have suffered? Well, it would have given us an extra week to actually get our work done. But that didn't happen.

He could have adjusted the Senate work schedule in any number of ways and would have gotten cooperation from the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, because we all understand—or at least most of us understand—the importance of getting our work done on a timely basis. But, as we know, none of that happened.

Days, weeks, months have passed as the Senate did nothing—nothing—to advance any of the 12 bipartisan appropriations bills. And I want to be just crystal clear: It didn't have to be that way.

Again, this end-of-the-fiscal-year deadline is not a surprise to any of us. It is not as if the appropriations bills weren't ready on time—they were—or that the Senate has been preoccupied with other priorities. The majority leader is the only person who can set the agenda of the Senate. He is the only one who could call up these bills and schedule a vote, but he has done nothing but squandered the opportunity.

I know that many of our colleagues are frustrated that the Senate has not obtained consent to consider two additional funding bills as part of a so-called minibus, bundling three bills together, but that is the rule. Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires a unanimous consent vote before you can bundle those individual appropriations bills together. But the majority leader knew that. He knew what the Senate rules were, and all along he was taking the risk that one Senator—maybe a handful of Senators—would want to consider the bills one at a time, which is the normal process. It is just not normal to do it starting 16 days before the end of the fiscal year.

Well, while the majority leader has preached the virtues of regular order,

he has refused to actually engage in a process where we can be successful. As a matter of fact, he knows, by delaying the appropriations bills to this point, that we will not be successful because he has undermined it; he has sabotaged it.

Now, you might ask: Why would the majority leader do that? Well, two reasons. One is when you do a continuing resolution, it actually maximizes the power of the leadership because they are the ones that actually negotiate it, and then rank-and-file Members get to vote up or down. But the other reason he did it was because he wants to point to the House and claim that somehow they are trying to shut down the government.

Now, admittedly, the House is having their challenges, but Speaker MCCARTHY has pulled a rabbit out of the hat more than once this year, and I am hoping he can do so again. But if we do have a shutdown because the House and the Senate can't agree, it will be a Schumer shutdown—a Schumer shutdown.

Well, Members on both sides of the aisle want an opportunity to participate in the process. They want an opportunity to shape this legislation, even at this late hour, to do as much as we can in the truncated time that the majority leader has allowed us. So I urge the leader to let the Senate vote on this underlying bill, the MILCON-VA bill. It is important. We shouldn't act like it is a throwaway or inconsequential. We ought to do our work, even under the impossible timeframe that the majority leader has given us.

I think it is dangerous when Congress circumvents the normal process when it comes to funding the government. It is no secret that our debt is about 100 percent of our GDP. We are going to spend more money just paying interest to bondholders on our debt that is at some point more than we spend on national defense. Interest rates are high, we know, because the Federal Reserve is fighting inflation caused by too much reckless spending, but, as a result, we are also paying more money to our creditors to finance our national debt. And I think that is another symptom of the broken system by which we fund the government.

It has become all too common for short-term funding bills and large spending packages to be negotiated by a handful of leaders and rushed through both Chambers before the clock runs out. There is a growing sense of frustration among Members of this body on both sides of the aisle and a strong appetite to return to a normal, regular, transparent, participatory process, one that will give us at least a chance to try to get our fiscal house in better shape. But we have no chance to do that when, in essence, the majority leader creates an emergency situation, claims that he is the gold standard, and tries to blame the House and say they want a shutdown.

Well, I am not for a shutdown. I agree with the Senator from Oklahoma. The same problems that cause you to shut down the government are always there staring you in the face when you reopen. So we need to do our work. We need to solve those problems and avoid a shutdown, but it is really hard to do when the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, the only one who can schedule votes on the floor and the agenda of the Senate, sabotages the process.

The majority leader has purposely wasted more than 80 days that could have been spent debating funding bills and left the Senate with only two options: shut down the government or kick the can down the road with a continuing resolution. Of course, that is just a temporary measure, and then, when that expires, we have to deal with the consequences of that by figuring out, OK, how do we continue to fund the government at some appropriate level.

He knows we can't move 12 appropriations bills through the Senate and the House in the next 16 days, so this exercise will certainly end with another spending bill that is crafted at the last minute and jammed through both Houses. If this is the gold standard for anything, it is a gold standard for political theater. This is drama scripted by the majority leader. He is trying to put on a show or, I would say, a pretense of regular order in the Senate so he won't get the blame if the government shuts down; he can blame his political opponents in the House.

Well, suffice it to say, I am disappointed we find ourselves where we do, especially in light of the hard work done by our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. They have done their job, but the majority leader has blown that up.

This is not an accident. This is by design. If the government shuts down at the end of the month, the majority leader won't be able to escape the blame for what will be a Schumer shutdown. Despite the political theater and the Kabuki dance, he will have to own that shutdown because he will have been the primary author of it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 265.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 265, Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 37.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 37, Rita F.

Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 14, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session, to be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE "COACH" GORDON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the August recess, the North Lawndale community on the West Side of Chicago witnessed the end of an era. Founding pastor of the Lawndale Community Church, the Reverend Doctor Wayne "Coach" Gordon passed the torch to the church's new lead pastor, Pastor Jonathan Brooks, or as the congregation affectionately knows him, Pastor J.

Pastor Gordon first heard the call to serve when he was a junior in high school in Fort Dodge, IA. The call came so clear that he woke his mother in the middle of the night to share his newfound purpose and let her know that he was ready to forgo his studies and get started immediately. His mother heard him out and arranged for him to meet with the local pastor. That call set in motion a lifetime of service and selfless commitment to helping others.

He listened to his mother and finished his studies. In 1971, he graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High School. He attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL, where he played football. From there, he attended the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he later would go on to obtain his doctorate in ministry from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

By 1975, Pastor Gordon had moved to North Lawndale, a predominantly Black community that at the time was ranked the 15th poorest neighborhood in the United States. He took a job as a teacher and coach at Farragut High School. Pastor Gordon, a White guy from Iowa teaching and coaching in a predominantly Black community, immediately stood out. His players and

students called him "Coach," a nickname that has stuck with him to this day.

In 1977, Pastor Gordon would marry the woman of his dreams, his lovely wife Anne. On their first night together in North Lawndale, their home was broken into. Unfortunately, this would not be the only time. Many would question what the couple was thinking. Why would they want to continue to live in such a dangerous neighborhood?

But as one of his mentors, the late-Reverend Tom Skinner would say, Pastor Gordon and Anne "continued to continue." They refused to live amongst their neighbors in fear. When others saw a dangerous neighborhood stricken by poverty, violence, and drug addiction, Pastor Gordon and Anne saw a community desperate for opportunity. Many turned their back on North Lawndale, but Pastor Gordon and Anne would not do the same. They heeded their call to help and made the conscious choice to live where they served—and they wasted no time getting to work.

They set up a Bible study through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The Farragut High students enjoyed it so much that they talked Pastor Gordon and Anne into starting their very own church. While it took some convincing, Pastor Gordon agreed, and the Lawndale Christian Community Church began its mission of building a better North Lawndale.

He assembled the congregation before a blackboard and asked what were the top issues facing the community. No.1 was a safe place for residents to do their laundry, since the local laundromats were often sites of violence. The church made room in its basement using donated equipment to give residents a safe place to do their laundry.

The second issue on the congregation's list was access to quality, affordable health services in the area. Through several grants from charitable organizations in Chicago, countless volunteer hours, and faith, in September 1984, they were able to transform a run-down Cadillac dealership into the Lawndale Christian Health Center. This clinic, which started with a staff of just five, has now grown to have more than 100 medical providers across six locations, transforming access to healthcare in the area.

Apart from providing services through the church, Pastor Gordon and other community leaders knew for the Lawndale area to thrive, they would need a strong economic base capable of attracting businesses, employing residents, providing goods and services, and supporting the community. With that goal in mind, Lawndale Community Church began reaching out to businesses encouraging them to set up shop in the neighborhood.

Their outreach efforts would pay off. In 1995, the iconic Lou Malnati's Pizzeria opened a branch of its restaurant in North Lawndale. Lawndale Community Church owned the property in

which the restaurant operated, and the church converted the four apartments above the pizzeria into affordable housing units for families. Aside from proving that North Lawndale could sustain mainstream businesses, Lou Malnati's also committed to staffing the restaurant with local employees and donating its profits to the community. And more than 25 years later, Lou Malnati's remains open for business in North Lawndale.

They did not stop there. To promote homeownership and build wealth, they opened the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation, which purchased and rehabilitated abandoned homes and then sold them to members of the community at a discount. To support health and wellness in the community, they opened the 60,000-square-foot Lawndale Christian Health and Fitness Center. And to expand access to legal services, education, social services, employment, and training opportunities to young people, they opened the Lawndale Christian Legal Center.

These successful community development efforts have come to be known as the Lawndale Miracle—and it has laid the foundation for future investment in North Lawndale and served as a model for community development efforts in other disadvantaged communities.

But while these achievements may be divine, they are far from unexplainable. They are a testament to the leadership of Pastor Gordon and his congregation. They have renovated apartments, built fitness centers, mentored students, established medical clinics, started businesses, and helped breathe a new energetic life into the entire community.

Through it all, Pastor Gordon has remained a dedicated husband to Anne; a loving father to their three children: Angela, Andrew, and Austin; father-in-law to Nate and Stacy; and grandfather to Mack, Brooke, and Langston. I have had the pleasure of knowing Pastor Gordon and Anne, and I have been fortunate to witness much of the progress they have helped make. Pastor Gordon is no ordinary preacher. His work does not end with his sermon. He has used his faith to power a lifetime of service to help his neighbors and community. While Pastor Gordon may have passed his torch, I am certain the work of the Lawndale Community Church is not finished.

Loretta and I thank Pastor Gordon and Anne for their service to the community, and we wish Pastor J. the best of luck in carrying on the legacy of the Lawndale Community Church.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision

stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENEZES,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-65, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$5.06 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-65

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Republic of Korea.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$3.08 billion.

Other \$1.98 billion.

Total \$5.06 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to twenty-five (25) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft

Up to twenty-six (26) Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 Engines (25 installed, 1 spare)

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL); KIV-78 Cryptographic Appliques; Electronic Warfare (EW) Reprogramming Lab support; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); classified software delivery and support; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; aircraft engine component improvement program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; major modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support, to include Block 4 upgrade; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; personnel training and training equipment, including simulators; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (KS-D-SAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS-D-SAC, KS-D-QGC.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 13, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea (ROK)—F-35 Aircraft

The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested to buy up to twenty-five (25) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) aircraft; and up to twenty-six (26) Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 engines (25 installed, 1 spare). Also included are AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL); KIV-78 Cryptographic Appliques; Electronic Warfare (EW) Reprogramming Lab support; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); classified software delivery and support; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; aircraft engine component improvement program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; major modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support, to include Block 4 upgrade; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; personnel training and training equipment, including simulators; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$5.06 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by providing credible defense capability to deter aggression in the region and ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The proposed sale will augment Korea's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability. Korea already has F-35s in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX, and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines, East Hartford, CT. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Republic of Korea.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-65

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F-35A aircraft is a single seat, single engine, all-weather, stealth, fifth-generation, multirole aircraft. It contains sensitive technology including the low observable air-

frame/outer mold line, the Pratt and Whitney F135 engine, AN/APG-81 radar, an integrated core processor central computer, a mission systems/electronic warfare suite, a multiple sensor suite, technical data/documentation and associated software. Sensitive elements of the F-35A are also included in operational flight and maintenance trainers. Sensitive and classified elements of the F-35A aircraft include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software for the following major subsystems:

a. The Pratt and Whitney F135 engine is a single 40,000-pound thrust class engine designed for the F-35 and assures highly reliable, affordable performance. The engine is designed to be utilized in all F-35 variants, providing unmatched commonality and supportability throughout the worldwide base of F-35 users.

b. The AN/APG-81 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) is a high processing power/high transmission power electronic array capable of detecting air and ground targets from a greater distance than mechanically scanned array radars. It also contains a synthetic aperture radar (SAR), which creates high-resolution ground maps and provides weather data to the pilot, and provides air and ground tracks to the mission system, which uses it as a component to fuse sensor data.

c. The Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) provides long-range detection and tracking as well as an infrared search and track (IRST) and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) capability for precision tracking, weapons delivery and bomb damage assessment (BOA). The EOTS replaces multiple separate internal or podded systems typically found on legacy aircraft.

d. The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EODAS) provides the pilot with full spherical coverage for air-to-air and air-to-ground threat awareness, day/night vision enhancements, a fire control capability and precision tracking of wingmen/friendly aircraft. The EODAS provides data directly to the pilot's helmet as well as the mission system.

e. The F-35 Electronic Warfare (EW) system is a reprogrammable, integrated system that provides radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through the search, intercept, location and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter JI and IF threats.

f. The F-35 Communications, Navigation, and Identification (CNI) system provides the pilot with unmatched connectivity to flight members, coalition forces and the battlefield. It is an integrated subsystem designed to provide a broad spectrum of secure, anti-jam voice and data communications, precision radio navigation and landing capability, self-identification, beyond visual range target identification and connectivity to off-board sources of information. It also includes an inertial navigation and global positioning system (GPS) for precise location information. The functionality is tightly integrated within the mission system to enhance efficiency.

g. The F-35 CNI system includes two data links: Multi-Function Advanced Data Link (MADL) and Link 16. MADL is designed specifically for the F-35 and allows for Low Probability of Intercept (LPI) communications between F-35s. Link 16 is a command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground,

and sea elements. It provides the warfighter key theater functions such as surveillance, identification, air control, weapons engagement coordination, and direction for all services and allied forces. Link-16 equipment allows the F-35 to communicate with battlespace participants using widely-distributed J-series message protocols.

h. The F-35 Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment (ALGS) provides a fully integrated logistics management solution. ALGS integrates a number of functional areas, including supply chain management, repair, support equipment, engine support and training. The ALGS infrastructure employs a state-of-the-art information system that provides real-time, decision-worthy information for sustainment decisions by flight line personnel. Prognostic health monitoring technology is integrated with the air system and is crucial to predictive maintenance of vital components.

i. The F-35 Operational Data Integrated Network (ODIN) provides an intelligent information infrastructure that binds all the key concepts of ALGS into an effective support system. ALIS establishes the appropriate interfaces among the F-35 Air Vehicle, the warfighter, the training system, government information technology (IT) systems, and supporting commercial enterprise systems. Additionally, ALIS provides a comprehensive tool for data collection and analysis, decision support and action tracking.

j. The F-35 Training System includes several training devices to provide integrated training for pilots and maintainers. The pilot training devices include a Full Mission Simulator (FMS) and Deployable Mission Rehearsal Trainer (DMRT). The maintenance training devices include an Aircraft Systems Maintenance Trainer (ASMT), Ejection System Maintenance Trainer (ESMT), Outer Mold Line (OML) Lab, Flexible Linear Shaped Charge (FLSC) Trainer, F135 Engine Module Trainer and Weapons Loading Trainer (WLT). The F-35 Training System can be integrated, where both pilots and maintainers learn in the same Integrated Training Center (ITC). Alternatively, the pilots and maintainers can train in separate facilities (Pilot Training Center and Maintenance Training Center).

k. Other subsystems, features, and capabilities include the F-35's low observable air frame, Integrated Core Processor (ICP) Central Computer, Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS), Pilot Life Support System (PLSS), Off-Board Mission Support (OMS) System, and publications/maintenance manuals. The HMDS provides a fully sunlight readable, binocular display presentation of aircraft information projected onto the pilot's helmet visor. The use of a night vision camera integrated into the helmet eliminates the need for separate Night Vision Goggles. The PLSS provides a measure of Pilot Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Protection through use of an On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS); and an escape system that provides additional protection to the pilot. OBOGS takes the Power and Thermal Management System (PTMS) air and enriches it by removing gases (mainly nitrogen) by adsorption, thereby increasing the concentration of oxygen in the product gas and supplying breathable air to the pilot. The OMS provides a mission planning, mission briefing, and a maintenance/intelligence/ tactical debriefing platform for the F-35.

2. The AN/APQ-10 Simple Key Loader is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

3. The KIV-78 is, a cryptographic applique for IFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

4. The Electronic Warfare Reprogramming Lab is used by USG engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for foreign F-35 customers.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Korea.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-64, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.0 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-64

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$1.5 billion.

Other \$2.5 billion.

Total \$4.0 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Poland has requested to buy phase two of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled PATRIOT Configuration-3+ with modernized sensors and components, including:

Major Defense Equipment (MOE):

Ninety-three (93) Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) Engagement Operation Centers (EOCs).

One hundred seventy-five (175) IBCS Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN) Relays.

Non-MDE: Also included are network encryptors; IBSC software development and component integration; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; System Integration Lab (SIL) infrastructure; SIL test tools and equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical support for SIL; flight test infrastructure and equipment; flight test targets; flight test range costs and fees; U.S. Government and Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) flight test services and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEN).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-8-UCJ, PL-B-UEK, PL-8-UEL, PL-B-UEM.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc, Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 11, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland-Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS)

The Government of Poland has requested to buy phase two of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled PATRIOT Configuration-3+ with modernized sensors and components; the sale includes ninety-three (93) Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) Engagement Operation Centers (EOCs) and one hundred seventy-five (175) IBSC Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN) relays. Also included are network encryptors; IBSC software development and component integration; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; System Integration Lab (SIL) infrastructure; SIL test tools and equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical support for SIL; flight test infrastructure and equipment; flight test targets; flight test range costs and fees; U.S. Government and Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) flight test services and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$4.0 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's missile defense capability and contribute to Poland's goal of updating its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Northrup Grumman, Huntsville, AL. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately forty (40) U.S. Government and/or forty-five (45) contractor representatives to travel to Poland for an extended period for equipment deprocessing and fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Transmittal No. 23-64

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) is the centerpiece of the U.S. Army's modernization strategy for air and missile defense capability. The system's resilient, open, modular, scalable architecture is foundational to deploying a truly integrated network of all available assets in the battlespace, regardless of source, service, or domain. IBCS enables the efficient and affordable integration of current and future systems, including assets deployed over IP-enabled networks, counter-unmanned aerial systems (UAS), 4th and 5th-generation aircraft, space-based sensors, and more. It senses, identifies, tracks, and defeats evolving air and missile threats, enabling revolutionary "multi-domain, any sensor, best effort" operations.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Poland.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter

references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-67, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$389 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.
Other \$389 million.
Total \$389 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case PL-D-QBC was below the congressional notification threshold at \$82 million (\$0 in MDE), and included non-MDE items and services in support of F-16 aircraft sustainment. The Government of Poland has requested the case be amended to include additional non-MDE items and services as indicated below. This amendment will push the current case above the total case value notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are Electronic Warfare database reprogramming support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; computer program identification numbers; engine Component Improvement Program support; minor modifications; maintenance and maintenance support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PL-D-QBC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-D-QAW, PL-D-QAR, PL-D-QAO.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 13, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—F-16 Sustainment

The Government of Poland has requested to buy additional non-MDE articles and serv-

ices, as indicated below, that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$82 million, included articles and services in support of F-16 aircraft sustainment. This notification is for the combined non-MDE F-16 sustainment articles and services, which includes Electronic Warfare database reprogramming support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; computer program identification numbers; engine Component Improvement Program support; minor modifications; maintenance and maintenance support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$389 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing the reliability of their F-16 fleet. Poland has purchased sustainment support for the F-16s in its inventory for many years, and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Poland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-67

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Electronic Warfare Integrated Reprogramming Database (EWIRDB) is used by U.S. Government engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for the exported EW systems.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Poland.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE POTTER

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Grace Potter, a talented singer-songwriter who was born and raised in Fayston, VT. She is a Grammy-nominated artist and has been described by Spin Magazine as “one of the greatest living voices in rock today.” As her career as a musician has reached remarkable heights, she has continued to be a beacon of hope for her community back home in Vermont.

Music and the arts bring people together and foster healing through difficult times. Ms. Potter has always used her musical talent to build community, which is what Vermonters do best. She has consistently uplifted young musicians and worked to create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Vermont. These efforts are critical to strengthening both local economies and the social fabric of our great State.

Ms. Potter has also spent her career bringing attention to causes that she is passionate about, including promoting fair trade labeling and supporting local farmers. At the height of the pandemic, Ms. Potter hosted a virtual benefit concert with proceeds going to Shift Meals, an organization which delivers locally grown food to food-insecure households throughout the State.

After Hurricane Irene devastated Vermont communities in 2011, Ms. Potter performed benefit concerts to support flood relief efforts. Catastrophic flooding again hit Vermont this past July and August, destroying downtowns, damaging businesses, and forcing Vermonters to evacuate their homes. Thanks to Vermont’s indomitable spirit, communities have come together to rebuild from the flooding. Ms. Potter has been a critical part of this rebuilding, again hosting multiple benefit concerts to bring aid to those most impacted by the floods.

Ms. Potter is a source of inspiration for so many, and she stands in solidarity with those in need of assistance during an incredibly challenging time. As Vermonters continue to recover from this summer’s floods, we are grateful for Ms. Potter’s dedication to the place we call home.

Thank you, Grace Potter, for your contribution to flood relief efforts in Vermont and for your embodiment of Vermont values.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SMITH

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career and legacy of Mr. David Smith.

In the realm of visionary leadership in the independent grocery industry, few names shine as brightly as David Smith’s. David has had a long and successful career in the food industry, beginning as an independent store owner and then rising the ranks to work in various assignments at the wholesale

level in leadership positions, and serving as an officer on the National Grocers Association board of directors executive committee.

David’s ascent to the helm of Associated Wholesale Grocers marked a pivotal moment in the company’s strategic direction. Guided by an unwavering commitment to excellence, he steered AWG to new horizons of growth and prosperity. His strategic acumen and forward-thinking approach not only expanded the company’s reach but also fostered an environment of collaboration and empowerment.

A true luminary, David’s leadership extended beyond the boardroom. His emphasis on cultivating strong partnerships transformed suppliers into allies, fostering a sense of unity within the industry. David’s ability to foresee trends and adapt to evolving market dynamics was nothing short of remarkable.

David’s legacy extends far beyond business success. His philanthropic endeavors exemplify his compassionate heart and commitment to giving back to the community. His leadership in charitable initiatives served as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path toward positive change and societal betterment.

As we reflect on his remarkable journey, we pay homage to a servant leader who redefined mentorship, innovation, and corporate responsibility. His legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of visionary thinking and unwavering determination. In commemorating David Smith, we pay tribute to his shining example of what is possible when passion, purpose, and leadership converge.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy and career of Mr. David Smith, as well as congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHASE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the Chase County Courthouse is a striking monument situated in Cottonwood Falls and visible across much of the surrounding prairie. Built in 1873, the courthouse’s limestone exterior, walnut staircase, and distinctive red roof have made it a landmark on the plains. Designed in French Renaissance style by John G. Haskell of Leavenworth, the courthouse is the oldest Kansas courthouse still in use.

This year marks the courthouse’s 150th anniversary of service to the community. In 1856, several families moved to the south side of Cottonwood River, and soon after, the Chase County boundaries were drawn. The pioneers who established Cottonwood Falls decided to build a local courthouse and workers began construction on the courthouse. The community chose a courthouse that would stand 113-feet tall, containing a three-story spiral staircase made from trees near the Cottonwood River. The limestone

used to construct the courthouse came from Chase County and is known as Cottonwood limestone. This same limestone was used in the Kansas State Capitol, Kansas State University, and can be found in the U.S. Capitol forming the base for the statue of Amelia Earhart. In 1917, the courthouse was entered in the National Registry of Historic Places and the Kansas Historical Site Register and serves as a tribute to the pioneers who made the Flint Hill their home and the builders who constructed the courthouse.

I have visited downtown Cottonwood Falls many times and have seen the community grow over the years. Rural county courthouses play an important role in preserving these communities. The courthouse is a place where justice is administered, wedding vows are made, election votes are tallied, wills are signed, and disputes are resolved.

On the 150th anniversary of the Chase County Courthouse, I am honored to recognize and commemorate this courthouse which is the pride of Cottonwood Falls and a monument on the plains.●

TRIBUTE TO ASTA SPURGIS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in Alaska, we have no shortage of scenic wilderness to explore. From the unrivaled beauty of a bluebird day in the Prince William Sound, to the peaks of the Denali National Park and Preserve, to the winding tributaries of the glacier-fed Tanana river, my bias may be showing, but Alaska is the Nation’s undisputed leader in outdoor recreational opportunities, both in sum and splendor.

But one of Alaska’s most treasured locales is not just an exemplary jewel case of our outdoors, but a labor of love from the outstanding volunteers and employees who have put their heart and soul into making it a world-class nature center. The Eagle River Nature Center is the crowning centerpiece of the Chugach State Park, located in Southcentral Alaska within the municipality of Anchorage. And the driving force behind the Eagle River Nature Center has been its cofounder and executive director, Asta Spurgis. Sadly, for the many Alaskans and out-of-state visitors who frequent the Eagle River Nature Center, Asta is leaving her post.

From 1993 through 1995, the park’s budget was dropping off, and the center could no longer afford to operate year-round, forcing them to have limited hours only in the summer. In stepped the Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc., a nonprofit formed in 1996 that revived the park by forging new trails, offering maintenance for public use facilities, and stepping up in the day-to-day operations of the park that helped it become a destination for guests across the world. At the head of that effort was Asta Spurgis, whose passion and dedication for ensuring

that the park was accessible and pristine meant finding new and innovative ways to fund the operations.

From its inception as a bold experiment to where it stands now, as a shining model of what public-private partnership can look like, Asta Spurgis has been at the helm. Alaskans will miss her commitment and leadership, but her legacy can be seen in the students who visit and get firsthand classes on natural sciences and the tens of thousands of Alaskans and tourists who get to explore the Chugach State Park. I commend Asta for her lifetime of work in making Alaska's wilderness a more beautiful and more accessible space to explore.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1567. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3324. An act to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution 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 enrolled bill and joint resolution were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH) has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 9. Joint resolution 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".

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1567. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of

the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3324. An act to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2085. A communication from the Policy Advisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Seizure and Forfeiture Procedures" (RIN1018-BG73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2086. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl" (RIN1018-BF25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2087. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Okaloosa Darter From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BE57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2088. A communication from the Director of Congressional Research, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.249 Rev 0, 'Use of ARCON Methodology for Calculation of Accident-Related Offsite Atmospheric Dispersion Factors'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2089. A communication from the Director of Congressional Research, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.83 Rev 1, 'Cyber Security Event Notifications'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2090. A communication from the Director of Congressional Research, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.28 Rev 6, 'Quality Assurance Program Criteria (Design and Construction)'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2091. A communication from the Director of Congressional Research, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regu-

latory Guide (RG) 4.26 Rev 1, 'Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Nuclear Power Reactor Sites'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2092. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustments to the Price-Anderson Act Financial Protection Regulations" (RIN3150-AL01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2093. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report Describing the Administrator's Use of the Ranking Criteria Described CERCLA 104(k)(6)(C) in Awarding Brownfields Grants"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2094. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: the Seventh Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2095. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; AK; Revisions to Ice Fog and Sulfur Dioxide Regulations" (FRL No. 10419-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2096. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the Coso Junction PM-10 Planning Area; California; Correcting Amendment" (FRL No. 10529-03-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2097. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Revisions to Plan Approval and Operating Permit Fees Rule and Title V Operating Permit Program" (FRL No. 10673-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2098. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards Review for Steel Plants; Electric Arc Furnaces Constructed After 10/21/74 & On or Before 8/17/83; Standards of Performance for Steel Plants; Electric Arc Furnaces & Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Constructed After 8/17/83 And On Or Before May 16, 2022; Standards of Performance for Steel Plants; Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels Constructed After May 16, 2022" ((RIN2060-AU96) (FRL No. 8150-01-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2099. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Volatile Organic Compound Regulations; Corrections" (FRL No. 9242-03-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2100. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of the Clean Air Act, Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Air Emissions Standards for Halogenated Solvent Cleaning Machines; State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management" (FRL No. 10498-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2101. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; New Source Review Permit Program State Plan Revision" (FRL No. 10876-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2102. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Bulk Gasoline Plants, Terminals Vapor Recovery Systems; Correction" (FRL No. 10991-03-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2103. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Reasonable Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 11025-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2104. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Organic Solvent Cleaning Regulation" (FRL No. 11046-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2105. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" (FRL No. 11132-01-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2106. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 11235-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2107. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Regulations Update; Phase II" ((RIN2025-AA38)

(FRL No. 5630-01-OGC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2108. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Liberty Borough Area Second 10-Year PM10 Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 10907-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2109. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; El Dorado County Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 10564-03-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2110. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Approval of the Muskingum River SO2 Attainment Plan" (FRL No. 11047-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Texas; Clean Air Act Requirements for Enhanced Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance" (FRL No. 11279-01-R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2112. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; New Source Review Updates" (FRL No. 10011-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2113. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; Oxides of Nitrogen" (FRL No. 10126-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2114. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Texas; Updates to Public Notice and Procedural Rules and Removal of Obsolete Provisions" (FRL No. 10892-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2115. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternate PCB Extraction Methods and Amendments to PCB

Cleanup and Disposal Regulations" (FRL No. 7122-03-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2116. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Standards for 2023-2025 and Other Changes: Correction" ((RIN2060-AV14) (FRL No. 8514-03-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2117. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Volatile Organic Compound Regulations" (FRL No. 9242-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2118. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Air Quality Control, Revisions to Particulates from Fugitive Dust Emissions Sources Rule" (FRL No. 9991-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2119. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; WA; Smoke Management Plan Update" (FRL No. 10545-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2120. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Texas; Oil and Natural Gas Reasonably Available Control Technology in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Areas" (FRL No. 10583-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2121. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revision of Excess Emissions Provisions and Emission Standards; Amendments to Stationary Sources - Emission Standards" (FRL No. 10928-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2122. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Bulk Gasoline Plants, Terminals Vapor Recovery Systems" (FRL No. 10991-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2123. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Miscellaneous Rule Revisions to Gasoline Dispensing Facility - Stage I" (FRL No. 11008-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2124. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; TN; 2010 1-Hour SO₂ NAAQS Transport Infrastructure" (FRL No. 11020-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2125. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 10177-01-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-44. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to support hunting, angling, and wildlife conservation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2005

Whereas, states are the primary caretakers of fish and wildlife through the public trust doctrine; and

Whereas, the American system of conservation funding depends heavily on the financial support of hunters and anglers, who make the largest monetary contributions to the conservation of fish and wildlife through their purchases of licenses and hunt permits and excise taxes on ammunition and outdoor recreation equipment; and

Whereas, the historic uses of Arizona's rivers, lakes, streams, forests and rural lands over several centuries have included hunting and angling; and

Whereas, Arizona has a rich, historic tradition of hunting and angling that dates back to before statehood and continues to this day; and

Whereas, Arizona's wildlife is held in the public trust, one of the core concepts guaranteeing opportunities for all citizens to participate in hunting, angling and wildlife conservation; and

Whereas, Arizona's sportsmen and sportswomen were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to help fund state efforts to provide for healthy natural resources; and

Whereas, Arizona sportsmen and sportswomen continue to provide the funding for the AZGFD, which is the primary steward of the state's fish and wildlife resources; and

Whereas, more than 500,000 hunters and anglers in Arizona represent an economic powerhouse with spending that exceeds \$900 million per year and an economic impact of \$1.34 billion to this state; and

Whereas, Arizona's hunting and angling industries are a vital economic driver, supporting more than 17,000 jobs that generate \$314 million in salaries and wages and cre-

ating economic opportunity, particularly in rural communities; and

Whereas, the annual spending by Arizona's hunters and anglers generates \$58 million in state revenue; and

Whereas, AZGFD successfully conserves and protects more than 800 native wildlife species; and

Whereas, hunting and angling provide the financial backbone for world-class stewardship of natural resources through a "user pays-public benefits" approach that represents the world's most effective system of fish and wildlife management; and

Whereas, hunters and anglers must respect private property rights while they are engaged in their hunting and angling endeavors; and

Whereas, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 and is celebrated the fourth Saturday of each September to recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to society; and

Whereas, hunting and angling in Arizona are a vital part of the state and local historic customs, culture, heritage and economies. Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress respect the historic and current use of Arizona's recreational areas by sportsmen and sportswomen, support the time-honored Arizona traditions of hunting and angling, the very backbone of conservation, and respect the administration of wildlife conservation through the sound science delivered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and science-based policies developed by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-45. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to halt the imposition of unrealistic ozone standards on the state of Arizona; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2008

Whereas, on September 16, 2022, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reclassified Maricopa County as a moderate nonattainment area for ozone limits under the Clean Air Act; and

Whereas, the EPA under the Biden Administration is trying to force the adoption of ozone control measures on the State of Arizona and its individual citizens, motorists and businesses that would devastate the economy; and

Whereas, the main contributor to non-attainment for Maricopa County was the adoption of the 2015 EPA guidelines, which dropped acceptable ozone levels from 75ppb to 70ppb; and

Whereas, multiple studies have shown that higher ozone levels in Maricopa County are being caused by natural events and that external activity outside the state is beyond the scope and control of the citizens of this state; and

Whereas, there is no evidence that any of the control measures being considered, including additional regulations on business, expanding transit, adopting vision-zero zoning programs or vehicle trip reduction requirements will result in Maricopa County reaching attainment; and

Whereas, the Maricopa Association of Governments has issued public statements ac-

knowledging that the removal of all 4,000,000 internal combustion vehicles in the metropolitan Phoenix area would not bring Maricopa County into compliance with the ozone requirements mandated by the EPA; and

Whereas, during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 ozone levels increased from 79ppb to 87ppb despite the fact that most vehicular and business activity was halted in Maricopa County; and

Whereas, the imposition of fines and penalties or the withholding of Arizona's share of federal transportation dollars by the EPA for nonattainment would be coercive and unfairly punitive to the citizens of this state. Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the Biden Administration and the United States Congress stop the United States Environmental Protection Agency from imposing coercive and likely unconstitutional penalties on Arizona to comply with an ozone standard that is impossible to attain through any of the control measures being considered.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-46. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to appropriate monies and federal entities to develop solutions to eradicate salt cedars in Arizona waterways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2006

Whereas, the salt cedar tree, also known as the tamarisk, was brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant to stabilize soil and control erosion; and

Whereas, salt cedars are now listed as an invasive species by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

Whereas, salt cedars spread prolifically by both seed and sprouting, congesting thousands of acres of river land in Arizona; and

Whereas, the density of salt cedars creates dangerous conditions by congesting flood-prone areas, impeding water flow and exacerbating the impact of flooding; and

Whereas, by increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires, salt cedars threaten existing and future infrastructure in surrounding communities; and

Whereas, this invasive plant out-competes native cottonwood, mesquite and willow and displaces riparian and other wildlife habitats by altering the ecology and hydrology of native systems; and

Whereas, each salt cedar tree consumes 200 to 300 gallons of water a day, which lowers the water table and creates large deposits of salt in the soil; and

Whereas, salt cedars negatively impact Arizona's economy by jeopardizing agriculture due to high water usage, tending to obstruct irrigation canals and limiting recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, eliminating salt cedars will sustain precious water supplies, reduce the risk of environmental disasters and minimize structural and ecological damage and loss of life.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress appropriate monies to the State of Arizona to eradicate salt cedars from Arizona waterways.

2. That the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture develop innovative solutions to control the proliferation of salt cedars.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-47. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to allocate 425 million dollars for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the fiscal year 2024 budget; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 84 percent of the United States' surface freshwater supply. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.3 million jobs, generating \$82 billion in wages; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local governments, and other organizations, the federal government has invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 6,800 projects since 2010, including over \$600 million for more than 2,100 projects in Michigan. These projects have cleaned up toxic pollution, reduced runoff from cities and farms, combatted invasive species, and restored fish and wildlife habitats; and

Whereas, The GLRI has made a significant difference and represents a sound investment in both the environment and the economies of the Great Lakes region. A 2018 study calculated that for every federal dollar invested in Great Lakes restoration there is an additional \$3.35 in economic activity, with older industrial cities like Detroit seeing an even higher return on investment; and

Whereas, Far more work needs to be done. Whether toxic algal blooms contaminating water supplies of Lake Erie, invasive carp threatening billion-dollar fisheries, or contaminated sediments restricting recreational opportunities, substantial limitations and threats to the use of the Great Lakes remain. These problems require a collaborative effort to solve; and

Whereas, The United States Congress allocated \$368 million to the GLRI as part of the federal spending bill for Fiscal Year 2023. While a \$279.8 million increase from Fiscal Year 2022, this allocation is less than the \$400 million that the GLRI was authorized to receive. This shortfall ignores the national significance of our country's largest reserve of drinkable, surface freshwater and jeopardizes the momentum from more than a decade of unprecedented regional cooperation. It is a short-sighted, short-term cost-savings measure with long-term implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years. The federal government needs to remain an active partner with the Great Lakes Region; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States Congress to allocate \$425 mil-

lion for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-48. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to take such actions as are necessary to timely review and grant the State of Louisiana's application for primacy in the administration of Class VI injection well permitting and to express this body's support in furtherance thereof to maintain and extend Louisiana's global leadership in transformative energy innovation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 229

Whereas, for well over a century the people of Louisiana, through their elected representatives in the Louisiana Legislature and executive branch regulatory agencies, have capably and conscientiously overseen the state's oil and gas industry, including enactment of the first conservation laws in 1906 and the establishment of the office of conservation in 1921; and

Whereas, since the state's first successful oil well was completed in a Jennings rice field more than one hundred twenty years ago, Louisiana has been a leader in exploring the next energy frontier and pioneering the necessary technologies and capabilities, including: the first over-the-water oil well in Caddo Lake, the first long-distance pipeline from Shreveport to a Baton Rouge refinery, the first fluid catalytic cracker unit critical to boost fuel production and octane during World War II, and the first offshore drilling rig and producing well out of sight of land in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, in 2009 the members of the Louisiana Legislature had the foresight to enact the Louisiana Geologic Sequestration and Carbon Dioxide Act and thus create the statutory and regulatory framework enabling the Department of Natural Resources to request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allow the state of Louisiana to administer and enforce the Class VI injection well permitting program; and

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, submitted its primacy request in the fall of 2021, after more than two years of preparation and coordination with EPA Region 6 as well as two public comment periods; and

Whereas, the EPA published a proposed rule to grant Louisiana primacy in the Federal Register in early May 2023; and

Whereas, for decades Louisiana state government agencies have been effectively administering a number of federal regulatory programs to which the EPA has either delegated authority or granted primacy to the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, in 1982, the office of conservation, Underground Injection Control Section was granted primacy by the EPA to administer the approved regulatory and permitting program for Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV, and Class V wells; and

Whereas, for more than forty years it has been a core duty of state agency leaders and employees to protect underground sources of drinking water, surface waters, and the land from endangerment by regulating the subsurface injection of hazardous and nonhazardous waste fluids; subsurface storage of liquid, liquefied, and gaseous fluids; mineral

solution mining; and injection for enhanced oil recovery; and

Whereas, Louisiana citizens employed at the appropriate state government agencies are best qualified to evaluate Class VI permit applications in light of Safe Drinking Water Act requirements due to decades-long experience and knowledge of Louisiana's subsurface geology; and

Whereas, Louisiana's Class VI primacy application incorporates a memorandum of agreement with EPA Region 6 reaffirming the state's commitment to inclusive participation during the permitting process with a sensitivity to potential impacts on susceptible sub-populations; and

Whereas, there are currently twenty administratively complete Class VI permit applications pending at the federal agency representing tens of billions of dollars in potential capital investment, tens of millions in metric tons of captured carbon dioxide emissions, and untold thousands of Louisiana jobs; and

Whereas, the EPA has yet to issue a single Class VI permit from a Louisiana applicant; and

Whereas, Louisiana embraces an all-the-above approach to the nation's energy supply as well as the ongoing energy transition, of which carbon capture and sequestration plays an integral part; and

Whereas, Louisiana is committed to maintaining its position as a national leader in energy production, job growth in the energy sector, and innovative climate technologies; and

Whereas, a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers economic analysis showed that Louisiana's natural gas and oil industry supported three hundred forty-six thousand jobs, provided \$25.8 billion in labor income and contributed more than \$54 billion toward the state's economy; and

Whereas, the anticipated carbon capture, utilization, and storage activity in Louisiana, coupled with new infrastructure and retrofitting needs, is critical to retaining, sustaining, and growing the state's oil, natural gas, pipeline, petrochemical, biofuel, liquefied natural gas, and hydrogen economy as it transforms into an increasingly decarbonized future; and

Whereas, Louisiana serves a national strategic purpose in protecting our country's energy security as it produces sixteen per cent of domestic energy, and supports America's allies across the world with energy exports; and

Whereas, Louisiana officials have been in an active, years-long collaboration with the EPA to establish robust regulatory requirements and oversight of Class VI wells in order to ensure the safe implementation of carbon capture and sequestration projects in the state: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Environmental Protection Agency to take such actions as are necessary to timely review and grant the state of Louisiana's application for primacy in the administration of Class VI injection well permitting and to express support in furtherance thereof to maintain and extend Louisiana's global leadership in transformative energy innovation; and

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and submitted for inclusion in the comments for Docket Number EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0073.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Philip S. Hadji, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Margaret M. Garnett, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Rebecca C. Lutzko, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2798. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to clarify land eligible for enrollment in the conservation reserve program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2799. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 2800. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a temporary reduction of the inclusion in gross income for old-age and survivors insurance benefit payments under the Social Security Act, as well as tier 1 railroad retirement benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2801. A bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VANCE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2802. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to remove a prohibition on the use of funds relating to the provision of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2803. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2804. A bill to restore protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2805. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party funding by foreign persons, to prohibit third-party funding by foreign states and sovereign wealth funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. VANCE, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2806. A bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2807. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a grant program to conserve, restore, and manage kelp forest ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2808. A bill to provide Federal-local community partnership construction funding to local educational agencies eligible to receive payments under the Impact Aid program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. HASSAN):

S. 2809. A bill ensure references to opioid overdose reversal agents in certain grant programs of the Department of Health and Human Services are not limited to naloxone; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2810. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve access by Indian Tribes to support from universal service programs of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. LEE, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2811. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2812. A bill to support carbon dioxide removal research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2813. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2814. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2815. A bill to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing school faculty members; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2816. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make all children eligible for Medicaid from birth until age 19, to require States to automatically enroll children under age 19 in the State Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2817. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2818. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make unlawful acquisitions that would create monopolies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. RUBIO)):

S. 2819. A bill to protect and expand access to pasteurized, donor human milk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2820. A bill to amend the Antiquities Act to increase congressional oversight with respect to the designation of national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2821. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for prostate cancer screenings without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2822. A bill to strengthen and expand the Green Ribbon Schools Program at the Department of Education by boosting the capacity of participating States to expand the number of schools, applicants, and nominees engaged around environmental, environmental literacy, and environmental health goals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2823. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to safeguard beneficial tax treatment on certain expenses from bolstering the research and development sectors in foreign entities of concern; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. VANCE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LEE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2824. A bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINÉ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2825. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2826. A bill to prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINÉ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the

United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 342. A resolution congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of their independence and recognizing their substantial support to Ukraine against Russian aggression; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KAINÉ, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 343. A resolution supporting the designation of September 17, 2023, as "National Physician Suicide Awareness Day" to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 344. A resolution urging all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to spend a minimum of 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 345. A resolution supporting the designation of September 15, 2023, as "National Concussion Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 76

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 76, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partner-

ship Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. KAINÉ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1714

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to provide paid family leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make additional coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program available for crops

and grasses used for grazing, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 2315

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2315, a bill to provide for the creation of the missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2444

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2444, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2518

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2518, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make investment income of certain foreign governments subject to tax.

S. 2519

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2519, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an asset test on professional sports leagues qualifying for 501(c)(6) status.

S. 2589

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2589, a bill to amend the Research Facilities Act and the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-

form Act of 1998 to address deferred maintenance at agricultural research facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2645

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2645, a bill to reduce the health risks of heat by establishing the National Integrated Heat Health Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Integrated Heat Health Information System Interagency Committee to improve extreme heat preparedness, planning, and response, requiring a study, and establishing financial assistance programs to address heat effects, and for other purposes.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2790, a bill to reform rural housing programs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program".

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

S. RES. 334

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 334, a resolution recognizing September 11, 2023, as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance".

AMENDMENT NO. 1115

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1115 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1117

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1117 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1122

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1122 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1139

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1139 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1140

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1140 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1143

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1143 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1181

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1181 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1193

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1193 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2803. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Wounded Warrior Access Act, along with Senator BRAUN.

This legislation would streamline the process for veterans to submit a claim for benefits by giving them electronic access to their benefit claim file.

This legislation would require the VA to establish and maintain a secure online tool or website to enable a veteran or their representative to submit a request to receive their claims file, or C-File, electronically.

Allowing veterans to access their C-File electronically would allow veterans to access their information in a faster and more efficient manner.

When a veteran submits a claim for benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, a C-File is created. C-Files contain a veteran's service records, results of VA exams, additional information submitted by the veteran, and any material the VA deems necessary to decide a claim.

Currently, a veteran must travel to a regional VA location or mail in a form

to request a paper copy of their C-File, slowing down the process for individuals to gain access to their information.

The Wounded Warrior Access Act would require the VA to offer an online alternative for veterans to request their C-File. Online requests would dramatically modernize the C-File collection, decrease processing time, and reduce unnecessary appeals since more veterans will have access to all the information the VA used to decide their claims, ultimately saving the VA time and money.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Wounded Warrior Access Act as quickly as possible, and I thank Congressman PETE AGUILAR for his partnership on this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2813. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act of 2023, which I reintroduced today.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions, HSIs, provide incredible opportunities for millions of low-income and first-generation students. I am proud that my State of California is home to 170 HSIs and 47 emerging HSIs, the most in the country. That is why I launched the first-ever Senate HSI Caucus with my colleague, Senator MENENDEZ—to spotlight and advocate for the 572 HSIs across our country. These critical institutions educate our future leaders and help to build a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

During the pandemic, the number of HSIs in our country declined for the first time in two decades due to a decrease in higher education enrollment among Latino students during the pandemic. While the number of HSIs has since increased above prepandemic levels, this previous decrease illustrates the need for further investments in Latino youth. That is why I am reintroducing the HERE Act.

If enacted, this bill would support Latino students throughout secondary and postsecondary education. Specifically, the HERE Act would provide \$150 million for grants to create partnerships between HSIs and K-12 school districts that serve large populations of Latino students.

Schools could use this funding to provide academic support that better prepares students for postsecondary education. They could create new programs to foster a college-going culture

by exposing students and their families to postsecondary opportunities. And they could better support students through the college application and transition process. Additionally, schools could use grants to address non-academic needs that serve as barriers to college enrollment and completion—such as childcare, food insecurity, financial hardship, and more.

Latinos are the largest, youngest, and second fastest growing minority population in the United States. While making up about 20 percent of our country's population, Latinos comprise 26 percent of prekindergarten through grade 12 enrollment. Latino students are going to college more than ever before, but they still face lower educational outcomes, including lower grades, lower scores on standardized tests, and higher dropout rates.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country, I am proud to work with my colleagues to ensure the American dream is a reality for every student.

I want to thank Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO for introducing this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this effort to empower Latino youth.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2815. A bill to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing school faculty members; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2815

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. NURSE FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 846A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296n-1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding "AND NURSING FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM" after "LOAN PROGRAM";

(2) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To increase the number of qualified nursing faculty, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, may—

"(1) enter into an agreement with any accredited school of nursing for the establishment and operation of a student loan fund in accordance with subsection (b); and

"(2) award nurse faculty grants in accordance with subsection (c).";

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (A) through (D) of paragraph (2) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”;

(D) by striking “(b) AGREEMENTS—Each agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall—” and inserting the following:

“(b) SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENT LOAN FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall—”.

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “subsection (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(C) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

(E) in subparagraph (F)(ii), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection (c)(6)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(F)(ii)”;

(6) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as paragraphs (2) through (4), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) NURSE FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program described in subsection (a)(2) under which eligible schools of nursing receive a grant for purposes of supplementing the salaries to enhance recruitment and retention of nursing faculty members.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall—

“(A) be a school of nursing; and

“(B) submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(i)(I) to the extent such information is available to the school of nursing, the salary history of nursing faculty at such school who previously were nurses in clinical practice, for the most recent 3-year period ending on the date of application, adjusted for inflation as appropriate and broken down by credentials, experience, and levels of education of such nurses; or

“(II) if the information described in subclause (I) is not available, information on the average local salary of nurses in clinical practice, adjusted for inflation as appropriate and broken down by credentials, experience, and levels of education of the individual nurses, in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary may specify;

“(ii) an attestation of the average nursing faculty salary at the school of nursing during the most recent 3-year period prior to the date of application, adjusted for inflation, as appropriate, broken down by credentials, experience, and levels of education of such faculty members;

“(iii) the number of nursing faculty member vacancies at the entity at the time of application, and the entity’s projection of such vacancies over the ensuing 5-year period; and

“(iv) a description of the entity’s plans to identify funding sources to sustainably continue, after the 3-year grant period, the salary available to the eligible nursing faculty member pursuant to the program under this subsection during such grant program and to retain eligible nursing faculty members after the end of the grant period.

“(3) AWARDS.—A grant awarded under this subsection, with respect to supporting eligible nursing faculty members, shall—

“(A) be awarded to the school of nursing to supplement the salaries of eligible faculty members at the school of nursing, annually, for up to a 3-year period, in an amount equal to, for each eligible nursing faculty member at the eligible entity during the grant period, the difference between—

“(i) the average salary of nurses in clinical practice submitted under subclause (I) or (II) of paragraph (2)(B)(i); and

“(ii) the greater of—

“(I) the salary for the eligible nursing faculty member at the school of nursing; or

“(II) the average nursing faculty salary submitted under paragraph (2)(B)(ii) for faculty members with the same or similar credentials and level of education;

“(B) notwithstanding section 803(a), be used in its entirety to supplement the eligible faculty member’s salary; and

“(C) be conditioned upon the school of nursing maintaining, for each year in which the award is made as described in subparagraph (A), a salary for such faculty member at a level that is not less than the greater of the amount under subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure the equitable geographic distribution of awards, and shall give priority to applications from schools of nursing that demonstrate—

“(A) the greatest need for such grant, which may be based upon the financial circumstances of the school of nursing, eligible nurse faculty members, the planned number of students to be trained or admitted off a wait list;

“(B) training or partnerships to serve vulnerable patient populations, such as through the location or activity of a school in a health professional shortage area;

“(C) recruitment and retention of faculty from underrepresented populations; or

“(D) other particular need for such grant, including public institutions of higher education that offer 4-year degrees but at which the predominant degree awarded is an associate degree.

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection precludes a school of nursing or an eligible nursing faculty member receiving an award under this section from obtaining or receiving any other form of Federal support or funding.

“(6) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act of 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report that evaluates the program established under this subsection, including—

“(A) the impact of such program on recruitment and retention rates of nursing faculty, as available, and specifically for each faculty member participating in the program; and

“(B) recommendations and considerations for Congress on continuing the program under this section through the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE NURSING FACULTY MEMBER.—The term “eligible nursing faculty member” means a nursing faculty member who—

“(i) was hired by a school of nursing within the 2-year period preceding the submission of an application under paragraph (2), or a prospective nursing faculty member;

“(ii) is currently employed at the school of nursing and who demonstrates the need for such support;

“(iii) previously worked as a nurse in clinical practice or as a nurse faculty member at another school of nursing; or

“(iv) may work on a part-time basis as a nursing faculty member, for whom such award amounts described in paragraph (3) shall be prorated relative to the amount of time participating in part-time teaching.

“(B) INFLATION.—The term “inflation” means the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (all items; U.S. city average).

“(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated \$28,500,000 for each of fiscal year 2024 through 2028.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 342—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND RECOGNIZING THEIR SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT TO UKRAINE AGAINST RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 342

Whereas, on January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson called for the free “autonomous development” of the peoples of Austria-Hungary in the “Fourteen Points” address to a joint session of Congress, contributing to the support of an independent Czech and Slovak nation state;

Whereas the peoples of the present-day Czech Republic and Slovak Republic proclaimed independence on October 28, 1918, and October 30, 1918, respectively, forming the common state of the Republic of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on November 12, 1918, the United States and Czechoslovakia established formal diplomatic relations;

Whereas, in February 1948, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia seized power from the democratically elected government of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas, on August 20, 1968, 20 Soviet and Warsaw Pact military divisions invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the Prague Spring, a period of increased political and economic liberty following the appointment of Alexander Dubcek as First Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party;

Whereas, in the nonviolent Velvet Revolution of November 1989, the peoples of both nations overthrew 40 years of totalitarian communist rule and ended two decades of Soviet occupation;

Whereas, after the Velvet Revolution, the peoples of Czechoslovakia established vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political systems based on free-market economics, freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair elections, the rule of law, and respect for human rights—values embodied by Vaclav Havel, the first president of Czechoslovakia after the fall of communism in that country;

Whereas, on February 21, 1990, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel delivered his historic address before the joint session of the United States Congress on Czechoslovakia’s path to democracy;

Whereas, on January 1, 1993, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic were formally created as independent nation states after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, owing to substantial support from the United States, joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on March 12, 1999, and March 29, 2004, respectively, and have made significant contributions to collective defense and the operations of NATO as well as international coalitions led by the United States around the world;

Whereas the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic continue to demonstrate their strong commitment to advancing democracy, free trade, respect for human rights, international peace and security, and the rules-based international order through their membership in the European Union and other international organizations;

Whereas the peoples of the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic have forged a special relationship based on their shared historic ties, mutual respect, close cooperation, and the shared values of democracy, free trade, respect for human rights, international peace and security, and the rules-based international order;

Whereas, in 2023, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the National Guard State Partnership Program with the National Guards of Texas, Nebraska, and Indiana, a program which has contributed to military readiness and interoperability between the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic;

Whereas the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic stand united in support of the people and Government of Ukraine against Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine; and

Whereas the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic are major contributors to political, humanitarian, economic, and military assistance to Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the peoples of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic for overthrowing totalitarian communist rule in 1989 and asserting their right to self-determination and affirming their allegiance to the values of democracy, free-market economics, and respect for human rights through the peaceful, nonviolent Velvet Revolution;

(2) celebrates the lasting contributions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to science, the arts, culture, music, literature, politics, trade, and international affairs;

(3) applauds the achievements of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in building free, open, democratic, and prosperous societies over the past 30 years;

(4) congratulates the peoples of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of their independence and the 105th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic;

(5) congratulates the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic for their leadership in the European Union;

(6) expresses gratitude for the solidarity of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic as they stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their fight against Russia's brutal, unprovoked, and illegal invasion;

(7) reaffirms the historical and transnational ties that bind together the countries and peoples of the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, and the United States as freedom-loving peoples and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(8) recognizes the importance of the United States, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic partnership, as long-standing partners and as NATO allies, in addressing common threats and challenges, including in the areas of climate change, energy security, advanced technologies, cyber security, and resilience to disinformation and hybrid threats;

(9) applauds the commitment of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to spend two percent of their gross domestic products on defense by 2024, an important commitment they have made as NATO allies; and

(10) expresses the United States commitment to further strengthen transatlantic ties and regional security through NATO, supports a faster pace of modernization of the Czech and Slovak armed forces in light of the clear threat to transatlantic peace and security posed by Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and reaffirms commitment to continue working to address new and emerging threats to our security, including the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and other authoritarian actors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 343—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, AS “NATIONAL PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND PROMOTE A NATIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT, PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AND TO REDUCE THE STIGMA OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Whereas physicians work under intense pressure and are exposed to trauma on the job;

Whereas the risk of suicide within the medical profession is among the highest rates of any occupation;

Whereas each year in the United States roughly 300 to 400 physicians die by suicide;

Whereas the suicide rate—

(1) among male physicians is 1.41 times higher than the general male population; and

(2) among female physicians is even more pronounced, being 2.27 times higher than the general female population;

Whereas difficult working conditions, burdensome administrative tasks, long hours, grief over losing patients, and watching the families of patients suffer add a layer of extreme stress for many frontline workers;

Whereas mental health and physical health are equally important components of overall health;

Whereas there are structural barriers in place that discourage self-care and mental health help-seeking behaviors among physicians; and

Whereas a day of public awareness and education campaigns is held on September 17 each year to shine a light on the tragedy of physician suicide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goal of National Physician Suicide Awareness Day to bring national attention to the mental health crisis affecting physicians in the United States;

(2) dedicates a day of reflection to honor the memory of physicians who have died by suicide;

(3) recognizes the need for greater research into understanding and addressing the issues surrounding physician suicide, including the barriers to treatment, help-seeking behav-

iors to address burnout, and mental care options to prevent physician suicide; and

(4) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe National Physician Suicide Awareness Day with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 344—URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION TO SPEND A MINIMUM OF 2 PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON DEFENSE

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 344

Whereas, in 2006, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (commonly known as “NATO”) first agreed to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas, in 2014 at the NATO Summit in Wales, all member countries once again committed to maintain or move toward meeting the 2-percent defense spending minimum within 10 years;

Whereas, by 2022, only 11 member countries met the 2-percent minimum, including the United States and the United Kingdom, which were the only 2 major economies;

Whereas many member countries issued statements pledging to meet the 2-percent minimum following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, yet many member countries are projected to not reach the minimum until as late as 2035; and

Whereas, despite increased spending by some member countries, the United States, which accounts for more than 50 percent of the combined gross domestic product of NATO, ultimately pays 70 percent of the combined defense expenditures of NATO: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) agrees that the lack of sufficient progress towards 2-percent gross domestic product defense spending by member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (commonly known as “NATO”) is politically and economically unsustainable;

(2) views the failure of many of United States allies, including some of the largest member countries of NATO, to meet the 2-percent defense spending minimum has the potential—

(A) to undermine support for NATO by the people of the United States;

(B) to severely limit the ability of countries in Europe to contribute to a shared interest in defending against the Russian Federation; and

(C) to become a source of long-term instability in Europe and frustration for taxpayers in the United States;

(3) commends member countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, whose individual contributions constitute 10 percent or more of the NATO direct funding and programs budget;

(4) commends member countries that have contributed significant weapons and equipment at substantial individual cost in support of Ukraine against the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the morally reprehensible destruction of civilian lives and infrastructure by the Russian Federation;

(5) commends member countries, such as Greece, the United Kingdom, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, that have taken strides to either meet or exceed the spending commitment; and

(6) urges all member countries to prioritize defense spending and to meet their obligations to NATO.

SENATE RESOLUTION 345—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, AS “NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 345

Whereas mild traumatic brain injury, otherwise known as a concussion, is an important health concern for children, teens, and adults;

Whereas, according to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—

(1) there are as many as 1,600,000 to 3,800,000 sports-related concussions annually;

(2) as many as 5,300,000 individuals live with the long-term effects of a traumatic brain injury;

(3) between 2010 and 2016, an estimated 2,000,000 children under age 18 visited an emergency department because of a traumatic brain injury sustained during sports- or recreation-related activities;

(4) each year an estimated 283,000 children seek care in emergency departments in the United States for a sports- or recreation-related traumatic brain injury, with traumatic brain injuries sustained in contact sports accounting for approximately 45 percent of those visits;

(5) research suggests that many children with a traumatic brain injury do not seek care in emergency departments or do not seek care at all, resulting in a significant underestimate of prevalence; and

(6) approximately 15 percent of all high school students in the United States self-reported 1 or more sports- or recreation-related concussions within the preceding 12 months;

Whereas the seriousness of concussions should not be minimized in athletics, and return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols can help ensure recovery;

Whereas concussions can affect physical, mental, and social health, and a greater awareness and understanding of proper diagnosis and management of concussions is critical to improved outcomes; and

Whereas the Senate can raise awareness about concussions among the medical community and the public: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of September 15, 2023, as “National Concussion Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that mild traumatic brain injury, otherwise known as a concussion, is an important health concern;

(3) commends the organizations and individuals that raise awareness about mild traumatic brain injury;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together—

(A) to raise awareness about the effects of concussions; and

(B) to improve the understanding of proper diagnosis and management of concussions; and

(5) encourages further research and prevention efforts to ensure that fewer individuals experience the most adverse effects of mild traumatic brain injury.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1194. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1195. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1196. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1197. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1198. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1199. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1200. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1201. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1202. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1203. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1204. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1205. Mrs. MURRAY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1206. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1207. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1208. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1209. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 pro-

posed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1210. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1211. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1212. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1213. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1214. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1215. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1216. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1217. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1218. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1219. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1220. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1221. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1222. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1223. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1224. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1225. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1226. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1194. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH” under the heading “NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION” in title I of division C, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used to issue, implement, or enforce a new final rule relating to corporate average fuel economy standards or fuel efficiency standards.”.

SA 1195. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter preceding division A, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR SURGICAL OR NON-SURGICAL TREATMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 RELATING TO GENDER TRANSITIONS.

None of the funds made available by division A, B, or C of this Act may be used for surgical or non-surgical treatments for individuals under the age of 18 relating to gender transitions.

SA 1196. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 164, lines 16 through 19, strike “: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress”.

SA 1197. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this division may be used to implement any of the following:

(1) Executive Order 13990 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to protecting public health and the environment and restoring science to tackle the climate crisis).

(2) Executive Order 14008 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad).

(3) Section 6 of Executive Order 14013 (8 U.S.C. 1157 note; relating to rebuilding and enhancing programs to resettle refugees and planning for the impact of climate change on migration).

(4) Executive Order 14030 (15 U.S.C. 2901 note; relating to climate-related financial risk).

(5) Executive Order 14057 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to catalyzing clean energy industries and jobs through Federal sustainability).

(6) Executive Order 14082 (87 Fed. Reg. 56861; relating to implementation of the energy and infrastructure provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022).

(7) Executive Order 14096 (88 Fed. Reg. 25251; relating to revitalizing our nation’s commitment to environmental justice for all).

SA 1198. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, insert after section 127 the following:

SEC. 128. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rulemaking entitled “National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure” (87 Fed. Reg. 42401 (July 15, 2022)) or a successor regulation.

SA 1199. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT” in title III of division B, strike “\$351,087,000” and insert “\$527,182,000”.

SA 1200. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR PROVIDING GRANTS, FUNDING, OR ANY FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO CHINESE ENTITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to provide grants, funding, or any financial benefit to any entity, including any corporation, that—

(1) is organized under the laws of, is headquartered in, or has its principal place of business in the People’s Republic of China, including any Special Administrative Region; or

(2) is subject to the control (as defined in section 800.208 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)) of an entity described in paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITION OF CORPORATION.—In this section, the term “corporation”—

(1) means an entity with the business structure of a corporation, a company, a limited liability company, a limited partnership, a business trust, a business association, or another similar entity; and

(2) includes any subsidiary or branch of an entity described in paragraph (1).

SA 1201. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REPORT CERTAIN INFORMATION TO NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.**

None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended for 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, Code of Federal Regulations, to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system established pursuant to section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901).

SA 1202. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for research on East Coast shellfish.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available by this Act under the heading “Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Farm Service Agency—State Mediation Grants” in title II shall be \$6,000,000.

SA 1203. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Of the funds made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment”, \$29,350,000 shall be for the aeronautical information management program, which includes Federal notices to air missions (“NOTAM”) sustainment, enhancements, and modernization in support of the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

SA 1204. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, insert the following after section 119C:

SEC. 119H. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to operate, procure, or enter into a contracting action related to acquiring any unmanned aircraft system (as defined in section 44801(12) of title 49, United States Code) manufactured by an entity that is—

(1) included on the Consolidated Screening List or Entity List as designated by the Secretary of Commerce;

(2) included in the Chinese Military-Industrial Complex list by the Secretary of the Treasury;

(3) included in the 1260H list by the Secretary of Defense;

(4) domiciled in the People’s Republic of China;

(5) subject to influence or control by the Government of the People’s Republic of China; or

(6) a subsidiary or affiliate of an entity described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(b) Any restrictions under subsection (a) are exempted if the operation, procurement, or contracting action is for the purposes of counter-UAS testing, analysis, training, or aviation safety testing and research and notification is provided in writing not later than 15 days after making such an expenditure to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Com-

mittee on Appropriations of the Senate in a manner that identifies the unmanned aircraft system or systems and its intended use, provided that such report may include a classified annex as necessary.

SA 1205. Mrs. MURRAY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1206. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. THRIFTY FOOD PLAN COST ADJUSTMENTS FOR HAWAII DURING DISASTER DECLARATION.

For the period during which the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Hawaii is in effect, no cost adjustments shall be made to the thrifty food plan with respect to Hawaii (as defined in section 3(u) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(u))) pursuant to paragraph (2) of that section.

SA 1207. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to 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; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 8 days after the date enactment of this Act.

SA 1208. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) the amount made available under this Act for necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service shall be \$239,891,000;

(2) of the amount made available under paragraph (1), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be to carry out section 12513 of Public Law 115-334, of which

\$23,000,000 shall be for dairy business innovation initiatives established in Public Law 116-6; and

(3) the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading “Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Farm Production and Conservation Business Center—Salaries and Expenses” in title II shall be \$239,684,000.

SA 1209. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON IMPACT OF PROPOSED RULE ON ACCESS OF VETERANS TO LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the impact of the proposed rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to “Medicare and Medicaid programs; minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities and Medicaid institutional payment transparency reporting” (88 Fed. Reg. 61352; published September 6, 2023) on the access of veterans to long-term care facilities under the laws administered by the Secretary, which shall include the following:

(1) The number of State homes at which current staffing would not meet the threshold for minimum staffing outlined in such proposed rule.

(2) The number of veterans who reside in a State home described in paragraph (1).

(3) The number of community nursing homes currently contracted with the Department of Veterans Affairs that would not meet the threshold for minimum staffing outlined in such proposed rule.

(4) The number of veterans who reside in a community nursing home described in paragraph (3).

(5) An assessment of whether or not such proposed rule would have any impact on community living centers of the Department.

(6) An analysis of whether the Department will be able to adequately meet the long-term care needs of veterans after the full implementation of such proposed rule, including veterans in—

(A) rural and highly rural areas;

(B) medically underserved areas;

(C) territories of the United States; or

(D) Tribal areas.

(7) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) STATE HOME.—The term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

SA 1210. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or made available by this division for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 may be used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID-19 virus.

SA 1211. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS RELATED TO GRANTS FOR VETERANS' CEMETERIES THAT ALLOW THE INTERMENT OF HMONG VETERANS.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to recover grant funds made to a State, county, or tribal organization under section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, nor deny an application by a State, county, or tribal organization for a grant under such section, for a veterans' cemetery owned by that State or county or on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, that tribal organization solely on the basis that the State, county, or tribal organization allows the interment of individuals described in section 2402(a)(10) of title 38, United States Code, in such cemetery.

SA 1212. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Of the amount appropriated under the heading "OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY" under the heading "PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I, \$1,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a), in addition to the amount made available for that section under the heading "SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" under the heading "FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE" under the heading "DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS" in title IV.

SA 1213. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading "HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY" under the heading "HOUSING PROGRAMS" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT" in title II of division C, insert "or to facilitate the prepayment of any indebtedness relating to any remaining principal interest under the loan made under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) (as in effect on November 27, 1990)" after "development of such units".

SA 1214. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Using amounts made available for the Federal Aviation Administration under this Act that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on whether, and the degree to which, the Federal Aviation Administration's workforce development programs authorized in section 625 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) have: (1) helped to expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthened aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encouraged the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities. In submitting this report, the Federal Aviation Administration shall also provide recommendations on how it can better use its workforce development grant programs to: (1) expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthen aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encouraged the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities.

SA 1215. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 232 of title II of division A, add the following:

(D) include a review of methods used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through

the hotline, and the ability of the hotline, to reach individuals in rural communities who may not have reliable telecommunications access.

SA 1216. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PRIORITIZATION OF USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN TELEHEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prioritize the use of any amounts provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under this division for telehealth services or mental health programs, including for suicide prevention outreach and treatment programs or the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code, in States with the highest rate of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

SA 1217. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUDIT REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 714 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete an audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks under subsection (b) of that section not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the audit required pursuant to subsection (a) is completed, the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) shall submit to Congress a report on the audit; and

(B) shall make the report described in subparagraph (A) available to the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Chair and Ranking Member of the committee and each subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and any other Member of Congress who requests the report.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of the findings and conclusion of the Comptroller General of the United States with respect to the audit that is the subject of the report, together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Comptroller General of the

United States may determine to be appropriate.

(c) **REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.**—Subsection (b) of section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

(d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “or (f)” each place the term appears;

(B) in subsection (e), by striking “the third undesignated paragraph of section 13” and inserting “section 13(3)”; and

(C) by striking subsection (f).

(2) **FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.**—Subsection (s) (relating to “Federal Reserve Transparency and Release of Information”) of section 11 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “has the same meaning as in section 714(f)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code” and inserting “means a program or facility, including any special purpose vehicle or other entity established by or on behalf of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or a Federal reserve bank, authorized by the Board of Governors under section 13(3), that is not subject to audit under section 714(e) of title 31, United States Code”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “or in section 714(f)(3)(C) of title 31, United States Code, the information described in paragraph (1) and information concerning the transactions described in section 714(f) of such title,” and inserting “the information described in paragraph (1)”; and

(C) in paragraph (7), by striking “and section 13(3)(C), section 714(f)(3)(C) of title 31, United States Code, and” and inserting “, section 13(3)(C), and”.

SA 1218. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.

Using \$10,000,000 of the discretionary funds of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a pilot program to provide remote delivery of school meals to students eligible for free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or the summer food service program under section 13 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) as part of the child and adult care food program under section 17 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1766).

SA 1219. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . HOT FOOD UNDER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

(1) in subsection (k)(1), by striking “consumption except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption other than those authorized pursuant to clauses (3), (4), (5), (7), (8), and (9) of this subsection” and inserting “consumption, including hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption and excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco”;

(2) in subsection (o)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and consumption” and inserting “or home or immediate consumption”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking the subparagraph designation and all that follows through “offers” and inserting the following:

“(A)(i) offers”;

(ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking “or” at the end and inserting “and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) of which not more than 50 percent of the total gross sales are from hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption; or”; and

(3) in subsection (q)(2)—

(A) by striking “include accessory” and inserting the following: “include—

“(A) accessory”;

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption.”.

SA 1220. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 104 of the amendment, line 11, insert “, and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for the suppression and control of Mormon crickets in western States” before the semicolon.

SA 1221. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 747 of division B, insert “or seafood” after “poultry products”.

SA 1222. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)

submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

TITLE V

REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY ACT

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 501. This title may be cited as the “Reforming Disaster Recovery Act”.

FINDINGS

SEC. 502. Congress finds that—

(1) following a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the subset of communities that are most impacted and distressed as a result of the disaster face critical social, economic, and environmental obstacles to recovery, including insufficient public and private resources to address disaster-related housing and community development needs for lower income households and distressed communities;

(2) unmet disaster recovery needs, including housing assistance needs, can be especially widespread among persons with extremely low, low, and moderate incomes;

(3) economic, social, and housing hardships that affect communities before disasters are exacerbated during crises and can delay and complicate long-term recovery, especially after catastrophic major disasters;

(4) States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes within the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from major disasters benefit from flexibility to design programs that meet local needs, but face inadequate financial, technical, and staffing capacity to plan and carry out sustained recovery, restoration, and mitigation activities;

(5) the speed and effectiveness considerations of long-term recovery from catastrophic major disasters is improved by predictable investments that support disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, and economic revitalization, primarily for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons;

(6) undertaking activities that mitigate the effects of future natural disasters and extreme weather and increase the stock of affordable housing, including affordable rental housing, as part of long-term recovery can significantly reduce future fiscal and social costs, especially within high-risk areas, and can help to address outstanding housing and community development needs by creating jobs and providing other economic and social benefits within communities that further promote recovery and resilience; and

(7) the general welfare and security of the nation and the health and living standards of its people require targeted resources to support State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities in disaster recovery and mitigation through interim and long-term housing and community development activities that primarily benefit persons of low and moderate income.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 503. In this Act:

(1) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under section 505.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 504. (a) IN GENERAL.—The offices and officers of the Department shall be responsible for—

(1) leading and coordinating the disaster-related responsibilities of the Department under the National Response Framework, the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and the National Mitigation Framework;

(2) coordinating and administering programs, policies, and activities of the Department related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, resiliency, and mitigation, including disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(3) supporting disaster-impacted communities as those communities specifically assess, plan for, and address the housing stock and housing needs in the transition from emergency shelters and interim housing to permanent housing of those displaced, especially among vulnerable populations and extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households;

(4) collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and across the Department to align disaster-related regulations and policies, including incorporation of consensus-based codes and standards and insurance purchase requirements, and ensuring coordination and reducing duplication among other Federal disaster recovery programs;

(5) promoting best practices in mitigation and land use planning, including consideration of traditional, natural, and nature-based infrastructure alternatives;

(6) coordinating technical assistance, including mitigation, resiliency, and recovery training and information on all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, to entities that receive disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) that demonstrate capacity constraints; and

(7) supporting State, Tribal, and local governments in developing, coordinating, and maintaining their capacity for disaster resilience and recovery, and developing pre-disaster recovery and hazard mitigation plans, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other Federal agencies.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency shall—

“(A) be responsible for oversight and coordination of all departmental disaster preparedness and response responsibilities; and

“(B) coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Community Planning and Development and other offices of the Department in supporting recovery and resilience activities to provide a comprehensive approach in working with communities.”.

LONG-TERM DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

SEC. 505. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund.

(b) DEPOSITS, TRANSFERS, AND CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated, transferred, and credited to the Fund.

(2) TRANSFERS.—The following may be transferred to the Fund:

(A) Amounts made available through section 106(c)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4)) as a result of actions taken under section 104(e), 111, or 123(j) of such Act.

(B) Any unobligated balances available until expended remaining or subsequently recaptured from amounts appropriated for any disaster and related purposes under the heading “Community Development Fund” in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund.

(3) USE OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—Amounts transferred to the Fund shall be used for the eligible uses described in subsection (c).

(c) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available—

(A) to provide assistance in the form of grants under section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506; and

(B) for activities of the Department that support the provision of such assistance, including necessary salaries and expenses, information technology, capacity building and technical assistance (including assistance related to pre-disaster planning), and readiness and other pre-disaster planning activities that are not readily attributable to a single major disaster.

(2) SET ASIDE.—Of each amount appropriated for or transferred to the Fund, 2 percent shall be made available for activities described in paragraph (1)(B), which shall be in addition to other amounts made available for those activities.

(3) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available for use in accordance with paragraph (2)—

(A) may be transferred to the account under the heading for “Program Offices—Community Planning and Development”, or any successor account, for the Department to carry out activities described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) may be used for the activities described in paragraph (1)(B) and for the administrative costs of administering any funds appropriated to the Department under the heading “Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund” for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) in any Act before the establishment of the Fund.

(d) INTERCHANGEABILITY OF PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund and transferred to the account under the heading “Program Offices Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development”, or any predecessor account, for the Department for the costs of administering funds appropriated to the Department under the heading “Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund” for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) shall be available for the costs of administering any such funds provided by any prior or future Act, notwithstanding the purposes for which those amounts were appropriated and in addition to any amount provided for the same purposes in other appropriations Acts.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated, transferred and credited to the Fund shall remain available until expended.

(f) FORMULA ALLOCATION.—Use of amounts in the Fund for grants shall be made by formula allocation in accordance with the requirements of section 123(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such sums as may be necessary to respond to current or future major disasters declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) for grants under section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

SEC. 506. Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(a) (42 U.S.C. 5302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (20)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting “or (B)” after “subparagraph (A)”; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) The term ‘persons of extremely low income’ means families and individuals whose income levels do not exceed household income levels determined by the Secretary under section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(C)), except that the Secretary may provide alternative definitions for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(25) The term ‘major disaster’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).”;

(2) in section 106(c)(4) (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act”;

(ii) by inserting “States for use in non-entitlement areas and to” before “metropolitan cities”; and

(iii) by inserting “major” after “affected by the”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “metropolitan city or” and inserting “State, metropolitan city, or”;

(ii) by striking “city or county” and inserting “State, city, or county”; and

(iii) by inserting “major” before “disaster”;

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “metropolitan cities and” and inserting “States, metropolitan cities, and”;

(D) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “metropolitan city or” and inserting “State, metropolitan city, or”;

(ii) by inserting “major” before “disaster”; and

(E) in subparagraph (G), by striking “metropolitan city or” and inserting “State, metropolitan city, or”;

(3) in section 122 (42 U.S.C. 5321), by striking “disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act” and inserting “major disaster”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 123. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION, FORMULA, AND ALLOCATION.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized to make community development

block grant disaster recovery grants from the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under section 505 of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act (hereinafter referred to as the 'Fund') for necessary expenses for activities authorized under subsection (f)(1) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

“(2) GRANT AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this section to States, units of general local government, and Indian tribes based on capacity and the concentration of damage, as determined by the Secretary, to support the efficient and effective administration of funds.

“(3) SECTION 106 ALLOCATIONS.—Grants under this section shall not be considered relevant to the formula allocations made pursuant to section 106.

“(4) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue a notice in the Federal Register containing the latest formula allocation methodologies used to determine the total estimate of unmet needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

“(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—If the Secretary has not already requested public comment on the formula described in the notice required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall solicit public comments on—

“(i) the methodologies described in subparagraph (A) and seek alternative methods for formula allocation within a similar total amount of funding;

“(ii) the impact of formula methodologies on rural areas and Tribal areas;

“(iii) adjustments to improve targeting to the most serious needs;

“(iv) objective criteria for grantee capacity and concentration of damage to inform grantee determinations and minimum allocation thresholds; and

“(v) research and data to inform an additional amount to be provided for mitigation depending on type of disaster, which shall be no more than 30 percent of the total estimate of unmet needs.

“(5) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a formula to allocate assistance from the Fund to the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

“(B) FORMULA REQUIREMENTS.—The formula established under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) set forth criteria to determine that a major disaster is catastrophic, which criteria shall consider the presence of a high concentration of damaged housing or businesses that individual, State, Tribal, and local resources could not reasonably be expected to address without additional Federal assistance, or other nationally encompassing data that the Secretary determines are adequate to assess relative impact and distress across geographic areas.

“(ii) include a methodology for identifying most impacted and distressed areas, which shall consider unmet serious needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure;

“(iii) include an allocation calculation that considers the unmet serious needs resulting from the catastrophic major disaster and an additional amount up to 30 percent for activities to reduce risks of loss resulting from other natural disasters in the most impacted and distressed area, primarily for the

benefit of low- and moderate-income persons, with particular focus on activities that reduce repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure; and

“(iv) establish objective criteria for periodic review and updates to the formula to reflect changes in available science and data.

“(C) MINIMUM ALLOCATION THRESHOLD.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a minimum allocation threshold.

“(D) INTERIM ALLOCATION.—Until such time that the Secretary issues final regulations under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) allocate assistance from the Fund using the formula allocation methodology published in accordance with paragraph (4); and

“(ii) include an additional amount for mitigation equal to 15 percent of the total estimate of unmet need.

“(6) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(i) except as provided in clause (ii), not later than 90 days after the President declares a major disaster, use best available data to determine whether the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula in paragraph (4) or (5), unless data is insufficient to make this determination; and

“(ii) if the best available data is insufficient to make the determination required under clause (i) within the 90-day period described in that clause, the Secretary shall determine whether the major disaster qualifies when sufficient data becomes available, but in no case shall the Secretary make the determination later than 120 days after the declaration of the major disaster.

“(B) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLOCATION.—If amounts are available in the Fund at the time the Secretary determines that the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula in paragraph (4) or (5), the Secretary shall immediately announce an allocation for a grant under this section.

“(C) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If additional amounts are appropriated to the Fund after amounts are allocated under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall announce an allocation or additional allocation (if a prior allocation under subparagraph (B) was less than the formula calculation) within 15 days of any such appropriation.

“(7) PRELIMINARY FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To speed recovery, the Secretary is authorized to allocate and award preliminary grants from the Fund before making a determination under paragraph (6) if the Secretary projects, based on a preliminary assessment of impact and distress, that a major disaster is catastrophic and would likely qualify for funding under the formula in paragraph (4) or (5).

“(B) AMOUNT.—

“(i) MAXIMUM.—The Secretary may award preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) in an amount that is not more than \$5,000,000.

“(ii) SLIDING SCALE.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a sliding scale for preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) based on the size of the preliminary assessment of impact and distress.

“(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The uses of preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to eligible activities that—

“(i) in the determination of the Secretary, will support faster recovery, improve the ability of the grantee to assess unmet recovery needs, plan for the prevention of improper payments, and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse; and

“(ii) may include evaluating the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive service needs of the disaster impacted com-

munity, with special attention to vulnerable populations, such as homeless and low- to moderate-income households, to inform the grantee action plan required under subsection (c).

“(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING.—Preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) is not subject to the certification requirements of paragraph (h)(1); and

“(ii) shall not be considered when calculating the amount of the grant used for administrative costs, technical assistance, and planning activities that are subject to the requirements under subsection (f)(2).

“(E) WAIVER.—To expedite the use of preliminary funding for activities described in this paragraph, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements to the requirements of this section in accordance with subsection (i).

“(F) AMENDED AWARD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An award for preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) may be amended to add any subsequent amount awarded because of a determination by the Secretary that a major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula.

“(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), amounts provided by an amendment under clause (i) are subject to the requirements under subsections (h)(1) and (f)(1) and other requirements on grant funds under this section.

“(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Concurrent with the allocation of any preliminary funding awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall assign or provide technical assistance to the recipient of the grant.

“(b) INTERCHANGEABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

“(A) is authorized to approve the use of grants under this section to be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a declaration of another catastrophic major disaster that qualifies for assistance under the formula established under paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (a) or am major disaster for which the Secretary allocated funds made available under the heading ‘Community Development Fund’ in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund; and

“(B) shall establish requirements to expedite the use of grants under this section for the purpose described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Amounts repurposed pursuant to this subsection that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 951(b)(2)(A)(i)).

“(c) GRANTEE PLANS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary announces a grant allocation under this section, unless an extension is granted by the Secretary, the grantee shall submit to the Secretary a plan for approval describing—

“(A) the activities the grantee will carry out with the grant under this section;

“(B) the criteria of the grantee for awarding assistance and selecting activities;

“(C) how the use of the grant under this section will address disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas

“(D) how the use of the grant funds for mitigation is consistent with hazard mitigation plans submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency under section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165);

“(E) the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income;

“(F) how the use of grant funds will repair and replace existing housing stock for vulnerable populations, including low- to moderate-income households;

“(G) how the grantee will address the priorities described in paragraph (5);

“(H) how uses of funds are proportional to unmet needs, as required under paragraph (5);

“(I) for State grantees that plan to distribute grant amounts to units of general local government, a description of the method of distribution; and

“(J) such other information as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

“(2) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—To permit public examination and appraisal of the plan described in paragraph (1), to enhance the public accountability of grantees, and to facilitate coordination of activities with different levels of government, when developing the plan or substantial amendments proposed to the plan required under paragraph (1), a grantee shall—

“(A) publish the plan before adoption;

“(B) provide citizens, affected units of general local government, and other interested parties with reasonable notice of, and opportunity to comment on, the plan, with a public comment period of not less than 14 days;

“(C) consider comments received before submission to the Secretary;

“(D) follow a citizen participation plan for disaster assistance adopted by the grantee that, at a minimum, provides for participation of residents of the most impacted and distressed area affected by the major disaster that resulted in the grant under this section and other considerations established by the Secretary; and

“(E) undertake any consultation with interested parties as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

“(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) by regulation, specify criteria for the approval, partial approval, or disapproval of a plan submitted under paragraph (1), including approval of substantial amendments to the plan;

“(B) review a plan submitted under paragraph (1) upon receipt of the plan;

“(C) allow a grantee to revise and resubmit a plan or substantial amendment to a plan under paragraph (1) that the Secretary disapproves;

“(D) by regulation, specify criteria for when the grantee shall be required to provide the required revisions to a disapproved plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) for public comment prior to resubmission of the plan or substantial amendment to the Secretary; and

“(E) approve, partially approve, or disapprove a plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date on which the plan or substantial amendment is received by the Secretary.

“(4) LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME OVERALL BENEFIT.—

“(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 70 percent of a grant made under this section shall be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income unless the Secretary—

“(i) specifically finds that—

“(I) there is compelling need to reduce the percentage for the grant; and

“(II) the housing needs of low- and moderate-income residents have been addressed; and

“(ii) issues a waiver and alternative requirements pursuant to subsection (i) to lower the percentage.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish protocols consistent with the findings of section 502 of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act to prioritize the use of funds by a grantee under this section to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income persons and businesses serving primarily persons of low and moderate income.

“(5) PRIORITIZATION.—The grantee shall prioritize activities that—

“(A) assist persons with extremely low, low, and moderate incomes and other vulnerable populations to better recover from and withstand future disasters, emphasizing those with the most severe needs;

“(B) address affordable housing, including affordable rental housing, needs arising from a disaster or those needs present prior to a disaster;

“(C) prolong the life of housing and infrastructure;

“(D) use cost-effective means of preventing harm to people and property and incorporate protective features, redundancies, energy savings; and

“(E) other measures that will assure the continuation of critical services during future disasters.

“(6) PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this section shall allocate grant funds proportional to unmet needs between housing activities, economic revitalization, and infrastructure, unless the Secretary—

“(i) specifically finds that—

“(I) there is a compelling need for a disproportional allocation among those unmet needs; and

“(II) the disproportional allocation described in subclause (I) is not inconsistent with the requirements under paragraph (4); and

“(ii) issues a waiver and alternative requirement pursuant to subsection (i) to allow for the disproportional allocation described in clause (i)(I).

“(B) HOUSING ACTIVITIES.—With respect to housing activities described in subparagraph (A)(i), grantees should address proportional needs between homeowners and renters, including low-income households in public housing and federally subsidized housing.

“(7) DISASTER RISK MITIGATION.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘hazard-prone areas’—

“(i) means areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, at risk from natural hazards that threaten property damage or health, safety, and welfare, such as floods, wildfires (including Wildland-Urban Interface areas), earthquakes, lava inundation, tornados, and high winds; and

“(ii) includes areas having special flood hazards as identified under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4002 et seq.) or the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

“(B) HAZARD-PRONE AREAS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish minimum construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for the use of grant funds in hazard-prone areas.

“(C) SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS.—For the areas described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the insurance purchase requirements established under subparagraph (B) shall meet or exceed the requirements under section 102(a) of the

Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(a)).

“(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE RISKS.—The Secretary may consider future risks to protecting property and health, safety, and general welfare, and the likelihood of those risks, when making the determination of or modification to hazard-prone areas under this paragraph.

“(8) RELOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) shall apply to activities assisted under this section to the extent determined by the Secretary in regulation, or as provided in waivers and alternative requirements authorized in accordance with subsection (i).

“(B) POLICY.—Each grantee under this section shall establish a relocation assistance policy that—

“(i) minimizes displacement and describes the benefits available to persons displaced as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition in connection with an activity that is assisted by a grant under this section; and

“(ii) includes any appeal rights or other requirements that the Secretary establishes by regulation.

“(9) TREATMENT AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—All grants under this section shall be treated as financial assistance for purposes of section 3(a)(3) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4003(a)(3)).

“(d) CERTIFICATIONS.—Any grant under this section shall be made only if the grantee certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

“(1) the grantee is in full compliance with the requirements under subsection (c)(2);

“(2) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, the grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

“(3) the projected use of funds has been developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income families and activities described in subsection (c)(5), and may also include activities that are designed to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight to support disaster recovery, meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs, and alleviate future threats to human populations, critical natural resources, and property that an analysis of hazards shows are likely to result from natural disasters in the future;

“(4) the grant funds shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income as described in subsection (c)(4);

“(5) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, within 24 months of receiving a grant or at the time of its 3 or 5-year update, whichever is sooner, the grantee will review and make modifications to its non-disaster housing and community development plans and strategies required by subsections (c) and (m) of section 104 to reflect the disaster recovery needs identified by the grantee and consistency with the plan under subsection (c)(1);

“(6) the grantee will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or part under this section by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition

of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless—

“(A) funds received under this section are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this chapter; or

“(B) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that the grantee lacks sufficient funds received under this section to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A);

“(7) the grantee will comply with the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section and with other applicable laws;

“(8) the grantee will follow a relocation assistance policy that includes any minimum requirements identified by the Secretary; and

“(9) the grantee will adhere to construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for development in hazard-prone areas described in subsection (c)(7).

“(e) PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis, make such reviews and audits as may be necessary or appropriate to determine whether a grantee under this section has—

“(A) carried out activities using grant funds in a timely manner;

“(B) met the performance targets established by paragraph (2);

“(C) carried out activities using grant funds in accordance with the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws; and

“(D) a continuing capacity to carry out activities in a timely manner.

“(2) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—The Secretary shall develop and make publicly available critical performance targets for review, which shall include spending thresholds for each year from the date on which funds are obligated by the Secretary to the grantee until such time all funds have been expended.

“(3) FAILURE TO MEET TARGETS.—

“(A) SUSPENSION.—If a grantee under this section fails to meet 1 or more critical performance targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary may temporarily suspend the grant.

“(B) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the Secretary suspends a grant under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the grantee a performance improvement plan with the specific requirements needed to lift the suspension within a defined time period.

“(C) REPORT.—If a grantee fails to meet the spending thresholds established under paragraph (2), the grantee shall submit to the Secretary, the appropriate committees of Congress, and each member of Congress who represents a district or State of the grantee a written report identifying technical capacity, funding, or other Federal or State impediments affecting the ability of the grantee to meet the spending thresholds.

“(4) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—A grantee under this section shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary may determine necessary for adequate oversight of the grant program under this section.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall make information submitted under subparagraph (A) available to the public and to the Inspector

General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, disaggregated by activity, income, geography, and all classes of individuals protected under section 109 and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

“(C) SUMMARY STATUS REPORTS.—To increase transparency and accountability of the grant program under this section the Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis, post on a public facing dashboard summary status reports for all active grants under this section that includes—

“(i) the status of funds by activity;

“(ii) the percentages of funds allocated and expended to benefit low- and moderate-income communities;

“(iii) performance targets, spending thresholds, and accomplishments; and

“(iv) other information the Secretary determines to be relevant for transparency.

“(D) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary—

“(i) shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identifiable information regarding applicants for assistance provided from funds made available under this section is not made publicly available; and

“(ii) may make full and unredacted information available to academic institutions for the purpose of researching into the equitable distribution of recovery funds and adherence to civil rights protections.

“(f) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Activities assisted under this section—

“(A) may include activities permitted under section 105 or other activities permitted by the Secretary by waiver or alternative requirement pursuant to subsection (i); and

“(B) shall be related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from the major disaster for which the grant was awarded.

“(2) PROHIBITION.—Grant funds under this section may not be used for costs reimbursable by, or for which funds have been made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in regulation the maximum grant amounts a grantee may use for administrative costs, technical assistance and planning activities, taking into consideration size of grant, complexity of recovery, and other factors as determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed 10 percent for administration and 20 percent in total.

“(B) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts available for administrative costs for a grant under this section shall be available for eligible administrative costs of the grantee for any grant made under this section, without regard to a particular disaster.

“(4) PROGRAM INCOME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any grantee under this section may retain program income that is realized from grants made by the Secretary under this section if the grantee agrees that the grantee will utilize the program income in accordance with the requirements for grants under this section, except that the Secretary may—

“(A) by regulation, exclude from consideration as program income any amounts determined to be so small that compliance with this paragraph creates an unreasonable administrative burden on the grantee; or

“(B) permit the grantee to transfer remaining program income to the other grants of the grantee under this title upon closeout of the grant.

“(5) PROHIBITION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section may not be used to assist directly in the relocation of any industrial or commercial plant, facility, or operation, from one area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in a significant loss of employment in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a business that was operating in the disaster-declared labor market area before the incident date of the applicable disaster and has since moved, in whole or in part, from the affected area to another State or to a labor market area within the same State to continue business.

“(6) REQUIREMENTS.—Grants under this section are subject to the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws, unless modified by waivers or alternative requirements in accordance with subsection (i).

“(g) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

“(1) ADOPTION.—A recipient of funds provided under this section that uses the funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 203, 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133, 5170a, 5170b, 5170c, 5172, 5174(c)(4), 5189f, 5192) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and that adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to the environmental review, approval, or permit under section 104(g)(1).

“(2) APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 104(g)(2), the Secretary or a State may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project to be assisted under this section if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval, or permit under paragraph (1) or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(3) UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The provisions of section 104(g)(4) shall apply to assistance under this section that a State distributes to a unit of general local government.

“(h) FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop requirements and procedures to demonstrate that a grantee under this section—

“(A) has adequate financial controls and procurement processes;

“(B) has adequate procedures to detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse and duplication of benefit; and

“(C) maintains a comprehensive and publicly accessible website.

“(2) CERTIFICATION.—Before making a grant under this section, the Secretary shall certify that the grantee has in place proficient processes and procedures to comply with the requirements developed under paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) COMPLIANCE BEFORE ALLOCATION.—The Secretary may permit a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe to demonstrate compliance with the requirements for adequate financial controls developed under paragraph (1) before a disaster occurs and before receiving an allocation for a grant under this section.

“(4) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under this section shall be used in accordance with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), as amended by section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (division D of Public Law 115-254), and such rules as may be prescribed under such section 312.

“(B) PENALTIES.—In any case in which the use of grant funds under this section results in a prohibited duplication of benefits, the grantee shall—

“(i) apply an amount equal to the identified duplication to any allowable costs of the award consistent with actual, immediate cash requirement;

“(ii) remit any excess amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the obligated, undisbursed balance of the grant consistent with requirements on Federal payments applicable to such grantee; and

“(iii) if excess amounts under clause (ii) are identified after the period of performance or after the closeout of the award, remit such amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the Fund.

“(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Any grantee provided funds under this subsection or from prior Appropriations Acts under the heading ‘Community Development Fund’ for purposes related to major disasters that fails to comply with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) or fails to satisfy penalties to resolve a duplication of benefits shall be subject to remedies for noncompliance under section 111, unless the Secretary publishes a determination in the Federal Register that it is not in the best interest of the Federal Government to pursue remedial actions.

“(i) WAIVERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In administering grants under this section, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the grantee of those funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, the environment, and the requirements of this section that do not expressly authorize modifications by waiver or alternative requirement), if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and the waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the findings in section 502 of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A waiver or alternative requirement described in paragraph (1) shall not take effect before the date that is 5 days after the date of publication of the waiver or alternative requirement on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the effective date for any regulation published in the Federal Register.

“(3) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the public of all waivers or alternative requirements described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the requirements of section 7(q)(3) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(3)).

“(j) UNUSED AMOUNTS.—

“(1) DEADLINE TO USE AMOUNTS.—A grantee under this section shall use an amount equal to the grant within 6 years beginning on the date on which the Secretary obligates the amounts to the grantee, as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

“(2) RECAPTURE.—The Secretary shall recapture and credit to the Fund any amount that is unused by a grantee under this section upon the earlier of—

“(A) the date on which the grantee notifies the Secretary that the grantee has completed all activities identified in the disaster grantee’s plan under subsection (c); or

“(B) the expiration of the 6-year period described in paragraph (1), as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

“(3) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may allow a grantee under this section to retain—

“(A) amounts needed to close out grants; and

“(B) up to 10 percent of the remaining funds to support maintenance of the minimal capacity to launch a new program in the event of a future disaster and to support pre-disaster long-term recovery and mitigation planning.

“(4) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may extend the 6-year period described in paragraph (1) by not more than 4 years, or not more than 6 years for mitigation activities, if—

“(A) the grantee submits to the Secretary—

“(i) written documentation of the exigent circumstances impacting the ability of the grantee to expend funds that could not be anticipated; or

“(ii) a justification that such request is necessary due to the nature and complexity of the program and projects; and

“(B) the Secretary submits a written justification for the extension to the Committees on Appropriations of Senate and the House of Representatives that specifies the period of that extension.”

REGULATIONS

SEC. 507. (a) PROPOSED RULES.—Following consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed rules to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act and shall provide a 90-day period for submission of public comments on those proposed rules.

(b) FINAL RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations to carry out section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506.

COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE, BENEFITS, AND DATA WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

SEC. 508. (a) COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—In order to ensure a comprehensive approach to Federal disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster, the Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the greatest extent practicable, in the implementation of assistance authorized under section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506.

(b) DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—To support the coordination of data to prevent duplication of benefits with other Federal disaster recovery programs while also expediting recovery and reducing burden on disaster survivors, the Department shall establish data sharing agreements that safeguard privacy with relevant Federal agencies to ensure disaster benefits effectively and efficiently reach intended beneficiaries, while using effective means of preventing harm to people and property.

(c) DATA TRANSFER FROM FEMA AND SBA TO HUD.—As permitted and deemed necessary for efficient program execution, and

consistent with a computer matching agreement entered into under subsection (f)(1), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall provide data on disaster applicants to the Department, including, when necessary, personally identifiable information, disaster recovery needs, and resources determined eligible for, and amounts expended, to the Secretary for all major disasters declared by the President pursuant to section 401 of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) for the purpose of providing additional assistance to disaster survivors and prevent duplication of benefits.

(d) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD TO HUD GRANTEES.—The Secretary is authorized to provide to grantees under section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506, offices of the Department, technical assistance providers, and lenders information that in the determination of the Secretary is reasonably available and appropriate to inform the provision of assistance after a major disaster, including information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies.

(e) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD GRANTEES TO HUD, FEMA, AND SBA.—

(1) REPORTING.—Grantees under section 123 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by section 506, shall report information requested by the Secretary on households, businesses, and other entities assisted and the type of assistance provided.

(2) SHARING INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share information collected under paragraph (1) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies to support the planning and delivery of disaster recovery and mitigation assistance and other related purposes.

(f) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The Secretary may make and receive data transfers authorized under this section, including the use and retention of that data for computer matching programs, to inform the provision of assistance, assess disaster recovery needs, and prevent the duplication of benefits and other waste, fraud, and abuse, provided that—

(1) the Secretary enters into an information sharing agreement or a computer matching agreement, when required by section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”) with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies covering the transfer of data;

(2) the Secretary publishes intent to disclose data in the Federal Register;

(3) notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), section 552a of title 5, United States Code, or any other law, the Secretary is authorized to share data with an entity identified in subsection (d), and the entity is authorized to use the data as described in this section, if the Secretary enters a data sharing agreement with the entity before sharing or receiving any information under transfers authorized by this section, which data sharing agreement shall—

(A) in the determination of the Secretary, include measures adequate to safeguard the privacy and personally identifiable information of individuals; and

(B) include provisions that describe how the personally identifiable information of an individual will be adequately safeguarded and protected, which requires consultation

with the Secretary and the head of each Federal agency the data of which is being shared subject to the agreement.

SA 1223. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, strike “: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress”.

SA 1224. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act, including under any grant, contract, subgrant, subcontract, or other memorandum of understanding, may be made available for any purpose to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., or the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

SA 1225. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CAP ON CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES.

Section 107 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1606) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f)(1) The annual percentage rate applicable to an extension of credit obtained by use of a credit card may not exceed 18 percentage points, inclusive of all finance charges.

“(2) Any fees that are not considered finance charges under section 106(a) may not be used to evade the limitations of this paragraph, and the total sum of such fees may not exceed the total amount of finance charges assessed.

“(3) Any creditor who violates this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of section 130.”.

SA 1226. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS)

to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION D—REDUCTIONS AND RESCISSION

SEC. 4001.

Each amount made available under division B is reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary so that the amount made available under division B is \$17,838,000,000.

SEC. 4002.

Each amount made available under division C is reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary so that the amount made available under division C is \$65,208,000,000.

SEC. 4003.

Of the unobligated balances available in Public Law 117-169, \$25,035,000,000 available under section 10301(1)(A)(ii) as of the date of the enactment of this Act are permanently rescinded.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of amendment No. 1092 to the bill H.R. 4366.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Max Slaiman, today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, AS NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 345, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 345) supporting the designation of September 15, 2023, as “National Concussion Awareness Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 345) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366; further, that at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Oliver nomination and that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MAHSA AMINI HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights Security Accountability (MAHSA) Act.

This bill would require the President of the United States to impose property- and visa-blocking sanctions on certain individuals and entities affiliated with Iran.

Additionally, this bill would impose requirements that the President periodically make determinations about whether certain existing sanctions apply to specified persons and impose the applicable sanctions, including determinations concerning:

(1) the Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran;

(2) the President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran; and

(3) any entity overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in supporting human rights abuses or terrorism.

Iran currently faces widespread unrest because of various human rights violations.

In 2022, security forces killed more than 500 persons, including at least 69 children, and arrested more than 19,000 protesters, including children, according to the nongovernmental organization Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Some of those arrested faced the death penalty, including children.

The government also routinely disrupted access to the internet and communications applications to prevent the free flow of information and to attempt to interrupt or diminish participation in protests.

Iran and its people deserve peace.

This bill has been built on positive intentions that seek to solve an important and pressing issue.

RECOGNIZING YOUNG LEADERS ADVOCATING IN FAVOR OF STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of young leaders from my District who are in Washington, D.C. this week advocating in favor of statehood for Puerto Rico.

It fills me with joy to witness our young generation assuming a leading role in addressing Puerto Rico's political status and promoting ef-

orts to champion the equal treatment of the 3.2 million American citizens in Puerto Rico. This group of young people has come to Washington to directly demand statehood in meetings with members of Congress and Senators. Their advocacy demonstrates not only their unwavering dedication to the cause but also their commitment to the democratic principles that uphold our nation. Their actions serve as an inspiring example for all, reminding us that the pursuit of equality and representation knows no age boundaries. As these young leaders continue to work tirelessly, their vision of Puerto Rico becoming a State of the Union draws ever closer to becoming a reality.

Please join me in honoring Alexander López, Alexander Nieves, Alexandra Meléndez Iturrino, Andrés Dávila Suárez, Andrés F. Rosado Martínez, Ángel Morales, Anibal Rodríguez, Anthony Jiménez Chaparro, Antonio Díaz-Agosto, Aurelio Agelviz, Bianca Cardona, Braulio Hernández Jiménez, Carol Pérez González, Cesar Méndez, Christopher Cabán Echevarría, Coralys Vega Rodríguez, Edwin Francisco Rivera, Jahn Tacoronte González, Jaime Ramírez, Javier Porrata, Josué Rivera, Keishla "Keka" Rodríguez, Kevin Romero, Luis Alberto Arroyo, Luis Carrucini Ortiz, Luis Miguel Clemente Rosario, Manuel López Alamo, Marcos Fabián González, María Quiñones, Marino Puello Rivera, Oscar Rosa Vizcarrondo, Paola González Negrón, Paola Román Goytía, Quiñat Rodríguez Nieves, Randy Rodríguez, Ricardo Marrero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Saned Trinidad Alejandro, Santos Soel González García, Sherlyn Osorio Nieves, Valeria Santiago, Victor Berríos Sierra, Yeareb Rodríguez Nieves, Yelline Nieves Díaz, and Zairelys Medina Villanueva for boldly championing the long-awaited equality that Puerto Ricans have consistently demanded. I also want to recognize Shadow Delegate Roberto Lefranc Fortuño for being an integral part in spearheading this effort to have young Puerto Ricans actively engaged in this movement.

I am beyond proud of these leaders and applaud their efforts to advance Puerto Rican statehood.

CELEBRATING BOB GIBSON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the milestone birthday of Bob "Gibby" Gibson who celebrated his 100th birthday on September 4, 2023.

Gibby has dedicated his life to public service. Born in Hampton, New Jersey in 1923, he went on to serve in the United States Army during World War II. Following his service in major campaigns such as the D-Day Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge, Gibby was honor-

ably discharged in 1945, and returned to his hometown of Hampton.

Once home, he further proved his dedication to his community by joining the Hampton Fire Company, of which he climbed the ranks, becoming Chief in 1957. Continuing to demonstrate his remarkable commitment to public service, Gibby was elected Mayor of Hampton in 1966 and held office until 1971. Gibby has continued his dedication to public service throughout his life, currently serving as the Vice President of the Hampton Relief Association.

On behalf of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, I ask that we honor the celebration of Bob "Gibby" Gibson's 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pilgrim Hall Museum's 200th anniversary.

Two centuries after the Pilgrims landed, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chartered the Pilgrim Society in 1820 to preserve the history of early Plymouth. It was decided that a museum should be constructed to tell the Pilgrim's story. Tasked with the responsibility of constructing the museum, builders Job and Abner Taylor laid the cornerstone on September 1, 1824, and on December 17, members of the Pilgrim Society met for the first time inside the Pilgrim Hall Museum.

Pilgrim Hall Museum is the oldest continuously operating public museum in the U.S. and is home to a collection of 17th century artifacts, including several pieces that were originally on the Mayflower. Over the last two centuries, the museum has continued to collect artifacts, books, and documents to tell the stories of the Wampanoag—who were in South-eastern Massachusetts thousands of years before early settlers arrived—and the Pilgrims. Artifacts include the Bible of William Bradford; William Brewster's great chair; the only portrait painted from life of Edward Winslow; the cradle that Susanna White rocked her son, Peregrine, in; and the earliest sampler embroidered in America by Loara Standish.

Of the 33,000 museums in the U.S., Pilgrim Hall Museum is one of less than 1,100 museums accredited by the American Association of Museums. This is a notable achievement that signifies a museum's credibility and quality and further ensures the integrity of a museum's collection.

In addition to serving as a museum, Pilgrim Hall also hosts lectures and small concerts, as well as the Annual Pilgrim Society Meeting, which is held on Forefathers' Day in the Main Hall. Today, Pilgrim Hall Museum continues to tell the story of the Pilgrims and the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Wampanoag in a manner that is both accurate and inclusive, while highlighting and recognizing narratives that have traditionally been silenced.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Pilgrim Hall Museum, and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this monumental occasion of the museum's 200th anniversary and wishing Pilgrim Hall Museum continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMES HAIRSTON III AND TRINA HAIRSTON, LEAD PASTORS OF ALL NATIONS WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the services and accomplishments of James Hairston III and Trina Hairston, the Lead Pastors of All Nations Worship Assembly Washington, D.C.

Both natives of Bridgeport, Connecticut came to being the Lead Pastors in January of 2019 of All Nations Worship Assembly Washington, D.C. At the start of launching, they hosted live-streaming Bible Study sessions and live worship services called "Preaching to the Choir" to draw the local community closer to God. Within the last four years, they have built a culture of outreach, discipleship, and fellowship for the local Prince George's County communities. As Lead Pastors, they have purposed in their heart to cultivate the community through love, prayer, and teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We recognize that Pastors James Hairston III and Trina Hairston as a force within the Prince George's County community. Their passion has been powerful by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through prayer, love, outreach, discipleship, and fellowship into the lives of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Their commitment to God has both led Pastor James Hairston III and Trina Hairston to be great faith-based pillar within Prince George's County.

On behalf of Maryland 4th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lead Pastors James Hairston III and Trina Hairston for their exemplary accomplishments, dedication to public service, and trailblazing leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize Friends University as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

Friends opened its doors in September of 1898. In his opening address, President Edmund Stanley said, "The purpose of this school shall be to give to the world and to give our country a class of citizens that will be in every sense loyal citizens." He went on to

say, "Loyalty means that mental training and discipline which makes the child think—the development which makes him strong in mind and body; strong in his moral nature; a full man in that intelligence which should direct the efforts of all men for conscientious, honorable and successful private life and citizenship."

And that is just what they have done—for the past 125 years Friends has provided Kansas, our country and the world, with men and women who are honorable citizens wherever they go after graduation, bringing value to their communities. Being a Friends University Falcon is a respected recognition and the reach of Friends touches many industries and states in the country.

The University offers a distinguished liberal arts education with majors ranging from Accounting to Zoo Science and enrolls traditional and adult students seeking associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

I'm so pleased to help Friends University celebrate this milestone anniversary and offer my sincere congratulations on 125 years of success, and I look forward to another century and a quarter of equipping students under the iconic clock tower in the heart of the Sunflower State. Happy 125th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Previous Question (Roll No. 388), NO on H. Res. 681 (Roll No. 389), YES on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1435 (Roll No. 390), and NO on passage of H.R. 1435 (Roll No. 391).

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUSTICE CRUZ REYNOSO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of former Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court Cruz Reynoso.

Cruz Reynoso was born in Brea, California and was raised in La Habra, California. By the age of 11, he led a successful petition to have his rural community receive deliveries from the postman.

Upon discovering the power in using his words to right the wrongs he witnessed, Judge Reynoso set off on a path as a civil rights advocate.

His high school art teacher saw his talents and convinced him to attend Fullerton College. There his speech teacher recommended Reynoso be chairman of the first freshman class meeting. He was elected as the freshman class president and then the following spring, he was elected the college's first Latino student body president.

Prior to his graduation in June of 1951, he was offered a scholarship to attend Pomona

College. After graduating from Pomona College in 1953, he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces, serving in the Counterintelligence Corps.

Following his enlistment, he enrolled in UC Berkeley's School of Law and graduated in 1958.

From 1958 to 1959, he studied constitutional law through a Ford Foundation fellowship at the National University of Mexico and after passing the bar, he opened a private practice in El Centro, California.

His full-time job was teaching law at the University of New Mexico, becoming one of the first Latino law professors in the country.

He continued to make his mark in the legal field by being appointed to the California Court of Appeal in 1976 and the California Supreme Court in 1982 as an Associate Justice.

From 1991 to 2001, he became a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2001, he was rewarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Clinton. The same year, he became a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of California, Davis.

His wife of 53 years, Jeannene, died in 2007. He remarried, and he and his wife Elaine lived in Davis, where he enjoyed the time spent with his 17 grandchildren. In May 2021, Cruz Reynoso passed away.

In April 2013, Fullerton College Centennial Celebration saluted the achievements of Cruz Reynoso as an inaugural member of its Hall of Fame.

Today, Fullerton College renamed its Student Services Building as Cruz Reynoso Hall to honor Judge Reynoso, a Hornet alumnus and the first Latino Supreme Court Justice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the commitments and accomplishments of Judge Cruz Reynoso.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the vote series on September 14, 2023. My wife contracted COVID-19 while I was in Washington this week and I returned home to take care of her and our children.

H.R. 1435 would disrupt the growing electric vehicle market in the United States, jeopardize American jobs in auto manufacturing, and hurt the EPA's ability to protect our clean air. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call vote No. 391, H.R. 1435.

RECOGNIZING ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI JI'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding global interfaith leader, Acharya Dr.

Lokesh Muni Ji. For the last 30 years, Acharya Lokeshji has been an advocate for communal harmony, non-violence, peace, and mutual cooperation.

Born in 1961 in northwest India, Acharya Lokeshji studied Jain, Buddhist, and Vedic philosophy from an early age, and left home at the age of 22 to take initiation into Jainism. After receiving the title of Acharya, one of the highest honors in Jainism, Acharya Lokeshji travelled the world and authored dozens of books to reflect on the principles of religious harmony and unity in diversity. He is also outspoken on critical issues such as environmental protection and substance use disorder.

Acharya Lokeshji's brave actions back up his doctrine of non-violence. In 2013, while on a tour of London, he rushed back to India to assist victims of a deadly riot between Hindus and Muslims. Prior to that, he resolved a Sikh religious dispute in the Punjab region of India. As a capstone to his initiatives, Acharya Lokeshji also recently dedicated India's first "World Peace Center" in Gurugram, one of the country's largest cities. These examples all serve as a testament of Acharya Lokeshji's ability to put his principles into practice.

We are all grateful for Acharya Lokeshji's dedication to interfaith dialogue and peace. His selfless service is an incredible example of global citizenship, and we wish him success in his continued work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2023, I did not arrive in Washington in time for the vote on H.R. 1567—ACRES Act, as amended, and H.R. 3324—To extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029. I missed both votes because I was in attendance and speaking at the funeral for Lawrence Lacks, Sr., the last living child of the late Henrietta Lacks, the mother of the medically famous HeLa cell, and a former neighbor of mine in my youth. Had I been in D.C., my vote would have been YEA on H.R. 1567, Roll Call No. 386, and YEA on H.R. 3324, Roll Call No. 387.

HONORING BOB KNAPP

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions and tireless dedication of Mr. Bob Knapp, a distinguished individual, devoted advocate, and community leader in Colorado.

Mr. Knapp has exemplified exceptional commitment to his community and has been an integral part of various organizations dedicated to improving the lives of retired Americans, advancing the cause of democracy, and promoting the rights of American workers.

Mr. Knapp's contributions include co-founding the Colorado Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans. For 2 decades, he served

as its Secretary, working to ensure the needs and concerns of retired Americans were addressed and advocating for policies that enhanced their quality of life.

Perhaps one of Mr. Knapp's most remarkable achievements is his service on the AFL-CIO Executive Board for over 30 years. His long-standing commitment to the AFL-CIO has been marked by strong leadership and dedication to American workers.

Throughout the past 20 years, Mr. Knapp has provided strong leadership, demonstrating an ability to keep everyone on track and focused on achieving their goals. His dedication and his tireless efforts on behalf of the community are an inspiration to us all.

In recognition of his outstanding service and important contributions, I extend a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Bob Knapp on behalf of Colorado's 7th Congressional District. His legacy will inspire generations to come.

HONORING WALTER ATKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Walter L. Atkins, Jr.

Walter L. Atkins, Jr. was born November 10, 1972, to Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Atkins, Sr. in Clarksdale, MS. He was the first born of 4 children. In 1978, he moved to Darling, MS and resided there until 1990 with his parents and siblings.

Walter attended Falcon Elementary School and furthered his education by attending Quitman County High School and graduated in 1990. Walter joined the United States Army Reserve in 1989. Upon completion of his Basic and Advanced Individual Trainings, he furthered his education by attending Alcorn State University from 1991 to 1998. There he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Secondary Education in Biological Sciences. During his freshman year of college, tragedy struck with the sudden death of his mother.

Walter began his educational profession in the South Delta School District, where he served as a science teacher for 5 years. He left the profession for 3 years to pursue a career in auto sales. Fortunately, he returned to the profession that he so loved 3 years later in the Leland School District. In 2011, he joined the Drew School District where he served as a high school science teacher. The following year, the district consolidated with the Sunflower County School District to form the newly formed Sunflower County Consolidated School District. Walter left the classroom in hopes of becoming an administrator.

In 2012, he served as an assistant principal and shortly after principal of R.H. Bearden Elementary School in the West Tallahatchie School District. In 2016, he returned to his home county, where he took the position as high school principal of (formerly known as Quitman County High School) Madison S. Palmer High. Upon returning, he was given the task of raising the graduation rate to 95 percent. In 2020, the district was recognized by MDE for its 95.7 percent graduation rate

which placed the Quitman County School District in the top 10 of all school districts within the state of Mississippi.

In addition, he spearheaded and began a College Prep initiative that took the financial burden of paying for college courses from the parents. He served in that capacity for 6 years where the school made many educational strides and received recognition from MDE for its academic successes. He currently serves as the district's Director of Curriculum and Instructional Management. Walter is the proud father of 2 sons—D'Kedrianane and Jeremy, and has 2 grandchildren that he enjoys spending time with.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Walter L. Atkins, Jr., for he is a reflection of a hero.

IN MEMORY OF BILL RICHARDSON

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, the enchanted State of New Mexico, the United States and families seeking justice everywhere lost a statesman, a former Ambassador, Governor and Congressman.

Governor Bill Richardson is survived by our former First Lady of incredible grace, Mrs. Barbara Richardson.

In 1983, Governor Richardson began his public service career as the first Representative of the newly formed 3rd Congressional district. I stand on his shoulders, and am grateful for his sage advice on how to best serve this district.

As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus he opposed cruel immigration policies and brought attention to Latino policy priorities.

As Governor, he recognized the importance of education and economic diversity as he raised teacher salaries and increased film production.

May we honor Richardson as a tenacious champion for New Mexicans, skillful diplomat and a committed public servant.

I include in the RECORD Linda Lynch's story on how Richardson rescued her husband held hostage.

17 years ago, this month, I flew to Khartoum with the late Governor Bill Richardson.

The mission was to free my husband, Paul Salopek, a journalist, from captivity in Sudan, along with his translator, Suleiman Moussa, and driver, Idriss Anu. Paul was reporting a story for National Geographic magazine when they were abducted on the western border of Sudan. On August 6, 2006, they disappeared for 10 days. When they surfaced, they had been traded for a box of uniforms and turned over to the Sudanese government. They were flown by helicopter deep into Darfur, separated, imprisoned, and charged by the government with "espionage, passing information illegally, and reporting false news."

I will never forget the day Governor Richardson telephoned me at home in Columbus, New Mexico offering help. At that time, I, together with Paul's editors at National Geographic and the Chicago Tribune, had scrambled to locate Paul and were grappling with how to get them out. Over the course of days, we worked an intricate web of contacts

and communications, 3:00 a.m. conference calls, check-ins with the State Department and congressional members. We also dispatched a message to the Governor that one of his constituents had been imprisoned in Sudan. Immediately, Governor Richardson picked up the phone and called me.

In that watershed moment, everything changed. Bill Richardson began his unique methodical and deliberate steps to bring Paul home. Unintimidated by despots or warlords, the Governor saw Paul in a familiar situation that he had adroitly handled before. Watching him in those urgent days that culminated in our flight to Khartoum, it became clear that he had a rare gift of intelligence, diplomacy, and magic. He never took a single success for granted, and it was his respect for the “stardust”—the alignment of the seemingly impossible—that made it all work.

It was 34 days before Paul, Suleiman, and Idriss would see their freedom, a shorter time fortunately than many others detained have endured, but every bit as vivid and terrifying and dangerous.

The day we crossed into north African air space I remember looking out over the vast sand of the Sahara while everyone slept, the anxiety of what would transpire more palpable as we approached Khartoum. As soon as we disembarked the Governor was whisked away to meet with President Umar Al-Bashir. Three hours later Governor Richardson emerged with a “Pardon” for Paul based on humanitarian grounds.

But Paul was not in Khartoum. He was 489 miles away. We would have to fly there to rescue him.

After a tense and uneasy night, the next morning we boarded a smaller aircraft and flew two hours into Darfur, a province ripped apart by arson and genocide. There, we waited all day. The provincial governor of Darfur was unhappy. He had not been consulted before the president pardoned Paul. I watched as Governor Richardson went to work again soothing the irritation, Paul, Suleiman, and Idriss were put through a 15-minute mock trial where their charges were read aloud. They were admonished but ultimately released. Governor Richardson had worked his magic again.

We returned to Khartoum at dusk with our prize of three and left several hours later for New Mexico with Paul. Suleiman and Idriss were reunited with their families in Chad. The whole excursion took only 48 hours.

For all the admirable things Governor Richardson accomplished in his distinguished lifetime of public service, I believe it was his extraordinary diplomacy that he would most want to be remembered for, that, and the stardust that so often aligned for and with him.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH
FUNCHESS, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Funchess. Elizabeth is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 8G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

The multiyear journey to the Eagle Scout Award is one of the most involved and trans-

formative experiences a young person can have. They try new things through the merit badge program, develop confidence in the outdoors, practice leadership tactics, and plan, develop and give leadership to a service project that benefits their community. For Elizabeth's Eagle Scout service project, she, built 2 picnic tables that convert into benches for her church to have an outdoor classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elizabeth Funchess for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING DIVISION CHIEF
KEVIN RITTENHOUSE FOR EX-
CEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE DUR-
ING HURRICANE IDALIA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my commendation for the outstanding performance displayed by Division Chief of Training Kevin Rittenhouse during Hurricane Idalia. His dedication and exemplary efforts went above and beyond the call of duty.

In the face of extreme adversity, Chief Rittenhouse demonstrated exceptional leadership, ensuring the safety and well-being of both his team and the affected community. His quick thinking and decisive action played a pivotal role in mitigating potential hazards and securing vital resources. Chief Rittenhouse was the area incident commander for the Hernando Beach area as storm surge was rising, structure fires were difficult to access due to flooding, and high-water rescues were being performed. Simultaneously, Chief Rittenhouse's home was being damaged by storm surge waters.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge Kevin's exceptional performance. We are immensely grateful for his invaluable contributions during this critical time. His actions embody the highest standards of professionalism and serve as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
FORMER MARYLAND CONGRESS-
MAN ROSCOE BARTLETT

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, who faithfully represented Maryland's 6th Congressional District for 2 decades, from 1993 to 2013.

As one of the longest-serving representatives in Maryland history, Congressman Bartlett and I have shared the honor of representing Western Maryland in the U.S. House of Representatives.

And while our politics differ, one of Congressman Bartlett's efforts that I strongly commend was to expand green energy and fight against climate change. As former Leader STENY HOYER once said, “Roscoe was green before it was cool to be green.”

Congressman Bartlett embodies the spirit of a true self-made American. Born a few years before the Great Depression and raised on a tenant farm in Western Pennsylvania, he persevered to become an engineer for the U.S. Navy, earn a Ph.D. in physiology, and serve as a Member of Congress. Beyond his congressional service, he is a loving husband and a devoted father of 10.

Today, we thank Congressman Bartlett for his service to this Nation.

RECOGNIZING JULY CONSTITUENT
OF THE MONTH MATTHEW REBELO

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Carlsbad resident and attorney Matthew Rebelo as my July Constituent of the Month. In his work assisting Afghan refugees through the legal challenges of gaining asylum, Matthew embodies the critical importance of supporting those who face violence—especially the women and children most often at risk.

For Matthew, this work is personal. In 2015 he immigrated to the United States from South Africa and relates his own experience with starting anew here to his desire to help others coming to the United States. A former barrister in South Africa, Matthew continued his legal career in the United States after obtaining his green card and passing the California bar exam. It's inspiring to witness Matthew's initiative in using his time and skills to assist on a pro bono basis those escaping the Taliban's violence.

I'm forever grateful to the members of our CA-49 community who dedicate their time and effort towards helping others in critical need. I'm proud to honor Matthew Rebelo as my July Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING VICKI HELFER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Vicki Helfer, recipient of the Colorado High School Counselor of the Year award.

As a counselor for Aurora Central High School, Vicki advises students to work through their assignments and supports them through the anxieties that come with graduating. Outside of her counselor responsibilities, she advocates on behalf of her students. Vicki has helped her students obtain gender-neutral bathrooms and has assisted in creating programs to support students whose first language is not English.

Vicki is a model mentor and an outstanding civilian. Her dedication to supporting our youth has undoubtedly led to the recognition she deserves. I congratulate Vicki for being named the Colorado High School Counselor of the Year and wish her continued success.

CONGRATULATING GRACE
VERGARA-MACTAL

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Vergara-Mactal, Executive Director of SEIU 1107, for her upcoming retirement and a career of service to Nevada.

Grace was born and raised in the Philippines where she earned her bachelor's degree and worked as a medical technician. Immigrating to the U.S. in 1989, her first job involved mopping floors for \$3.50 an hour, but she worked her way back into the health care field as a hospital lab technician. As a leader and organizer for her fellow lab workers, Grace was suspended from her job while circulating a petition. Undeterred, she pursued this activism, climbing from volunteer, to organizer, Organizing Director, Chief of Staff, and eventually leader of Local 1107.

As one of the foremost leaders of the labor movement, both in Nevada and across the country, Grace has been a tireless advocate for good jobs and quality services during her incredible 3-decade career. As Executive Director, she represents nearly 20,000 health care and public service workers across the state.

In this position, Grace has led with a commitment to mobilizing and empowering workers and families while fighting for economic, racial, and social justice. Her work focused on growing Local 1107, passing historic legislation, winning major contract battles, and building vital community coalitions. She also serves as Vice President and Executive Board Member of the Service Employees International Union, officer of the SEIU Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, and Executive Board Member of the Nevada AFL-CIO.

In addition to being an important union leader, Grace is a trailblazer in our community. As the first member of the AANHPI community to serve as an officer for Local 1107, she is an important representative for one of Nevada's fastest growing demographics. Grace has a particular dedication to developing and supporting worker leaders, especially workers of color in her leadership with SEIU Local 1107 and the Nevada AFL-CIO.

Grace often says that she will always be an organizer at heart, so I am confident that her retirement will not be the last that I see of her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Grace Vergara-Mactal on her outstanding service to Nevada and our Nation, and in congratulating Grace on her retirement.

THANKING MONET STRAUB FOR
HER SERVICE TO KANSAS

HON. JAKE LaTURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff for her dedicated service to the people of Kansas. Monet Straub has been an invaluable member of my team since she joined my staff in 2017 when I was still serving as State Treasurer.

Monet has worked tirelessly as my Deputy District Director for the past 2½ years—helping thousands of Kansans from across the Second Congressional District navigate our federal agencies through high-quality and reliable constituent services.

From organizing the Topeka office to running Mobile office hours, Monet's dedication, patience, and hard work have been vital in ensuring the success of our district operation. Most importantly, Monet always put our constituents first and Kansans knew they could count on her to get the job done. I am grateful for Monet's positive attitude and dedication to service over these past 6 years. I wish her the very best and look forward to seeing her excel in her new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSULATE OF
MEXICO IN FRESNO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno on the 213th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico and thank them for their significant contributions to the Central Valley.

The Consulate of Mexico in Fresno opened in 1931 to support the needs of Mexican agricultural workers located in the Central Valley. The mission of the consulate is to help Mexican citizens assimilate into the community and advance their rights while residing in California. For nearly a century, those working in the consulate have been dedicated to that mission, providing invaluable assistance to local immigrants including identification services, health guidance, and educational opportunities. The consulate connects local immigrants with the services they need to thrive.

Through their Mobile Consulate, which travels to different cities across the Central Valley throughout the year, Mexican immigrants have greater access to the over 30 services the consulate provides. The consulate is also focused on the educational outcomes of Mexican students.

Last year alone, the consulate, in partnership with other local organizations, granted more than \$45,000 in scholarships to 30 college students pursuing careers in public health. On this day, as we celebrate the independence of the Mexican people, I want to recognize the incredible contributions Mexican immigrants have made to our communities in the Central Valley and across the nation. As the son of immigrants, I understand first-hand the perseverance, determination, and sacrifice of immigrants who come to the United States in search of greater opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 213th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico and thanking the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno for their dedication to the well-being of our Mexican community.

HONORING WORLD-RENOWN CONSERVATIONIST, THEO PAGEL WITH AMERICAN HUMANE/GLOBAL HUMANE'S KIESSLING INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize heroic efforts on behalf of wildlife worldwide. American Humane, the first and most experienced national humane organization, which was created in 1877 to ensure the safety, welfare, and well-being of animals, has awarded Prof. Theo Pagel, CEO of the Cologne Zoo in Germany with the 2023 Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation. This award was created in honor of Wolfgang F. Kiessling, the founder of Loro Parque and global leader in conservation.

Prof. Theo Pagel has dedicated his life to ensuring the survival of countless species, and inspiring and educating generations of people. As the CEO of the Cologne Zoo, the former president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and Chair of the Reverse the Red Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Pagel has led significant change for animals both in the wild and in zoos. He was inspired at an early age by his father, also an animal lover, and started a breeding program in 1988 to save the endangered Bali Starling—a program he coordinated for nearly 20 years.

Pagel created sustainability strategies and guidelines for conservation education during his tenure as president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He approaches conservation through inspiring the public as well as leading high-level strategies on saving countless species from the very largest Asian Elephant to the smallest Asian songbird.

He has led a global charge to push back the effects of what scientists call a "Sixth Mass Extinction," with up to one million species at risk of disappearing forever.

Mr. Speaker, wildlife conservationists put the world first, wildlife first, the future first. They don't seek a hero's reward, a medal, or a prize. But they surely deserve it. Mr. Speaker, I ask today that we recognize the impact Theo Pagel has had on saving species, honor his work and acknowledge American Humane's Kiessling Prize as a way to shine a light on the important work of saving species for future generations to love.

CELEBRATING DAVID HECKER'S
40+ YEARS BUILDING THE LABOR
MOVEMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Hecker, the President of AFT Michigan on the occasion of his retirement. The tireless work he has put in to ensure our state has a strong public school system and the teachers to staff it is worthy of commendation.

David was born in the Bronx to a family of strong Polish roots. Both parents were proud union members and like many Jews of the era, were supporters of progressive politics. David and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, who is also a well-known activist, are longtime members of Shir Tikvah in Troy.

Aimed with a Masters degree from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD from University of Wisconsin, David began his work in labor when he joined Local 3220 in 1977, the union of graduate assistants at University of Wisconsin. After being elected president, David decided that building the labor movement would be his life's work. Subsequent experience with the Allied Industrial Workers, Michigan State AFL-CIO, and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO led to David taking a position at AFT Michigan, where he was eventually elected president in 2001. Since 2004, he has also been the Vice President of the National AFT.

David spent his time as President of AFT Michigan aggressively promoting the ideal that "K-12 public education is the foundation of our democracy". During his tenure, AFT Michigan organized many new locals representing thousands of new members and built deep partnerships with community allies. Notably, David was one of the co-chairs of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children. This Coalition's report and legislative work resulted in legislation that saved the future of the Detroit Public Schools. David is also a co-chair of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, a group of leaders brought together from business, labor, and the government to the same table to respond to our region's challenges and opportunities. No matter where he is, David is always working to bring people of all perspectives together to reach common goals that improve our region for all who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the lifetime of work David Hecker has contributed to the cause of public education. Within our state and around the country, children in our public schools have quality educators and better access to resources due in no small part to his tireless efforts. We are saddened to see him leave, but we know his activism will not stop in "retirement". I thank David for his significant contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE 112TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

I join all those celebrating this Day, memorializing the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911 that led to the collapse of the long-reigning imperial Qing Dynasty and foundation of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

Chinese Americans are a vital, valued, and vibrant community not only in my legislative district, but throughout our United States. I wish them and all observing this occasion, Godspeed, and a safe, happy, and momentous celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, I'm privileged, humbled, and honored to commemorate the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). May the friendship between our two Free Nations remain robust.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S PRISONERS OF WAR AND THOSE WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our Nation's prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

"Though not here, their sacrifice is not forgotten" is the official phrase for the 2023 POW-MIA day that this year falls on September 15.

These heartfelt words serve as a reminder that there still are families that hope for the safe return of their loved ones that are missing in action and the wellbeing of those who were prisoners of war. Among those whose sacrifice will not be forgotten are over 130 Missing in Action service members and almost half a dozen of former Prisoners of War from Puerto Rico.

For Puerto Rican families, these words are more significant when we remember that families extend beyond the immediate relations of the spouse and children of the service member. The pain of the loss and the hope that the loved one will return to the "familia" spreads from the immediate nucleus into endless tree branches of the extended family. Conscious of this feeling it is important that we remember that while the missing served the Nation, hundreds of families miss them and plead that the sacrifice of their loved ones is not forgotten.

Puerto Ricans who were called to serve in distant lands under the most difficult conditions sacrificed everything, convinced that by fighting for the freedom of others they were preserving and guaranteeing the freedom, prosperity and democracy of their loved ones and of our country. Inspired by these ideas they performed feats of courage that surprised their enemies and earned them the respect of their brothers in arms and the recognition of their superior commands, creating a legacy of service that is difficult to emulate.

As time passes and the memory of the POW and MIA begin to fade, we run the risk of forgetting the sacrifice of the Missing in Action and the scars of their time as Prisoners of War. I encourage my congressional colleagues to make a solemn pledge to continually strive to never forget the honorable legacy of our POW and MIA and ensure that future generations never forget their sacrifice.

HONORING THE 2023 FLORIDA INVESTORS HALL OF FAME

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ten inventors who have

been selected as the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. To be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone a thorough review by the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been, or is being, accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or deceased) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2023 Inductees constitute the ninth class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their groundbreaking discoveries have transformed medicine and health care, computer technology and semiconductors, optics and photonics, communications, nuclear energy, and modern color technology. They collectively hold more than 1,100 U.S. patents and come from across industry, academia, and government. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 68 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,100 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the residents of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame on this outstanding achievement. We are incredibly grateful to these innovators for their contributions to society and its constant revolutionization through their inventions. As the following ten inventors are inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame's growing community, I hope this may encourage future generations to strive toward this achievement and to continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2023 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

James L. Cairns: Founder and Executive Director of the Cairns Foundation, and CEO of Abyssal Systems, Inc., who is recognized for pioneering underwater electrical, fiber-optic connector technologies that allowed circuits to be successfully and seamlessly mated and demated reliably within the harsh environment of the deep ocean thereby revolutionizing subsea surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and ocean energy production.

Jason Eichenholz: Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Luminar Technologies, who is recognized for trailblazing innovations in laser and optics-enabled technologies, especially in lidar (light detection and ranging) applications advancing the self-driving vehicle industry; as well as fundamental product development and commercialization for early

cancer detection, environmental studies, and military explosives detection, among others.

David Finchbaugh: CEO of Technology Applications International, and CTO of Advanced Medical Innovations, who is recognized for breakthrough technologies reducing fatalities from catheter-associated urinary tract infections affecting millions worldwide; developing the world's first Nuclear Service Robot to help maintain, decontaminate, and refuel nuclear reactors; and devising the first imaging laser radar system.

Ophir Frieder: Professor at Georgetown University Medical Center's Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Biomathematics and the Department of Computer Science; Lead Science and Technology Advisor for Aurora Forge; and Chief Scientific Officer of Invariant, Inc. He is recognized for sustained and extensive innovations in scalable information processing systems, especially for developing behavioral health monitoring used to prevent self-harm/suicide, and predictive medical and well-being treatment methods to optimize treatment effectiveness while reducing negative side effects.

William Hauswirth: University of Florida Professor and the Maida and Morris Rybaczki Eminent Scholar Chair in Ophthalmic Sciences at the University of Florida's College of Medicine, who is recognized for groundbreaking advancements in gene therapy to prevent blindness, especially through pioneering the first gene therapy drug, Luxturna, to treat both adults and children with inherited retinal disease; as well as his work restoring vision to the functionally blind.

Daniel Joseph: Principal Illusion Integrator at Walt Disney Imagineering, who is recognized for landmark innovations in industrial design, special effects, and the integration of three-dimensional illusions, creating immersive and interactive experiences for museums and theme parks, especially at Disney theme parks around the world.

Jonathan Rothberg: Founder and Chair, 4 Catalyzer Corporation, who is recognized for pioneering next-generation human DNA sequencing that enables low-cost decoding of the human genome, which transformed life science research, healthcare, agriculture, and the development of biofuels; and for the revolutionary Swoop Portable Magnetic Resonance Imaging System making MRI accessible to every patient, regardless of income or resources.

Deepika Singh: CEO of R&D Investment Holdings and former CEO of Sinmat, Inc., who is recognized for seminal discoveries in chemical/mechanical polishing of a class of superhard semiconductors, significantly enabling the advancement of 5G communications infrastructure and defense electronics, as well as the manufacture of smartwatches, smartphones, and components for electric vehicles.

Krishna "Kris" Singh: Founder, President and CEO of Holtec International, who is recognized for extensive transformational innovations that provide the foundational structure for modern nuclear power energy, including systems and equipment, safe storage, transportation of spent fuel; as well as improved operations, safety and efficiency of nuclear power plants.

Gary K. Starkweather (Deceased): An American engineer who is recognized for inventing the world's first laser printer and lead-

ing the frontier of the field of color management technology, including Apple's ColorSync technology; as well as advancements in imaging for Microsoft and the film industry, especially as part of the digital effects team for the original Star Wars.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN EK

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Genevieve Ek, known as "Jean" by her beloved friends and family. Jean passed away last month after a life full of love, friendship, and kindness.

She was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in December of 1941, growing up in Racine before moving to Two Harbors, Minnesota. She opted to stay in Two Harbors even after her family moved to Oregon because of the strong and lasting relationships she had built with her friends and the love of her life, Harold. Jean and Harold would go on to marry in 1963 and have 3 children—Adele, Lura, and John.

Jean was well known during her career in medical administration, helping mentor dozens during her tenure as she worked diligently to advance from receptionist to Executive Director of Crossroads Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Harold, their 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

While Jean will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her, her legacy of leadership, kindness, and compassion remains.

I am honored to commemorate the life of Jean Ek and wish her family and friends strength and peace in their grief.

CELEBRATING HOBSON ELLIS RODENBAUGH ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my warmest wishes to Hobson Ellis Rodenbaugh in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Hobson or Hobby as he is more affectionately known, was born in Hunterdon County on August 11, 1923. At 19, Hobby enlisted in the Army Signal Corps, serving in the Marshall Islands, Japan, and the Philippines during World War II. After being discharged, he came home to New Jersey where he married the Love of his life Virginia Mae Wands.

Hobby continued to express his passion for service by serving on the Clinton Town Council and as Police Commissioner. In his retire-

ment, Hobby joined the Union Township Senior Club of Hunterdon County and has served as both the Vice President and President of the organization. During his tenure Hobby has shared his passion for travel by arranging for the group to visit many locations around the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Hobby who should inspire us all. I wish to convey our appreciation for his years of service to our country and community. May he continue to touch the lives of many for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL C. HAYES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Michael C. Hayes.

Born on August 23, 1950, Michael was raised in Scituate, Massachusetts by his parents, Miriam and Robert Hayes. He attended Thayer Academy in Braintree and graduated from Boston College and Suffolk Law School. Infected with polio in 1955, Michael lived the remainder of his life in leg braces, serving as an inspiration to all and guiding his lifelong commitment to working for tolerance and acceptance of all people.

After graduating from law school in 1975, Michael, a third-generation lawyer, practiced law alongside his brother, Joe, and his cousin, John, and later went on to serve as an Assistant District Attorney for Plymouth County. After a short time in California, Michael returned to his hometown to practice law on Front Street in Scituate Harbor. Throughout his legal career, he always sought to help those in need. Not only did Michael establish himself as a pillar of the community through his work as an attorney, but he was also a devoted public servant.

First elected to the Scituate School Committee in 1988 in the wake of Proposition 2½ budget cuts, Michael proudly served Scituate's students until choosing not to run for re-election in 1994. He was recognized by the Scituate Town Meeting in 1995 for his "his untiring and diligent efforts to secure the funding necessary to support and maintain excellence in public education despite pressing economic constraints." Michael returned to the school committee in 1998 and oversaw the construction of the new Jenkins School and an extensive renovation of Scituate High School and championed the funding for programs dear to him, including the arts and the METCO program. In 2014, Michael chose not to seek re-election and took a step back to concentrate on his health. Ever committed to Scituate's schools, Michael returned once more, beginning his third tenure on the School Committee in 2016, which saw the opening of the new Gates School in 2017. Michael won his tenth and final term on the School Committee in 2019.

Sadly, Michael left us too soon on August 21, 2023, leaving behind his children Patrick, Lucy, and Fred, and his five granddaughters, Chelsea, Lena, June, Iris, and Willow. Michael was predeceased by his daughter Heidi Rose.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Michael Hayes, and I ask that my colleagues

join me in recognizing his life's commitment to serving his town and community.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S \$6 BILLION
IRAN PAYOFF

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the passage of the MAHSA Act, which is an important step in holding the Iranian regime accountable for its continued oppression of its own people.

However, we cannot ignore the Biden Administration's latest misstep in handing over \$6 billion to Iran.

Longstanding U.S. policy dictates that we do not negotiate with terrorists.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what President Biden did with this payoff, enabling Iran to continue threatening the security of the free world.

I've introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Solidifying Iran Sanctions Act with Foreign Affairs Chairman MCCAUL.

Our legislation will hold Iran accountable and prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran poses a serious threat to global stability and peace.

We need strength—not payoffs and appeasement—to deter future hostility from this rogue regime.

HONORING MR. LOUIS JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and selfless leader, Mr. Louis Johnson. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to make a difference.

Mr. Louis Johnson, affectionally known as "Bay Bay", is the winner of the first annual Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Bill Hetrick Community Service Award. The Bill Hetrick Community Service Award is named after Bill Hetrick, who served as a long-time board member and Past President of the Mississippi Sports Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Johnson, the former Chief of Police in Edwards, Mississippi for 39 years, parlayed his love of sports into coaching youth baseball and softball. He was able to coach while also giving the children in his community a positive role model to follow. When the number of kids playing baseball started to dwindle, Mr. Johnson started coaching basketball, and, at one point he was coaching 6 different teams at the same time. He has been a great asset to his community, and his work never goes unnoticed.

The Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame will honor Louis Johnson for his lifetime commitment to his community with this award during its annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, set for Saturday, July 29, at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Louis Johnson for his dedication and hard work in caring for the constituents in the State of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Conference of Western Wayne on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of their founding. The services that they have provided to 18 different communities in Western Wayne County are worthy of commendation.

The Conference of Western Wayne was created in 1978 to help integrate the local gov-

ernments of Western Wayne County. Encompassing 18 communities, 340 square miles and over 730,000 residents, the CWW coordinates 911 services and projects for the residents of Western Wayne. CWW also represents its 730,000 residents by meeting monthly to discuss issues such as transportation, public safety, community and economic development, the environmental health of the region, and legislation. The conference is constantly strategizing on potential legislation at the federal, state, and local level that impacts the communities of the conference. This constant discussion allows for the conference to identify areas where their communities can work together and support each other.

In 2016, the CWW was the first 911 Service District in Wayne County to implement Text to 911, a service that has done wonders for those who are deaf, mute, or those for whom English isn't their first language. On top of their 911 responsibilities, the CWW is also well involved in the communities they represent. The CWW oversees the Rescue Recovery project in partnership with Growth Works and Trinity Health to provide substance use services to those in need, with a primary focus on opioid abuse. Last year, the Western Wayne Rescue Recovery program met with over 1,100 clients, providing support through face-to-face and telehealth meetings, as well as coordinating services with healthcare providers and the court system. CWW also partners with local Youth Assistance Programs to help provide families and youth within the CWW region with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the achievements of the Conference of Western Wayne over the last 45 years. With the support of the CWW, the residents of Western Wayne County have had better response times to emergencies and have had access to a plethora of programs to enhance their daily life. We thank the CWW for all the support they provide to our Western Wayne communities and hope to see another 45 years of tremendous service to those in need.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4501–S4542

Measures Introduced: Twenty-nine bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2798–2826, S.J. Res. 45, and S. Res. 342–345.

Pages S4525–26

Measures Passed:

National Concussion Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 345, supporting the designation of September 15, 2023, as “National Concussion Awareness Day”.

Page S4541

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: Senate began consideration of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Pages S4501–15

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S4504

Murray Amendment No. 1205 (to Amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date.

Page S4504

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1207, to change the effective date.

Page S4504

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 91 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 228), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Page S4503

Oliver Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Page S4515

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent

agreement of Thursday, September 14, 2023, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, September 18, 2023.

Page S4515

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S4515

Lin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Pages S4515–16

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Pages S4515–16

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S4515

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S4515

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, September 18, 2023, Senate resume consideration of 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 that at 5 p.m., Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, September 14, 2023, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, September 18, 2023.

Page S4541

Messages from the House:

Page S4521

Measures Referred:

Page S4521

Executive Communications:

Pages S4521–23

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S4523–24

Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S4525

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S4526–28

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S4528–31

Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Notices of Intent:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Privileges of the Floor:

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Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—228)

Page S4503

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:28 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S4541–42.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "The United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act".

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, after receiving testimony from Yuri Kim, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

GOVERNING AI

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine governing AI through acquisition and procurement, after receiving testimony from Rayid Ghani, Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Fei-Fei Li, Stanford University Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, Stanford, California; Devaki Raj, formerly of CrowdAI, Mountain View, California; Will Roberts, ASI Government, LLC, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; and Michael Shellenberger, Public, Albany, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jerry Edwards, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Margaret M. Garnett, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, Brandon S. Long, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Matthew James Maddox, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Brandy R. McMillion, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Karoline Mehalchick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, and Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Philip S. Hadji, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Rebecca C. Lutzko, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and April M. Perry, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 65 public bills, H.R. 5456–5520; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 89; H. Con. Res. 64; and H. Res. 684–690, were introduced.

Pages H4343–46

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H4349–50

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 663, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–196);

H.R. 3371, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–197);

H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–198); and

H.R. 1530, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–199). **Page H4343**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Luttrell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4301**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H4306**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Chaplain (Major) Troy S. Bates, U.S. Army, United States Military Academy West Point, West Point, NY. **Page H4307**

Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act: The House passed H.R. 1435, to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 391. **Pages H4310–28**

Rejected the Levin motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, by a yea-and-nay vote of 193 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 390. **Pages H4326–27**

H. Res. 681, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 209 noes, Roll No. 389, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 388. **Pages H4317–18**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, September 12th.

Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act: H.R. 1450, amended, to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements. **Page H4328**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, September 18th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H4328**

Quorum Calls Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4317, H4317–18, H4326–27, and H4327.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4259, the “Think Differently about Education Act of 2023”; H.R. 5349, the “Crucial Communism Teaching Act”; H.R. 5110, the “Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act”; H.J. Res. 88, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program”; H.R. 4957, the “Department of Labor Succession Act”; H.R. 5339, the “RETIRE Act”; H.R. 5337, the “Retirement Proxy Protection Act”; H.R. 5338, the “No Discrimination in My Benefits Act”; and H.R. 5340, the “Providing Complete Information to Retirement Investors Act”. H.R. 4259, H.R. 5349, H.R. 5110, H.R. 4957, H.R. 5338, H.R. 5337, H.R. 5339, and H.R. 5340 were ordered reported, as amended. H.J. Res. 88 was ordered reported, without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENERIC DRUG SHORTAGES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Prevent and Respond to Generic Drug Shortages”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES (CFIUS) AND OTHER EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Financial Services: On September 13, 2023, Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and Other Efforts to Strengthen National Security in the United States”. Testimony was heard from Paul Rosen, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury; Brian Reissaus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Investment Security, Department of the Treasury; Lucas Cadena, Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Adam Vaccaro, Director, Office of Investment Security, Department of Commerce; and Halimah Najieb-Locke, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience, Department of Defense.

IMPLEMENTING BASEL III, WHAT'S THE FED'S ENDGAME?

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Implementing Basel III, What’s the Fed’s Endgame?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DIGITAL DOLLAR DILEMMA: THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ALTERNATIVES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion held a hearing entitled “Digital Dollar Dilemma: The Implications of a Central Bank Digital Currency and Private Sector Alternatives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAN'S ESCALATING THREATS: ASSESSING U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN'S MALIGN ACTIVITIES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a hearing entitled “Iran’s Escalating Threats: Assessing U.S. Policy Toward Iran’s Malign Activities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE—GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CHILD TRAFFICKING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Children are not for Sale—Global Efforts to Address Child Trafficking”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TERRORIST ENTRY THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Terrorist Entry Through the Southwest Border”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT OVERREACH AT CEQ

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining Systemic Government Overreach at CEQ”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OH DOCTOR, WHERE ART THOU? PANDEMIC EROSION OF THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing entitled “Oh Doctor, Where Art Thou? Pandemic Erosion of the Doctor-Patient Relationship”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL AGENCIES' POST-PANDEMIC TELEWORK POLICIES

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce held a hearing entitled “Oversight of Federal Agencies’ Post-Pandemic Telework Policies”. Testimony was heard from Karen Marrongelle, Chief Operating Officer, National Science Foundation; Robert Gibbs, Associate Administrator for the Mission Support Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Dan Dorman, Executive Director for Operation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and Randolph Alles, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security.

HOW ARE FEDERAL AGENCIES HARNESSING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “How are Federal Agencies Harnessing Artificial Intelligence?”. Testimony was heard from Arati Prabhakar, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Craig Martell, Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, Department of Defense; and Eric Hysen, Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing entitled “The Inflation Reduction Act: A Year in Review”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRIORITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “An Update on the Department of Energy’s Science and Technology Priorities”. Testimony was heard from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5424, the “Main Street Competes Act”; H.R. 5265, the “Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act”; H.R. 5425, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 5426, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans; and H.R. 5427, a bill to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes. H.R. 5424, H.R. 5265, H.R. 5425, H.R. 5426, and H.R. 5427 were ordered reported, without amendment.

VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION: GET WELL SOON?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “VA Electronic Health Record Modernization: Get Well Soon?”. Testimony was heard from Neil Evans, M.D., Acting Program Executive Director, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”. Testi-

mony was heard from Chairman Westerman, Chairman Thompson of Pennsylvania, Chairman Green of Tennessee, and Representatives Collins, Barr, Johnson of Ohio, Dunn of Florida, D’Esposito, Nunn of Iowa, Chuck Edwards, González-Colón, Owens, Meuser, LaMalfa, Kelly of Mississippi, Letlow, Tony Gonzales of Texas, Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Carter of Georgia, Spartz, Hill, Pfluger, Salazar, Strickland, Waltz, Yakym, Carbajal, James, Wittman, Higgins of Louisiana, and Rosendale.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”; and H. Res. 684, condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms, 4 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, September 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, September 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

At 5 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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