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No. 150

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HERN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 18, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN HERN 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 1:50 p.m.

STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, there have been over 5.8 million illegal crossings on our southern border and 1.6 million illegal immigrants have evaded apprehension.

Instead of funding our Border Patrol agents to deal with the rise in attempted crossings, President Biden has chosen to incentivize crossings by end-

ing President Trump's remain in Mexico policy.

At a time when the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 is overdoses, Democrats' failure to pass comprehensive border security legislation is an indictment of their failure to protect the American people. Instead of addressing the importation of fentanyl-related substances, liberals in this body have voted against legislation like the HALT Fentanyl Act, which is legislation that would permanently classify these drugs as schedule I narcotics and impose harsh penalties on the dealers who traffic these deadly poisons.

In the past year, I have spoken with too many first responders who have administered Narcan on 911 calls. I have spoken with too many county coroners conducting autopsies on young people killed far too soon by fentanyl poisonings. I have spoken with far too many families who have lost a loved one to an overdose.

It is time for the Senate to stop sitting on the sidelines while Americans suffer and die. It is time to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act. It is time to secure our border.

Our top priority must be to protect our Nation's border and put a stop to drug smuggling and illegal immigration that have made every State in our Union a border State.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY RYAN CLINKUNBROOMER

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

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a lost hero.

This past Saturday evening, around 6 p.m., L.A. County Sheriff Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer was ambushed and brutally executed while sitting in his

patrol vehicle in broad daylight in my district's Antelope Valley.

At the young age of just 30 years old, Ryan had proposed to his beautiful fiancée, Brittany, just 4 days before he was murdered. He was a field training officer and was by all accounts one of the best sheriffs in the Palmdale station.

Ryan was a third-generation sheriff. His dad, Mike, served as a sheriff, as well as his grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words that can give solace to his family and fellow sheriffs in the station. The healing will take decades and even then will only just begin to close these very deep wounds.

This morning, his alleged killer was apprehended.

In the midst of the unbearable pain, Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to seek justice and full accountability. We have an obligation to compel all elected officials at all levels of government and all citizens, regardless of political party, to unequivocally support our precious and vulnerable police officers, not just with words but also with resources, and not just with resources, but also with respect.

The killing of a police officer should be a Federal felony punishable by death or life in prison, and I will do all I can to make sure that that happens.

It is an indication of a failing society and culture that develops a human being that is comfortable with executing a hero like Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer.

Ryan served every day of his life with honor and dignity to protect the good guys from the bad guys. He did it right. We owe him and his family and his fellow law enforcement officers a level of gratitude that will never be sufficient. As hard as we may try to appreciate what they have done, it will still only just be at the feet of their towering service and sacrifices.

Praise be to God and His Son, the Father of compassion, to give the

□ 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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Clinkunbroomer family comfort now at their darkest hour. May He and we hold Ryan's killer accountable with the fury of a thousand suns.

I implore District Attorney Gascon of Los Angeles to file maximum charges against his alleged killer.

May God, with Ryan by his side, protect and bless our police officers who put their lives on the line every day while they provide the rest of us with our security blanket.

HONORING CARL RAGGIO

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the former mayor of Glendale, and my mentor, Mr. Carl Raggio, who passed away on June 20 of this year.

Carl, despite his nearly 95 years of age, remained a wise and sprightly man until he left us.

A resident of my hometown, Santa Clarita, Carl was a family man. He is survived by his lovely bride of 72 years, Lynne; as well as their sons, Carl and Paul; and their daughter, Lisa; 15 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Carl was, in fact, a rocket scientist. Working at JPL for 39 years, he was instrumental in the design of several pioneering spacecraft, including Explorer 1, which was the first satellite launched by the United States into space in 1958, and he did it all with just a slide rule. Can you imagine that?

Today, Carl is in Heaven, flying higher than any spacecraft he developed in this world.

Godspeed, Carl Raggio. Thank you for your love of country and your service to our beautiful Nation.

INCREASE BORDER SECURITY FOR GUAM

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleagues who have called for an increase in funding for our border security and to remind the Nation that the U.S. border in Guam ought to be defended, too.

As we continue to discuss and debate solutions to our southern border crisis, I ask that we not forget to secure all our border cities, from Brownsville to Hagatna.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese nationals are arriving on the shores of Guam in droves, often coming in small boats from neighboring islands. Among the many honest people looking to flee tyranny and find sanctuary on American soil, it is a known fact that spies have exploited this insecure border. Security forces at Andersen Air Force Base have told me on numerous occasions that they have apprehended such intruders.

Citing our low terror threat, the Department of Homeland Security currently designates less than 1 percent of Homeland Security grant funding to Guam. The Department of Homeland

Security's assessment of the situation ignores reality and its red flags for national security.

Guam has an extremely permeable border and is facing vigorous efforts by the CCP to exploit our vulnerabilities. With resources on a scale of a municipality, Guam must contend with a border crisis caused by the Chinese state.

Guam needs more funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a more robust Coast Guard presence, and a Federal law enforcement presence proportional to the scope of the immigration issues, transnational crime, and military intelligence vulnerabilities on my island.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot let this moment pass without asking my colleagues to help me fund the defense of my community. I ask my colleagues to help me secure the border by securing all of America's borders.

HONORING FRANK BARRIOS

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a great Phoenician, Frank Barrios.

Frank was a giant among us, a champion for the Latino community, a renowned conservationist, and a historian who preserved the legacy of generations gone by.

A second-generation Arizonan, Frank spent his career working to preserve our most precious resource, water.

As a young hydrologist, he worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and later the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He played pivotal roles during key moments in Arizona's water history, from planning the Central Arizona Project to groundwater management. Even after retirement, Frank found many ways to serve.

He was appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors, where he served with distinction, ensuring that even amidst the State's rapid growth, our water resources were well managed.

A man of deep faith, he spent his later years caring for our most vulnerable neighbors as president of the enormously impactful St. Vincent de Paul Society. Frank knew the healing power of St. Vincent de Paul.

His deep love for Phoenix was obvious to anyone who had the good fortune of crossing paths with him, particularly through his work chronicling and preserving the rich Mexican-American history in the valley. He fought to restore the historically Latino Sotelo-Heard Cemetery in south Phoenix, after years of neglect, to honor those who found eternal rest there.

He is perhaps best known for writing the book "Mexicans in Phoenix," documenting more than a century of Mexican-American life, culture, and political activism in our valley. His meticulous research, gathered oral histories,

and archival photographs were endowed to the Arizona Historical Society, a priceless gift for future generations.

There is no doubt that Frank Barrios lived a full and remarkable life. What stands out most was not just his achievements on paper but the way he achieved them—through his unwavering kindness, generosity, and humility.

We lost Frank at the age of 81 on September 11, 2023, but his profound legacy will always live on.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVID WALLACE

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Captain David Wallace, a United States Navy veteran and permanent military professor, who passed away at the age of 48 on Monday, December 26, 2022.

David was born in Stockton, New Jersey. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, USNA, in Annapolis, Maryland, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in economics in 1996. He later returned to the USNA and earned a master of science degree in information technology management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

David served in the Navy on Active Duty for over 20 years as a surface warfare officer. He served aboard the USS *John S. McCain*, the USS *Hayler*, and USS *Mustin*. In 2012, he commanded Coastal Riverine Group 2 Detachment Bahrain and Task Group 56.11 in Manama, Bahrain.

□ 1215

On shore, David worked at U.S. Joint Forces Command assessing and developing practices in humanitarian assistance, counterinsurgency operations, foreign internal defense, and stability operations. He also served as deputy director for professional development at the USNA from 2010 to 2011.

In 2013, David was selected for the USNA Permanent Military Professor program, earning his Ph.D. in industrial-organizational psychology in 2017 from George Mason University.

Since 2020, David has served as the department chair of the USNA Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department, LEL, while also working as adjunct faculty at the George Mason University and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, teaching graduate courses.

David was a highly decorated veteran earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards.

In 2022, David received a nomination by the LEL Department for the USNA Military Professor Teaching Award, his second Meritorious Service Medal and his promotion to associate professor.

Above all, professionally, David loved fostering the spirit of leadership in the Navy and throughout his career.

Outside of his career, David loved to pursue his hobbies of sailing, boating, and home improvement with his wife, Valerie.

Last December, David tragically lost his 2-year battle with cancer. I am grateful for his service and dedication to educating future military leaders. In recognition of his exemplary service, David was posthumously promoted to the rank of captain on April 25, 2023.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie, with whom he shared 25 years of marriage and his three daughters, Savannah, Madeline, and Emma. May his memory be a blessing to his family, to his colleagues in the Navy, and to his community.

CELEBRATING THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Allegheny National Forest centennial. For the last 100 years, the only national forest in Pennsylvania has been a shining example of what a multiple-use forest can do and be for a region.

This great forest wasn't always this vibrant. Prior to President Calvin Coolidge signing a proclamation establishing the Allegheny National Forest, or what we refer to as ANF, in 1923, there was considerable deforestation throughout Pennsylvania's northern tier.

This was a result of unsustainable and poor forestry practices during the 19th century and early 20th century. A century later, forests throughout the region have largely been restored and forest health has returned across the landscape by applying science and active forest management.

Located in the northern portion of my district, this incredible forest spans more than half a million acres across Forest, Elk, McKean, and Warren Counties.

Whether it is timber harvesting, energy production, wildlife habitat, or an abundance of outdoor activities, the Allegheny National Forest has it all.

The ANF is the economic engine of the region, supporting local jobs and industries, as well as recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

The ANF is an important partner to the forest products industry, which is incredibly important for this region for both economic needs and encouraging forest health. The local logging and forest products industry play important roles in supporting the Forest Service's mandate to actively manage national forests and ensure a reliable source of domestic timber.

The Allegheny National Forest is also located in the same area as Penn-

sylvania's historic oil region, which began in 1859 when Colonel Edwin Drake drilled the world's first commercially successful well in Titusville, Pennsylvania.

The oil and gas industry has been a staple industry in northwestern Pennsylvania, established long before the ANF was even created. Today, energy production in the ANF continues to be a critical, economic driver in the region while the Forest Service remains an important partner with local producers and mineral rights owners.

Mr. Speaker, this centennial is a grand celebration as it highlights the importance of maintaining our multiple-use forest. To celebrate, the community is hosting a variety of activities leading up to the celebration on Sunday, September 24. Events include a Jakes Rocks Mountain Bike Trail Fest, a forest-themed art show, a forest-themed film festival, and ending with a birthday party on Sunday, the 24th, taking place at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area.

The ANF is a nature lover's dream and continues to be a prime vacation destination for Pennsylvania, as well as Americans and even international travelers.

While there are numerous hiking, biking, and even snowmobile trails, the ANF also provides key resources to sustain our country. From world-renowned hardwoods to biomass fuels for energy production, the ANF truly provides something for everyone. For generations, the forest has brought economic prosperity to our region, and it is essential that we are able to contribute to the longevity and sustainability of the Allegheny National Forest.

I am dedicated to putting forth policies that promote natural solutions to keep our forests healthy and resilient for generations to come. These policies include working closely with the Forest Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to manage our forests, foster healthy lands, and allow this economic engine to thrive.

By supporting the Forest Service and encouraging active management, we can support healthy forests and rural communities for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the only national forest in Pennsylvania. I will continue to support policies here in Washington that allow for the ANF to flourish for the next 100 years and beyond.

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIAM PARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent and World War II veteran, William Norman Parker, who passed away on September 11 as an American hero.

Mr. Parker was one of the first soldiers to arrive on Omaha Beach on D-day in 1944.

Mr. Parker and his fellow soldiers displayed incredible heroism on that fatal day and the terrible days that followed. Their courage and patriotism represent the very best of the American spirit. In July of this year, Mr. Parker returned to Omaha Beach for the first time since that day 78 years ago. I can only imagine how he felt standing on that calm beach then with the traumatic memories from that summer when he was just 19 years old, risking life and limb for the future of this country.

My prayer is that he found peace on that beach and returned home feeling the pride and gratitude of the Nation he fought for. Whether it be on Omaha Beach or at Ground Zero, America has always stood for freedom, and we will continue to make that stand.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's friends, his family, and beloved veteran community as he is laid to rest today in Oklahoma. May this hero rest in peace for always and forever.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, we dare to approach You this day, knowing full well that despite our best efforts, no one of us is righteous, no one of us is without blame. All of us have sinned and fallen short of Your glory.

We dare, however, to pray that in Your justice, You will be merciful to us as we strive to bring honor to You in this day You have provided us. In hope, we pray that in Your discipline, You will guide us in the way we should go, that in our life and our work, whatever we do would bring glory to You.

In this quiet moment, we yield to Your will and ask that in the more challenging moments that lie ahead of us, Holy God, You would be in our heads and in our thinking. God, be in our eyes and in our looking. God, be in our mouths and in our speaking. Oh, God, be in our hearts and in our understanding.

In Your everlasting name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD 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.

COLD ZERO PREMIUM SPIRITS AND CEDAR RIDGE WINERY & DISTILLERY HONOR VETERANS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable collaboration between Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery that embodies the spirit of giving back and honoring our veterans.

Casey Maxted, a former Green Beret, brought together friends and colleagues from the military and co-founded Cold Zero in Swisher, Iowa.

This year, members of Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery spent the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks bottling whiskey. Over 2,000 bottles of this special whiskey will be available, and each bottle is signed by one of six Medal of Honor recipients, including Cedar Rapids native Sal Giunta.

As we approach Veterans Day, let us remember the profound impact we can have on the lives of our veterans by rallying around organizations and businesses who support them and are also veteran owned.

Thank you, Cold Zero Premium Spirits and Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery for your inspiring efforts to make a difference.

I would also like to wish a very happy birthday to the most special man in my life, my husband, Curt Meeks. Happy birthday, honey.

GAS PRICES HIT 10-YEAR SEASONAL HIGH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the irresponsible policies of Biden and the liberal Democrats have caused a 40-year high inflation, leaving American families in financial distress and jobs destroyed.

Bidenflation has affected the cost of everyday goods and services and lim-

ited the annual purchasing power of families by thousands of dollars. Worse, Biden does not seem to comprehend the reality of these decisions, proven when recently describing his economic policies. Biden said, I don't know what Bidenomics is, but it is working.

Among the most damaging effects on families is the highest seasonal gas price in more than a decade, with the national average at over \$3.80 a gallon.

Sadly, American autoworkers are being sacrificed to create dependency on Chinese batteries. The Republican House majority is working to correct this, having recently passed the Lower Energy Costs Act to streamline the permitting process and reduce energy costs to achieve energy independence, which President Donald Trump had achieved in his administration.

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

SHEDDING LIGHT ON PYRUVATE DEHYDROGENASE COMPLEX DEFICIENCY

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on pyruvate dehydrogenase complex deficiency, commonly known as PDCD.

This incurable and extremely rare mitochondrial metabolic condition, which manifests at birth, prohibits patients from properly transforming carbohydrates into energy, and instead turning them into lactic acid that causes painful seizures and developmental delays.

I recently met with Rick and Kim Higbee, a family in Jacksonville, Florida, who have experienced the challenges of PDCD firsthand. Their daughter, Harlow, pictured beside me, began to show signs of PDCD as an infant. As any parent knows, when there is something wrong with your child, you will move Heaven and Earth to get answers and provide for their care.

Sadly, since PDCD does not currently appear on infant screening lists, the Higbee family waited 9 painstakingly long months before they had a name for Harlow's condition and were able to begin treatment.

Thanks to the doctors, nurses, and specialists at UF Health in Jacksonville and her own fighting spirit, 3-year-old Harlow has defied the odds.

This week, World Mitochondrial Disease Week, I am proud to join the Higbee family and thousands of others in advocating for PDCD to be added to the infant screening list and for additional research funding to go toward finding a cure. Early detection and diagnosis can mean the difference between life and death for more than 15 million children.

On behalf of Florida's Fifth Congressional District, I am committed to ensuring that families in our community like the Higbees are supported in their fight to eradicate this condition.

God bless Harlow and all of our children living with PDCD.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write to inform you that I am resigning my position as the Member of the United States Congress representing the Second Congressional District of Utah, effective at the close of the day of September 15, 2023.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the Second Congressional District of Utah in the United States House of Representatives, and I am eternally grateful for the trust and faith that the people of the Second District placed in me to serve as their Member of Congress for the past eleven years.

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter I have submitted to Utah Governor Spencer J. Cox.

Sincerely,

CHRIS STEWART,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2023.

Hon. SPENCER J. COX,
Governor, The Office of Gov. Spencer J. Cox,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

DEAR GOVERNOR COX: I write to inform you that I hereby irrevocably resign from the U.S. House of Representatives, effective at 11:59 PM Eastern Time on September 15, 2023. It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve the good people of Utah in Congress. My family and I have been very blessed by this experience. I thank you for your leadership as Governor and dedication to our great state.

Sincerely,

CHRIS STEWART,
Member of Congress,
Utah Second Congressional District.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), the whole number of the House is 433.

UNDERFUNDING THE WIC PROGRAM

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to appeal to the majority here

to not make draconian cuts to the Women, Infants, and Children program.

What is before us is a proposal to cut \$800 million out of the fruit and vegetables portion of the WIC program.

Study after study has shown that WIC improves birth outcomes, reduces the likelihood of preterm births and low birth weights, and helps lactating mothers. As of May, WIC has already served an average of 6.6 million monthly participants.

Mr. Speaker, this is our future workforce, and how we treat these babies is what shows us who is right to life and who is not. You want to be a right-to-life person? Feed the babies.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1615

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. VAN DUYN) at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

ISAKSON-ROE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3981) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3981

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 "Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL.—Section 3675(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

"(5) The educational institution agrees to, not later than 30 days after any date on which such educational institution becomes subject to an

action or event described in section 3673(e)(3) of this title, submit to the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, a notification of such action or event in such form and containing such information as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(b) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF NONACCREDITED COURSES.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—Section 3676(c) of such title is amended—*

(A) *by redesignating paragraphs (14) through (16) as paragraphs (15) through (17), respectively; and*

(B) *by inserting after paragraph (13) the following new paragraph:*

"(14) The institution agrees to, not later than 30 days after any date on which such institution becomes subject to an action or event described in section 3673(e)(3) of this title, submit to the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, a notification of such action or event in such form and containing such information as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—*

(A) *in section 3672(b)(2)(C), by striking "paragraph (14) or (15)" and inserting "paragraph (15) or (16)";*

(B) *in section 3675(b)(3), by striking "(14), (15), and (16)" and inserting "(15), (16), and (17)";*

(C) *in section 3679(d), by striking "described in paragraph (14) or (15)" and inserting "described in paragraph (15) or (16)"; and*

(D) *in section 3680A(a)(4)(C)(iii), by striking "section 3676(c)(14) and (15)" and inserting "section 3676(c)(15) and (16)".*

(c) *ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OF APPROVAL.—Section 3679(f)(1) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:*

"(I) Comply with the notification requirements under sections 3675(b)(5) and 3676(c)(14) of this title, when applicable."

(d) *DEADLINE FOR RISK-BASED SURVEYS DATABASE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the database required under section 3673A(c) of title 38, United States Code, by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3981, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3981, as amended. This bill makes improvements to protect veterans while they are using their GI Bill.

Specifically, this bill would require schools to self-report adverse actions to their State approving agency in addition to the VA within 30 days.

State approving agencies are required to approve and review schools and training programs for the GI Bill.

This bill would also require VA to create a risk-based survey database within 180 days.

Congress has been waiting for the VA to implement this database for a long time. This proposal would make it clear to the VA that Congress still intends for this database to be implemented.

I appreciate the bipartisan work that has been done at the committee level to ensure that this bill supports veterans while also not increasing government spending.

I thank Mr. MCGARVEY for his work in introducing this proposal, and I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3981, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3981, as amended, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act.

Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a teacher. When I was entrusted with the gavel as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in 2019, one of my primary focuses was helping student veterans. Now, I serve as ranking member. However, I am incredibly proud of what our committee did during our 4 years in the majority.

In 2021, we passed a significant student-veteran focused law: Representative MIKE LEVIN's Isakson-Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, named for former House and Senate chairmen Phil Roe and Johnny Isakson. That law was a massive leap forward in education quality and oversight for student veterans.

Representative MCGARVEY's legislation, H.R. 3981, builds upon the Isakson-Roe Act and further improves the system of oversight we established in the 2021 law. Now, schools will join the process of reporting violations, no longer waiting for State approving agencies or VA to uncover errors before it is too late.

The legislation before us also improves transparency for the risk-based surveys created by Isakson-Roe. VA started conducting these surveys in late 2022, but schools need to know how these surveys work so they can better deliver for our student veterans. The legislation improves schools' access to the risk-based survey database.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 3981, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), my good friend, who is a member of our Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and also the sponsor of H.R. 3981.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3981, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act. I am proud to sponsor this legislation, which builds

on Ranking Member LEVIN's comprehensive bill, the Isakson-Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

My hometown and district in Louisville, Kentucky, is home to nearly 50,000 veterans. Veterans in Louisville and across our country deserve as much support from the government when they come out of Active Duty as when they go in. Today, we have an opportunity to show our vets that we are listening to their concerns and that we are going to do something about it.

H.R. 3981 will help the VA deliver on the promises it makes to servicemembers when they join the military. It improves oversight of and fosters accountability at institutions that receive GI Bill funding, ensuring that the men and women who put on the uniform of our country aren't defrauded by dishonest institutions that fail to set our veterans up for success.

H.R. 3981 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill which came out of our committee on a bipartisan basis. It will ensure our veterans and their benefits are supported and protected. We have a sacred responsibility to look after all Americans, especially those who have sacrificed for our country. Any veteran who wants to get an education, an education they have earned, should be able to do so without fear of being defrauded, losing their benefits, or being left behind.

Every man and woman who puts on a uniform is willing to risk everything to keep us safe. The least we can do is protect them when they get home. Veterans earn their GI Bill education benefits, and no veteran should lose that benefit to bad actors or fraudulent institutions. Not a single one.

I thank Chairman BOST, Chairman VAN ORDEN, Ranking Members TAKANO and LEVIN, and all of those involved, for their support of this bill. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3981.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3981, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage the Members on our side the aisle and all of our colleagues to support this good piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3981, the Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act of 2023.

Members of the armed forces are important to our nation, and we show them our appreciation by taking care of them after they have completed their service by legislation such as H.R. 3981.

Many of our nation's veterans have earned federal support to help pay for college, graduate school, and training programs through their GI Bill education benefits.

They can even transfer unused benefits to family members and do so in many cases.

Unfortunately, some predatory programs have exploited veterans by aggressively attracting them and their GI benefits to fraudulent, falsified, or substandard programs.

The comprehensive Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act would seek to rein in these abuses by increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs oversight capacity.

Additionally, it would look to restore benefits to defrauded veterans, and improve oversight, faster accountability, and most of all, help our veterans access the quality education they have earned.

Similarly, H.R. 3981 would require educational institutions that offer certain courses to people who are eligible for educational benefits administered by the VA.

Reportable events would include punitive actions by state or federal agencies, heightened monitoring of federal student aid, and the potential loss of accreditation.

Institutions that fail to report those events would become ineligible to receive benefit payments from the VA.

Unfortunately, our nation's recognition of those who served in subsequent conflicts has been less than adequate.

We have, in recent decades, too often failed to overcome our political differences to recognize the truly remarkable achievements of our courageous veterans.

We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine in welcoming them back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow.

Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country.

Veterans continue to have many unanswered needs, and I will continue to fight for the rights of our most patriotic Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3981, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1530

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS.

Section 5101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, including (except as provided in paragraph (4)(A)) all disability benefit questionnaire forms available to personnel of the Veterans Health Administration and covered non-Department providers for the completion of examinations with respect to medical disability of applicants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary” before the semicolon; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) The Secretary may exclude from publication under clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) any form described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that the Secretary determines could not reasonably be completed to a clinically acceptable standard by someone not an employee or a contractor of the Department.

“(B) A form described in this subparagraph is a form that—

“(i) was available or in use at any time after the date of the enactment of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2023; and

“(ii) has not been published under paragraph (1).

“(C) The Secretary shall include on the same internet website as the website on which forms are published under paragraph (1)(A) a list of forms that have been excluded from publication pursuant to subparagraph (A), and for each such form, a justification for the exclusion of the form from publication.”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The term ‘covered non-Department provider’ means a medical provider who is not an employee of the Department and who provides examinations with respect to medical disability of applicants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary pursuant to a contract with the Department.”.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT OF PROVISION OF MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACTORS.

(a) REPORT ON IMPROVING REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL RELATING TO MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after consulting with the Secretary of State and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to reimburse veterans for expenses incurred traveling to a facility of the Department or of a covered non-Department provider incident to an examination with respect to the medical disability of the veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, regardless of whether the facility is located inside or outside the United States.

(b) COMMUNICATION BY NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS PROVIDING MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNATED FOR PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, AND PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS.—Any contract entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of this Act under which a covered non-Department provider agrees to provide examinations with respect to medical disability for applicants for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, shall include a requirement that every communication from the covered non-Department provider to such an applicant regarding the scheduling of a covered medical disability examination be contemporaneously transmitted to any person or organization—

(1) designated by the applicant by a power of attorney filed with the Secretary; and

(2) recognized under sections 5902, 5903, and 5904 of title 38, United States Code, for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTREACH REGARDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR

CONTRACTORS PROVIDING COVERED MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with veterans service organizations and such other stakeholders as the Secretary considers relevant and appropriate, shall implement an outreach program to provide veterans with the following information:

(1) Contact information for covered non-Department providers that provide examinations with respect to medical disability of applicants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, including the telephone numbers such providers may use to contact veterans.

(2) Notice of the requirement for a veteran to provide personally identifiable information to such a provider when contacted in order to verify the identity of the veteran.

(d) COVERED NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDER.—In this section, the term “covered non-Department provider” means a medical provider who is not an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs and who provides examinations with respect to medical disability of applicants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to a contract with the Department.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS WHO PREPARE, PRESENT, AND PROSECUTE BENEFITS CLAIMS BEFORE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and after consulting veterans service organizations and such other stakeholders as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers relevant and appropriate, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on improving the support by the Department of Veterans Affairs of covered governmental veterans service officers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the feasibility, advisability, and current technical limitations of providing covered governmental veterans service officers enhanced access to certain Department systems to better serve veterans those governmental service officers may not have authorization to represent.

(2) An assessment as to whether the Department would benefit from the establishment or designation of an office or working group within the Department to serve as an intergovernmental liaison between the Department and governmental veterans service officers.

(3) Any other recommendations to improve how the Department monitors, coordinates with, or provides support to covered governmental veterans service officers.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered governmental veterans service officer” means an employee of a State, county, municipal, or Tribal government—

(A) who is recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as a representative of a veterans service organization to serve as a veterans service officer; and

(B) whose primary responsibilities include preparing, presenting, and prosecuting before the Department of Veterans Affairs claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) The term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 5. BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 71 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7114. Internship program

“The Secretary shall establish a competitive internship program of the Board for individuals

enrolled in the first or second year of law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“7114. Internship program.”

(c) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the internship program required by section 7114 of such title, as added by subsection (a), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program to furnish certain benefits to covered participants.

(b) BENEFITS: STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT; REIMBURSEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to an agreement under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide to each covered attorney—

(A) student loan repayment benefits under section 5379 of title 5, United States Code, in the case of a covered attorney who is eligible for such benefits; and

(B) reimbursement for the cost of—

(i) enrollment in a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State;

(ii) sitting for a bar examination in a State; and

(iii) annual dues required to maintain membership in the bar of any State.

(2) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a covered attorney who will receive benefits under paragraph (1). Each such agreement shall specify that—

(A) the covered attorney agrees to remain in the service of the Department for a period of not less than three years, unless involuntarily separated; and

(B) if separated involuntarily on account of misconduct, or voluntarily, before the end of the period specified in the agreement, the covered attorney shall repay to the United States the amount of any benefits received by the covered participant under paragraph (1).

(c) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) MENTORSHIP.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an individual becomes a covered participant, the Secretary shall assign the covered participant a mentor who is an employee of the Department who is—

(A) to the extent practicable, a managerial employee; and

(B) outside the participant's chain of command.

(2) ASSIGNMENTS.—At the election of a covered participant who has completed at least two years of service to the Department, the Secretary shall assign such covered participant to:

(A) The Office of General Counsel, in a position—

(i) that includes full-time legal responsibilities in order to further the professional development of the covered participant; and

(ii) for a period of not less than 120 days and not more than 180 days, or longer at the discretion of the Secretary.

(B) In the case of a covered participant who has already held a position described in subparagraph (A), an assignment described in clauses (i) and (ii) of such subparagraph with the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

(3) OTHER ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS.—The Secretary may provide a covered participant one or more other short-term rotational assignments. Such an assignment shall be for a period of not less than 30 days and not more than 180 days, at the discretion of the Secretary.

(d) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than three years after the date on which the Secretary be-

gins to carry out the program under this section, and not less frequently than once every three years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding such program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) Costs to the United States to provide benefits under subsection (b).

(B) The rates of retention of covered participants compared to other employees of the Department.

(C) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislative or administrative action to improve such program.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered attorney” means an individual who—

(A) is a covered participant;

(B) has graduated from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association; and

(C) is a member in good standing of the bar of a State.

(2) The term “covered participant” means an individual who participates in—

(A) the Honors Attorney Program (or successor program) of the Office of General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(B) the Law Clerk Program (or successor program) of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

(3) The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 7. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM NUMBER OF JUDGES APPOINTED TO UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

Section 7253(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “seven” and inserting “nine”.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS TELEHEARINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on improving access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Recommendations on the feasibility and advisability of reimbursing veterans for expenses incurred for travel from the home of a veteran to the location at which a hearing before the Board of Veterans' Appeals is held by picture and voice transmission, if the Secretary determines that travel to such location is reasonably necessary for such a hearing.

(2) Recommendations on establishment of pilot programs to assess the feasibility and advisability of using other methods that could improve veteran access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission from a veteran's home.

(3) Such other recommendations to improve access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission as the Secretary may receive from stakeholders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1530, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1530, as amended, offered by my friend from Texas and our Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs chairman, Representative LUTTRELL.

I also congratulate Representative LUTTRELL on this bill as it is his first one to come before the floor since coming to Congress.

Now, this bill would make vitally important improvements to the VA's disability claims process for veterans applying for benefits, and I am grateful to my fellow veteran for his work on it.

It is no secret that the VA disability claims process is lengthy and difficult, but Mr. LUTTRELL's bill is the right solution to modernize the process, an example of which would be the requirement for VA to publish disability benefits questionnaire forms on the VA's website to ease access between veterans and providers completing disability claims.

This is a commonsense change that honestly we should have done a long time ago. This bill also includes Representative CISCOMANI's legislation to create a new internship program at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. This program would offer certain incentives to legal interns to get them into VA and fighting for veterans while also addressing hiring and retention challenges at the board head on.

Lastly, this bill includes Representative SELF's proposal to make sure that the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has enough judges to process the backlog of appeals and expected growth since the passage of the PACT Act last year.

These commonsense solutions should help us make the claims process a little easier to navigate for veterans and their families. It would also provide the courts with the additional resources we know they need to manage the workload coming in from the board.

Once again, I thank Representative LUTTRELL, Mr. SELF, and Mr. CISCOMANI for their work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1530, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1530, as amended, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.

I thank the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chairman LUTTRELL and Ranking Member PAPPAS for working in a bipartisan manner on the issues in this package. I

commend Representatives CISCOMANI and MCGARVEY for their contributions, as well.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes several important changes that will serve to help streamline the medical disability exam process for veterans.

It will also help strengthen recruitment, hiring, and retention at the Board of Veterans' Appeals by creating a new internship program for law students and will expand the reimbursement programs for current employees to include student loans, professional development activities, and bar dues.

This bill will also permanently expand the number of judges appointed to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, allowing the court to process cases faster and grant veterans and survivors the relief they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 1530, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL), the chairman of the DAMA Subcommittee.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here today to talk about H.R. 1530, as amended, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023.

We have an obligation to support our veterans who served and sacrificed for our country. However, there is currently a lot of red tape that prevents veterans from easily accessing the disability benefits they have earned from the VA.

This bill takes important steps to identify and break down these barriers in the disability exam process, ensuring our veterans receive the highest quality care and support.

This bill would make several improvements, including clarifying publishing requirements for disability benefits questionnaire forms on VA's website and easing communication about the scheduling of disability exams between contract examiners, veterans, and veterans' representatives so that the veterans do not miss their appointments.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PAPPAS and my colleagues, Representatives CISCOMANI and SELF, for working with me to include their respective legislation in this amendment. All of their provisions will take steps to provide VA with the resources they need to address the backlog of appeals, especially since the passage of the PACT Act last year, as well as mitigate the recruiting and retention problems at the board to get new lawyers in the door for our veterans.

I know firsthand how cumbersome the disability claims process can be, and it is past time to modernize these efforts.

I am proud to have a bill on the floor that will make improvements for my fellow veterans going through the VA claims process.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1530, as amended.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend, the ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO for yielding. I rise today in support of this bipartisan legislation, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.

As ranking member of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, I am honored to be able to partner with the subcommittee chair, Mr. LUTTRELL, on this legislation. I thank him for working in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that our veterans can access the benefits and services that they are owed.

We all have a solemn obligation to ensure that the needs of veterans are met. We know that too many of our heroes encounter red tape, delays, and backlogs when trying to access benefits. My office has spoken with countless veterans across New Hampshire who have had trouble completing and filing disability benefits questionnaires due to a lack of clear and timely communication.

Often, our office will step in when things go awry along the way and advocate on their behalf with VA, but veterans shouldn't have to reach out to yet another office just to navigate these processes, which are all too complicated.

By improving transparency and accessibility for those filing a disability claim, as well as communications between veterans, their accredited representatives, and contractors, we can make sure that veterans receive the support that they have earned.

As we see more veterans file claims as a result of the PACT Act, it is so crucial that we have steps in place that are going to improve these processes as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, which will help reduce the VA claims backlog and minimize delays that too many of our veterans are facing today.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1530, as amended, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.

This bill will streamline the veterans claims process through several actions, including adding language from my bill, H.R. 1329, to add two additional judges to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

For decades, the Board of Veterans' Appeals has been maligned because they cannot provide timely decisions to veterans who appeal their cases. To

make matters worse, the court anticipates the caseload in FY 2023 increasing even more due to the amount of cases generated from the PACT Act.

Quite simply, more cases before the board will lead to more denials, and more denials will lead to more appeals. The rapid growth of appeals will create an even larger backlog and leave veterans waiting longer periods of time—potentially years—for their cases to be resolved.

Since the court's expansion from five to seven permanent judges in 2011, appeals that have been filed with the court have more than doubled from just under 4,000 to just under 9,000 in 2020. Increasing the number of judges will provide the court with an opportunity to prevent a backlog and provide veterans with decisions in a timely manner.

The addition of this language to the bill is endorsed by the court itself.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1530.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI).

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for yielding me this time to speak in support of Representative LUTTRELL's bill, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023.

I am grateful that my bill, the Veterans' Appeals Backlog Improvement Act, is included in this package. My bipartisan bill, which I introduced with Congressman MCGARVEY, is aimed at reducing wait times for our veterans with claims in front of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

For too many of our veterans, they are waiting weeks, months, and sometimes even years to hear back. These delays create an incredible hurdle for our veterans who are trying to get a potentially life-changing decision.

While progress has been made in this area to older legacy VA appeals from veterans, the backlog is only increasing with newer claims stemming from the PACT Act.

Simply put, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, like all employers, is having issues recruiting employees and does not have enough staff to process the volume of cases. To address this shortage, my bill would create an internship program for law students at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Additionally, it would create a 9-year pilot honors program at the VA for recruiting entry-level attorneys to work at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

This bill makes major strides in improving and addressing the backlog and delays that our veterans see far too often and will help recruit much-needed staff.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to supporting this legislation and swift passage on the House floor.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a strong supporter of H.R. 1530, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023, which, among other things, would amend title 38 of the United States Code to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans are some of America's most valued members of society.

These are people who served our nation in a time of need, people who risked their lives to protect our country.

Yet, it pains me to say that many of these same veterans who fought so bravely and risked so much in lands abroad have come back to their nation and have limited access to veterans' outreach programs, particularly in areas with large concentration of veterans.

There are approximately 18.5 million veterans in the United States.

Of those veterans, 1.5 million reside in Texas—the largest veteran population of any state.

This legislation is necessary because veterans have special needs that are unique from those faced by the rest of the population.

In 2015, I was proud to introduce the H.E.R.O.E.S. Act, which offers assistance and materials to help veterans transition from the battlefield to the workplace.

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023 is a step closer towards building a smooth transition for our nation's heroes.

H.R. 1530 helps to address the shortcomings in veteran assistance by increasing and extending assistance programs as well as scholarships through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023 holds the Secretary of Veterans Affairs responsible to improve its support of veterans through outreach; reimbursement for medical disability-related travel; professional development activities; and access to Board of Veterans' Appeals telehearings.

This comprehensive program is needed if we are to fight this scourge that is a blight upon our nation.

Our nation's veterans did not risk their lives abroad so that they could come home and not receive the support and benefits they so desperately need.

We must all have outrage that so many of our nation's veterans live without critical support services; we must continue to proactively find ways to correct this injustice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1530, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN OTHER VETERANS

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 112) to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 112

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

SECTION 1. BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN OTHER VETERANS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1831 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) The term ‘covered child’ means a child who is eligible for health care and benefits under this chapter.

“(3) The term ‘covered veteran’ means an individual whose children are eligible for health care and benefits under this chapter.”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“§ 1835. Advisory council

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council on health care and benefits for covered children.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory council established under subsection (a) shall be composed of Federal employees.

“(c) DUTIES.—The advisory council established under subsection (a) shall solicit feedback from covered children and covered veterans on the health care and benefits provided under this chapter and communicate such feedback to the Secretary.

“§ 1836. Care and coordination teams

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish care and coordination teams for covered children.

“(b) OUTREACH.—A care and coordination team established under subsection (a) shall attempt to contact each covered child—

“(1) not less frequently than once every 180 days, to ensure the continued care of the child and assist with any changes in care needed due to a changed situation of the child; and

“(2) as soon as practicable after the identification of a condition listed in the report required by subsection (c).

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth a list of conditions that will trigger outreach to covered children under subsection (b)(2).

“§ 1837. Duration of health care and benefits provided

“The Secretary shall provide a covered child with health care and benefits under this chapter—

“(1) for the duration of the life of the child; and

“(2) notwithstanding any death of a parent of the child that precedes the death of the child.

“§ 1838. Biennial report

“Not less frequently than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

“(1) The number of covered children receiving health care or benefits under this chapter as of the date on which the report is submitted.

“(2) The number of covered children for which the Department is paying for or providing a social worker as of such date.

“(3) Metrics on outreach conducted under section 1836(b) of this title.”.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health of the Department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding—

(1) to better assist covered children (as defined in section 1831 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)); and

(2) to establish conditions to be included in the report required by section 1836(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory council required under section 1835 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(2) CARE AND COORDINATION TEAMS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the care and coordination teams required under section 1836 of such title, as added by subsection (b).

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

“1835. Advisory council.

“1836. Care and coordination teams.

“1837. Duration of health care and benefits provided.

“1838. Biennial report.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 112.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Senator BRAUN of Indiana's bill, S. 112, which strengthens the spina bifida program at VA.

Children who are born to veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides have a higher risk of being born with this condition. Their condition can range from mild to severe, but children faced with this lifelong impact of spina bifida have many special needs.

Under current law, the VA Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program provides monetary and healthcare benefits to select children of Vietnam-era veterans and veterans of covered service in Korea or Thailand.

Senator BRAUN's commonsense legislation would improve the current pro-

gram by establishing care and coordination teams for these children to ensure they have the care and support and continued connections that they need for their entire lives.

Additionally, this bill would require VA to create an advisory council on healthcare and benefits for children living with spina bifida. This council would solicit feedback on healthcare, job training, and monetary benefits to ensure that these children have access to leading therapies and medical research.

For a lot of veterans' families, I know this legislation would make a real difference in their daily lives.

I thank Representative BAIRD for his work on this issue and for introducing the House companion to this bill, H.R. 3888.

I know these Members have heard from Hoosiers about this problem for many years, and I appreciate their efforts to help their constituents and other families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 112 today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 112, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator BRAUN of Indiana.

This legislation aims to strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs' administration of an existing program that provides healthcare benefits and compensation to children of Vietnam war veterans who were born with spina bifida. This bill is endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that can cause paralysis, nerve damage, and bowel and bladder problems. Children born with spina bifida may receive benefits from VA if one of their biological parents is a veteran presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam war.

The program is jointly administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration, or VBA, and the Veterans Health Administration, or VHA. It provides a monetary allowance, healthcare coverage, and vocational training and rehabilitation. As of 2022, fewer than 1,000 beneficiaries were enrolled in the program.

According to a 2021 VA Office of Inspector General report examining the VA's administration of this program, VBA and VHA were not adequately communicating or sharing data on spina bifida program beneficiaries. This contributed to delays in some new beneficiaries being enrolled in healthcare and improper payments being sent to some beneficiaries after their deaths.

The inspector general also found the VA did not consistently conduct outreach to eligible and enrolled beneficiaries and did not provide effective case management services for the most

seriously disabled beneficiaries. In some cases, VA's call center agents provided inaccurate information about the spina bifida program or could not direct callers to reliable sources of information.

S. 112 directs VA to establish an advisory council for the spina bifida program, which would be responsible for soliciting feedback from covered children and veterans about the program's effectiveness. This legislation also requires VA to establish care coordination teams, which will contact beneficiaries at least once every 180 days to ensure they are accessing needed care. Finally, S. 112 would require VA to report to Congress every 2 years on the number of covered children receiving benefits, the number of children receiving care coordination, and the outcome of the outreach conducted to these populations.

Madam Speaker, I support this important piece of legislation, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 112 to strengthen VA's benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 112.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 475) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 475

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura was born on October 6, 1925, in Gallup, New Mexico.

(2) A second generation Japanese American, Hershey Miyamura first served in the

United States Army near the end of World War II.

(3) Hershey Miyamura served in the Army at a time when many of his fellow Japanese Americans, and that includes his future wife, were detained in internment camps in the United States.

(4) Hershey Miyamura served in the storied 442nd Infantry Regiment, which was composed of soldiers with Japanese ancestry and became one of the most decorated units in the history of the United States military.

(5) Following the start of the Korean War in 1950, the Army recalled Hershey Miyamura, who had remained as a member of the reserve components of the Army, back into active duty.

(6) During an overnight firefight from April 24 to April 25, 1951, then-Corporal Miyamura covered the withdrawal of his entire company from advancing enemy forces as a machine gun squad leader.

(7) The selfless actions by Hershey Miyamura that night allowed all 16 of his men to withdraw safely before he was severely wounded and captured as a prisoner of war.

(8) Nearly 2½ years later, following his release and return to the United States, President Eisenhower presented Hershey Miyamura with the Congressional Medal of Honor in a ceremony at the White House.

(9) The lifelong dedication of Hershey Miyamura to the United States never ceased. It continued long after his decorated military service ended.

(10) After he received his honorable discharge from the Army, Hershey Miyamura opened a service station along Route 66 in his hometown of Gallup, New Mexico.

(11) Hershey Miyamura remained active in his community until his dying days, advocating for his fellow veterans and inspiring young people with lectures on patriotism, faith, and service.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2075 South NM Highway 602, Gallup, New Mexico, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura VA Clinic”.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a reference to the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura VA Clinic”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 475.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

Hiroshi Miyamura was born in Gallup, New Mexico, the son of a Japanese

immigrant. He received the nickname “Hershey” from his fourth grade teacher, who could not pronounce his first name correctly. I know how that happens.

□ 1645

He joined the U.S. Army during the final days of World War II, served as a machine gunner in the storied 442nd Infantry Regiment. Following the war, he remained in the Army Reserve.

At the onset of the Korean war, “Hershey” was recalled to Active Duty and, once again, sent to the front lines. He earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during a firefight that occurred overnight from April 24 to April 25, 1951.

Overwhelmed by the enemy forces, Corporal Miyamura covered the safe withdrawal of his entire company, despite being wounded himself. Unfortunately, he was captured immediately after his heroic actions. He was held as a prisoner of war for 28 months and released on August 20, 1953, a month after the end of the Korean war.

In October of that year, President Eisenhower presented the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Miyamura.

After his honorable discharge, he returned to his community in Gallup, New Mexico, where he became an automobile mechanic and service station owner. More importantly, he remained active supporting his fellow veterans and inspiring young people with his patriotism and continued service.

Hiroshi Miyamura is an inspiring American hero. He was born to immigrants, rose to the call of a Nation, put himself before others in combat, and served as a valuable member of society afterwards.

This bill ensures his sacrifice and legacy will always be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill, Senator HEINRICH, as well as the entire New Mexico delegation, for recognizing this American hero. I urge all my colleagues to support S. 475.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 475, a bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

This bill honors a great American from the Greatest Generation. I thank Senator HEINRICH for sponsoring this bill and Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ for offering the House companion.

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, the son of immigrants, Mr. Miyamura joined the Army in 1944. He was assigned to the now-storied 442nd Regimental Combat Team, although he arrived too late in Europe to see much action. However, his military service did not end with World War II.

He enlisted in the Army Reserves after the war and was called into Active Duty with the outbreak of the Korean war. He became a squad leader in the 3rd Infantry Division.

On the night of April 24, 1951, Corporal Miyamura’s unit of machine gunners and riflemen came under attack. He killed 10 enemy soldiers with his bayonet. He then blasted away with his machine gun, a rifle, and grenades and wielded his bayonet again to allow his men to retreat.

He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He was captured and held for 28 months as a prisoner of war until he was released in 1953 after the armistice.

For his conduct, then-Corporal Miyamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity. He was awarded the medal in secret in 1951 while he was a POW, but it was finally presented in public in 1953.

Achieving the rank of staff sergeant, Mr. Miyamura returned to New Mexico. His dedication and patriotism continued after he returned from South Korea to share his experiences in the war.

He also served as an integral part of the lives of veterans and others in his community. Mr. Miyamura once said:

Until I saw that flag—the Star-Spangled Banner waving in the breeze—did I know. I’ve learned what it represents. That alone is what makes you feel so humble. So many of these fellas who deserve it never came home to any recognition. There are so many Americans who don’t know what the medal represents or what any soldier or servicewoman or -man does for this country, and I believe one of these days—I hope one of these days—they will learn of the sacrifices that a lot of the men and women have made for this country.

Madam Speaker, let this legislation be an opportunity to let our fellow Americans know about the service and sacrifice that came before.

Madam Speaker, I support this important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), my very good friend who serves on the House Rules Committee and House Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TAKANO and the chair for allowing me to speak today in support of S. 475, which Senator HEINRICH and I introduced. It would designate the Veterans Affairs clinic in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

Corporal Hiroshi, or “Hershey” as those in New Mexico called him early on, was born in 1925 to Japanese immigrants in Gallup, New Mexico. Beautiful Gallup, New Mexico, is in my district and it is surrounded by beautiful

mountains, mesas, the Navajo Nation, the Zuni Pueblo, and others. It is a tremendously, achingly beautiful place, but from Gallup, he answered the call to serve not just once, but twice in his life—first in World War II and then in the Korean war.

He wanted to fight for his country in World War II but was ineligible because of his ancestry until 1945. He then served in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, a unit entirely composed of Japanese Americans because we must remember that at the time that he was answering the call to service, we were suffering in the United States a period of hatred and xenophobia toward Japanese Americans, which makes his answer to the call of service even more extraordinary and for which we are even more grateful.

In 1951, Corporal Miyamura held off enemy soldiers that threatened his machine gun squad. He faced them in hand-to-hand combat. He single-handedly held the line giving his squad time to reach safety. Corporal Miyamura would spend the next 28 months as a prisoner of war.

Corporal Miyamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service, only learning of his achievement upon his release in 1953. I thank Mr. TAKANO for sharing those most moving words, Madam Speaker, that he spoke upon receiving that medal. He was the second to last living Korean war Medal of Honor recipient. Now, his passing in November 2022 reminds us of the sacrifices our veterans make to defend our beautiful Nation.

The Gallup community is extremely proud to have been Corporal Miyamura's home where he returned. The Veterans Affairs Clinic in Gallup provides essential care to veterans and their dependents. It is one of our rural CBOCs that provides essential care, so our veterans don't have to spend 2 to 3 hours on the road to get the care that we have promised our veterans.

I have visited that clinic. I visited with the veterans in Gallup, and they have asked me about the status of this designation. I am going to be really happy when we pass this, hopefully this week, to tell them we have done it.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. We will name this clinic after him so that he can keep watch over his brothers and sisters in arms as their guardian angel. We will remember him, Gallup will miss him, a Nation will miss him, but most of all, we will continue to honor him.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Corporal Miyamura and vote for Senate bill 475.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 475, a bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in

Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.

Let me just add that I had three great uncles who served in the 442nd, a storied Regimental Combat Team. It is always a poignant story about their service, and I thank the chairman for offering his support in the commemoration of their service to our country.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I, once again, encourage Members to support this legislation. This is truly a piece of legislation that helps the community know and understand how a gallant hero served this Nation. A Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award. It is not given lightly. For a person who truly did face a time when persecution happened to his people but still served this Nation, it is a true honor that we need to bestow on him.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 475.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3371

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 "Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) RESTRICTED FEE STATUS.—The term "restricted fee status" means a status in which the Tribal land—

(A) shall continue to be owned by the Tribes;

(B) shall be part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and expressly made subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Oglala Sioux Tribe;

(C) shall not be transferred without the consent of Congress and the Tribes;

(D) shall not be subject to taxation by a State or local government; and

(E) shall not be subject to any provision of law providing for the review or approval by

the Secretary of the Interior before the Tribes may use the land for any purpose as allowed by the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022, directly, or through agreement with another party.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBAL LAND.—The term "Tribal land" means the approximately 40 acres (including the surface and subsurface estate, and mineral estate, and any and all improvements, structures, and personal property on those acres) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, at Rural County Road 4, Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and generally depicted as "Area of Interest" on the map entitled "Wounded Knee Sacred Site and Memorial Land" and dated October 26, 2022, which is a segment of the December 29, 1890, Wounded Knee Massacre site.

(4) TRIBES.—The term "Tribes" means the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, both tribes being among the constituent tribes of the Great Sioux Nation and signatories to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Great Sioux Nation, 15 Stat. 635.

SEC. 3. LAND HELD IN RESTRICTED FEE STATUS BY THE TRIBES.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 365 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete all actions, including documentation and minor corrections to the survey and legal description of Tribal land, necessary for the Tribal land to be held by the Tribes in restricted fee status; and

(2) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement with regard to the Tribal land.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO INDIAN LAND.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Tribal land shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian country, as defined by section 1151 of title 18, United States Code and protected by the restriction against alienation in section 177 of title 25, United States Code.

(2) USE OF LAND.—The Tribal land shall be used for the purposes allowed by the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022.

(3) ENCUMBRANCES AND AGREEMENTS.—The Tribal land shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) GAMING.—Pursuant to the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022, the Tribal land shall not be used for gaming activity under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3371, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3371, the Wounded Knee Memorial and Sacred Site Act, introduced by Congressman JOHNSON from South Dakota, would place approximately 40 acres of fee land within the Pine Ridge Reservation into restricted fee status for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The land would be held as a memorial and a sacred site in remembrance of the Indian people killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. In the mid- and late-1800s, there were many armed conflicts between Tribes, settlers, and U.S. military on the Great Plains and in the Western United States.

□ 1700

This contributed to distrust, fear, and misconceptions between groups, and the Wounded Knee Massacre was a result of that atmosphere.

On December 29, 1890, a group of Lakota Indians, led by Chief Spotted Elk, had made camp near Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. U.S. Army 7th Cavalry troops were sent there to disarm the Lakota.

A struggle occurred between the U.S. Army and some of Chief Spotted Elk's band, a majority of which consisted of women and children. A shot rang out, and the U.S. Army opened fire on the largely unarmed group. At that time, it was estimated that approximately 300 Indian people were killed.

In September 2022, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe jointly purchased 40 acres of land where an old trading post was located. The piece of land also contains a portion of the area where the Wounded Knee Massacre took place.

On October 21, 2022, both Tribes signed a covenant stating that this property shall be held and maintained as a memorial and sacred site without any economic development and prohibited any gaming on the land.

I applaud Mr. JOHNSON for working collaboratively with both Tribes to develop H.R. 3371, which would place the 40 acres into restricted fee status held jointly by both Tribes and memorializes the covenant between them.

Restricted fee land contains the same restrictions against alienation and taxation as land held in trust, but title is not held by the Federal Government. It is held by the Oglala Sioux and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes.

This legislation and the land it sets aside will memorialize and honor the Indian men, women, and children who were killed in 1890.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes for their work on this im-

portant legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3371, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, introduced by my colleague from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

This legislation is an important step to honor Lakota lives lost at Wounded Knee and honor the Lakota for generations to come.

In particular, this bill would place approximately 40 acres of land located within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation into restricted fee status for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. This is the land believed to be the site of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre.

In the late 1880s, Tribes began holding ghost dances for the renewal of stolen land and in protest of the U.S. Government, a government that prohibited American Indians from practicing their religious freedom.

In December of 1890, the government sent U.S. Army 7th Cavalry troops to disarm the Lakota near Wounded Knee Creek. A struggle occurred, and the 7th Cavalry brutally massacred over 350 American Indian men, women, and children near Wounded Knee Creek.

The Wounded Knee Massacre was one of the most atrocious acts in our Nation's history. The healing is still continuing today.

In 2022, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe purchased this land and signed a covenant to hold and maintain the land as a memorial and sacred site.

Representative JOHNSON's bill affirms that covenant and would allow the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to hold, maintain, and protect the land as a memorial and sacred site without any development.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, in December 1890, Chief Spotted Elk and his band of Lakota, including many women and children, were moving from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the reservation, to the Pine Ridge Reservation. As was mentioned, they were stopped by the Army's 7th Cavalry, and they were forced to make camp at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota.

The next morning, on December 29, the 7th Cavalry attempted to disarm the Lakota. A struggle ensued, a shot rang out, and before long, the 7th Cavalry was opening fire on the Lakota. Almost all of them were unarmed. As was mentioned earlier, most were women and children. More than 300 noncombatants were killed.

Mr. Speaker, this was a massacre. Too many think of Wounded Knee as something that happened in the long ago past and in a faraway place. The inaccuracy of that view was driven home to me in June when I went to the site, and I spoke to the descendants of Wounded Knee.

There, I sat at length with an elder whose grandmother survived that day. He grew up hearing from her own voice of the fear, the violence, and the tragedy of that day. Mr. Speaker, this was not a history book. This was his grandmother.

Close by, at St. John's Church, I looked at the site where the wounded and the dying were taken. The floorboards of that church are still stained with their blood. These are real people. These are real places. These are not ancient tales of a distant land.

Our Nation has struggled with how best to remember, to mourn that terrible day.

On the 100th anniversary of Wounded Knee, this body issued a formal apology and expressed deep regret for the actions of that day. That is, obviously, altogether appropriate, although on its own it is woefully insufficient.

Last year, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe exercised tremendous leadership by coming together to purchase the 40 acres surrounding this site, an area that was mentioned was site to just an old trading post. The management of that site was not an appropriate memory of those who had died that day.

This bill, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, would place those 40 acres into restricted fee status; in essence, placing them into trust for the Tribes. That would provide the Tribes additional tools that they could use to better protect this sacred land.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the leadership of the Tribal leaders involved: firstly, President Frank Star Comes Out, who graces our body with his presence in this Chamber today, but also Chairman Ryman LeBeau, former President Kevin Killer, and former Chairman Harold Frazier. We have spent months working together along with committee staff and the Department of the Interior to craft this important legislation.

My colleagues, I ask for a "yes" vote on this bill.

Wounded Knee is sacred ground. It has been hallowed by the blood of innocent women and children. It deserves protection. This act can give the Tribes, the descendants of those who died, the tools they need to do just that.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will further allow the Lakota

people to memorialize and honor their relatives and ancestors killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre. It gives title of the land to both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe while ensuring that the land has the protections that restrictions against alienation and taxation provide.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3371.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2872

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

SEC. 1. AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718r) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “ACTUAL STAMP” and inserting “ELECTRONIC STAMP”;

(B) by striking “actual stamp” and inserting “electronic stamp”; and

(C) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) upon the date of purchase; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “under subsection (e)” before the period at the end; and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f) and inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) DELIVERY OF ACTUAL STAMPS.—The Secretary shall issue an actual stamp after March 10 of each year to each individual that purchased an electronic stamp for the preceding waterfowl seasons.”.

(b) STAMP VALID THROUGH CLOSE OF HUNTING SEASON.—Section 6 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718s(c)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “shall, during the effective period of the electronic stamp—” and inserting “shall—”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “for a period agreed to by the State and the Secretary, which

shall not exceed 45 days” and inserting “until the first June 30 that occurs after the date of issuance of such stamp”.

(c) ELECTRONIC STAMPS AS PERMIT.—Section 1(a)(1) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “as an electronic stamp or” after “Conservation Stamp,”; and

(2) by inserting “actual” after “face of the”.

(d) CONTENTS OF ELECTRONIC STAMP.—Section 2(3) of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718o(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) may contain an image of the actual stamp.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2872, sponsored by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my friend and colleague.

This bill makes commonsense improvements to the Federal Duck Stamp program by modernizing how waterfowl hunters across the country can purchase a Federal duck stamp.

The duck stamp was created when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act into law in 1934. That law required waterfowl and other migratory bird hunters ages 16 and over to purchase and possess a valid duck stamp prior to taking of migratory waterfowl.

Current law requires hunters to physically possess a signed duck stamp on their person while hunting any migratory waterfowl. Even in States where electronic licensing is used, a signed physical duck stamp is required.

H.R. 2872 further modernizes the program by removing the 45-day requirement to have a physical duck stamp, and it allows States the option to sell electronic duck stamps for the entirety of the hunting season.

Under this bill, purchasers would still receive the physical stamp at the end of their State waterfowl hunting season, therefore preserving the long legacy of the Federal Duck Stamp as a physical representation of the conservation efforts of hunters for generations to come.

This is a good governance approach that will reassure waterfowl hunters and continue the unmatched American

tradition of wildlife conservation through sportsman participation. I applaud Mr. GRAVES for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the duck stamp, or Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is the only Federal conservation revenue stamp. This means 98 percent of the sale price is used to purchase conservation easements and to acquire wetland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The duck stamp also provides an opportunity to showcase wildlife art, with the Fish and Wildlife Service hosting an art competition each year, and a winning piece selected for next year's design.

Sportsmen and women, artists, and conservationists purchase duck stamps as a collectible to cover entry fees to any National Wildlife Refuge System unit, as a hunting license, or as a donation to conservation. Millions of stamps have been sold in recent years, contributing tens of millions of dollars toward conservation each year.

This bipartisan bill will modernize government stamp services by allowing online access to the Federal Duck Stamp. This improvement will save applicants and agency officials time and money and make it more accessible for hunters, conservationists, and collectors to purchase duck stamps and support wetland conservation. It is a good bill, and I am happy to support it.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is related, as you heard, to the duck stamp.

In 1932, President Roosevelt signed into law legislation that authorized the duck stamp that allowed for hunters to get this stamp in order to go hunt waterfowl.

This program has been incredibly successful over the 90-year period, selling today approximately 1.6 million stamps every single year. This has generated approximately \$1.1 billion, and all of these proceeds have been invested back into conservation, into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. This has benefited over 600,000 acres of our National Wildlife Refuge System and benefited conservation. I will say it again, this program has been wildly successful.

□ 1715

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in 2013, legislation was signed into law that created an electronic duck stamp. The thought there was that with the internet and with the ability to improve access to compliance, we would allow for a digital duck

stamp to provide 45 days of authorization to go hunt.

The problem was that the physical paper stamp often missed that 45-day window. Someone would pay to get a duck stamp, and they had a 45-day authorization window, but the physical stamp didn't come in until after the end of that period. So, the hunter would be out of compliance, yet they did everything right.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very simple. It just allows for the digital authorization, the electronic authorization, to be extended throughout the season.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, it still preserves the physical stamp that so many people treasure and collect annually, so it does require the stamp be physically mailed later on.

Mr. Speaker, I give a huge shout-out to the cosponsor of this legislation, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, a fellow sportsman from California. I thank Senator BOOZMAN and Senator MANCHIN, who have cosponsored the Senate companion bill, and I thank BRUCE WESTERMAN, the chair of the committee, and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, for working with us to clear this legislation. It is really important that this move forward.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I will share how this came about. I love it whenever you are out there in the field, meeting with constituents back home, and people bring up ideas. In this case, it was actually a sportsman in our office, Taylor Playforth. We call him "Bailer" because he sunk his boat, but that is a whole other story. Taylor Playforth, who is an avid sportsman, actually came up with this idea.

We were able to get this turned into legislative text, worked with Senators to introduce it, and worked with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and others, which ultimately yielded this legislation. I am hopeful that my friend from Arizona is going to ensure that we pass this legislation unanimously today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the folks who worked on this. I thank Vivian, Sandra, and the staff of the Committee on Natural Resources, and I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is based on a user-pays system through the purchase of items like the Federal duck stamp, is the envy of the world. In total, fees paid by the sportsmen community contribute over \$1 billion per year in revenue that goes toward wildlife conservation, which is a truly remarkable achievement.

H.R. 2872 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that underpins the North American model by giving hunters certainty while modernizing the Federal duck stamp process.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2872, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 663) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 663

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 "Native American Child Protection Act".

SEC. 2. INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3202 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) By amending section 403(3)(A) (25 U.S.C. 3202(3)(A)) to read as follows:

"(A) in any case in which—

"(i) (I) a child is dead or exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling; and

"(II) such condition is not justifiably explained or may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; or

"(ii) a child is subjected to sexual assault, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, or prostitution; and"

(2) In section 409 (25 U.S.C. 3208)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking "The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Service and in cooperation with the Bureau" and inserting "The Service, in cooperation with the Bureau"; and

(ii) by striking "sexual abuse" and inserting "abuse or neglect";

(B) in subsection (b) through the end of the section, by striking "Secretary of Health and Human Services" each place it appears and inserting "Service";

(C) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting after "Any Indian tribe or intertribal consortium" the following: ", on its own or in partnership with an urban Indian organization.";

(D) in subsections (b)(2)(B) and (d), by striking "such Secretary" each place it appears and inserting "the Service";

(E) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE TREATMENT.—In awarding grants under this section, the Service shall encourage the use of culturally appropriate treatment services and programs that respond to the unique cultural values, customs, and traditions of applicant Indian Tribes.";

(F) in subsection (d)(2), by striking "the Secretary" and inserting "the Service";

(G) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(H) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Service shall submit a report to Congress on the award of grants under this section. The report shall contain—

"(1) a description of treatment and services for which grantees have used funds awarded under this section; and

"(2) any other information that the Service requires.";

(3) In section 410 (25 U.S.C. 3209)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by inserting "NATIONAL" before "INDIAN"; and

(ii) by striking "CENTERS" and inserting "CENTER";

(B) by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary shall establish a National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center.

"(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall submit a report to Congress on the status of the National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center.";

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking "Each" and inserting "The"; and

(ii) by striking "multidisciplinary";

(D) in subsection (d)—

(i) in the text before paragraph (1), by striking "Each" and inserting "The";

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking "and inter-tribal consortia" and inserting "inter-tribal consortia, and urban Indian organizations";

(iii) in paragraph (2), by inserting "urban Indian organizations," after "tribal organizations,";

(iv) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by inserting "and technical assistance" after "training"; and

(II) by striking "and to tribal organizations" and inserting "Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations";

(v) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by inserting "State," after "Federal"; and

(II) by striking "and tribal" and inserting "Tribal, and urban Indian"; and

(vi) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

"(5) develop model intergovernmental agreements between Tribes and States, and other materials that provide examples of how Federal, State, and Tribal governments can develop effective relationships and provide for maximum cooperation in the furtherance of prevention, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of incidents of family violence and child abuse and child neglect involving Indian children and families.";

(E) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM" and inserting "TEAM";

(ii) in the text before paragraph (1), by striking "Each multidisciplinary" and inserting "The"; and

(F) by amending subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

“(f) **CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory board to advise and assist the National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center in carrying out its activities under this section. The advisory board shall consist of 12 members appointed by the Secretary from Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations with expertise in child abuse and child neglect. Members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses while carrying out the duties of the board. The advisory board shall assist the Center in coordinating programs, identifying training and technical assistance materials, and developing intergovernmental agreements relating to family violence, child abuse, and child neglect.

“(g) **APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT TO THE CENTER.**—The National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center shall be subject to the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act. The Secretary may also contract for the operation of the Center with a nonprofit Indian organization governed by an Indian-controlled board of directors that have substantial experience in child abuse, child neglect, and family violence involving Indian children and families.”.

(4) In section 411 (25 U.S.C. 3210)—

(A) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “abuse and child neglect” and inserting “abuse, neglect, or both”;

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end; and

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) development of agreements between Tribes, States, or private agencies on the coordination of child abuse and neglect prevention, investigation, and treatment services;

“(E) child protective services operational costs including transportation, risk and protective factors assessments, family engagement and kinship navigator services, and relative searches, criminal background checks for prospective placements, and home studies; and

“(F) development of a Tribal child protection or multidisciplinary team to assist in the prevention and investigation of child abuse and neglect”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “in culturally appropriate ways” after “incidents of family violence”; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that may include culturally appropriate programs” after “training programs”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and neglect” after “abuse”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “cases, to the extent practicable,” and inserting “and neglect cases”;

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “develop, in consultation with Indian tribes, appropriate caseload standards and staffing requirements which are comparable to standards developed by the National Association of Social Work, the Child Welfare League of America and other professional associations in the field of social work and child welfare” and inserting “develop, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, in consultation with Indian Tribes, appropriate caseload standards and staffing requirements”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking “sexual abuse” and inserting “abuse and neglect, high incidence of family violence”;

(iii) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) The formula established pursuant to this subsection shall provide funding necessary to support not less than one child protective services or family violence caseworker, including fringe benefits and support costs, for each Indian Tribe.”; and

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking “tribes” and inserting “Indian Tribes”; and

(C) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Native American Child Protection Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall submit a report to Congress on the award of grants under this section. The report shall contain—

“(1) a description of treatment and services for which grantees have used funds awarded under this section; and

“(2) any other information that the Secretary of the Interior requires.”.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional amounts are authorized to carry out this Act or any of the amendments made by this Act. Each program, project, and activity authorized by this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 663, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 663, the Native American Child Protection Act, introduced by Congressman GALLEG0 from Arizona, would amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to reauthorize three programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Interior.

These programs include the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program, the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program, and the Indian Child Resource and Family Service Centers, which would be renamed the national Indian child resource and family service center under this legislation.

These programs are intended to prevent cases within Indian communities where child abuse, neglect, family violence, and trauma may occur, and to provide treatment for victims of Indian child sexual abuse.

H.R. 663 also makes several technical changes to the underlying statute and requires agency reports on grant awards and performance.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act was introduced in 1989 by the late Arizona Senator John McCain in response to widespread reports that Native children were being physically and sexually abused, that these incidents were going underreported, and that there needed to be supports in place to ensure the Bureau of Indian Affairs could handle the situation at the time.

The act created the programs that H.R. 663 would reauthorize, and it included provisions to provide Tribes with technical assistance training and other resources related to the investigation and treatment of the cases of family violence, abuse, and neglect.

The authorization for these programs expired in 1997. H.R. 663 would reauthorize these programs and make improvements to the programs' operations and service delivery.

Advocates cite the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act as the only Federal statute that sets aside funding for Tribal governments dedicated to child abuse prevention and victim treatment funding for Tribal governments.

I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona for bringing attention to this important issue, as abuse, neglect, and violence have no place in any community.

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

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 663, the Native American Child Protection Act.

American Indian and Alaska Native children have the highest rate of child abuse in the United States, at a rate of 15 cases for every 1,000 children. This can have devastating impacts on a child's cognitive, emotional, and neurological development, and can last them well into adulthood and even their entire life.

On top of this crisis, the Supreme Court recently heard a case attempting to gut the Indian Child Welfare Act, which protects the rights of Native children and families. That is why passing the Native American Child Protection Act today is so timely.

My bipartisan bill reauthorizes and revises programs that give Tribes the tools to treat, prevent, investigate, and prosecute child abuse and family violence involving Native American children.

The programs in this bill were originally led by another Arizonian back in 1990 through John McCain's Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. That bill was part of a promise to answer for the tragic abuse that happened at federally run Native American boarding schools, but the programs had never been fully funded, were never authorized, and eventually

expired. This is a failure by the Federal Government and a continuation of centuries of broken promises.

By passing H.R. 663, we will take a step to right this wrong. We will create a national Indian resource and family service center to help Tribes and urban Indian organizations with training and program development. We will develop new intergovernmental agreements between Tribes and States to prevent, investigate, treat, and prosecute family violence, and will encourage culturally appropriate treatments and services for children who have been impacted.

In a place where we see a lot of partisan bickering, it is heartening to see so much bipartisan support around Tribal issues, including my Republican counterpart and co-lead on this bill, Representative NEWHOUSE.

I also thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA, as well as Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee Chairwoman HAGEMAN and Ranking Member LEGER FERNANDEZ for their support.

The Native American Child Protection Act is another chance for us to work together to fulfill our promise to help this vulnerable population.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support final passage of H.R. 663, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation does the critical work of Congress to update and reauthorize programs. This work is especially important when the programs in question help protect children and support Tribes in caring for their Tribal members.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 663, the Native American Child Protection Act.

This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 and otherwise revises certain programs related to the prevention, investigation, treatment, and prosecution of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect involving Indian children and families.

Specifically, the bill revises the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program to encourage the use of grants for culturally appropriate treatment services and programs.

The bill renames the Indian Child Resource and Family Services Centers as the National Indian Child Resource and Family Services Center.

It also requires the center to:

(1) provide advice, technical assistance, and training to urban Indian organizations;

(2) develop certain technical assistance materials for Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations;

And (3) develop model intergovernmental agreements between tribes and states to pre-

vent, investigate, treat, and prosecute incidents of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect involving Indian children and families.

Additionally, the bill revises the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program to allow Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and intertribal consortia to use program funds for additional activities, such as operational costs for child protective services.

American Indian and Alaska Native children who experience child maltreatment or family violence often have few opportunities to find accessible, culturally appropriate services to help them address the trauma from these events.

Furthermore, prevention funding is almost non-existent for this population, removing opportunities to prevent trauma before it happens and avoid families and children slipping into crisis.

The federal government has a solemn responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable members of Indigenous communities—children—are protected.

According to the American Indian Center of Houston, there are over 60,000 Native Americans in the Houston area.

Additionally, there are around 137,000 Native Americans in Texas and around 2.6 million Native Americans in the U.S.

This is a significant number of people, not only in my community but the whole nation, that deserve protection.

Guarding against crimes committed against our Native communities should always be one of our highest priorities, and this bill is a strong step in the right direction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 663, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MAST) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 2795. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 3981;

S. 475; and

H.R. 663.

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

ISAKSON-ROE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT EXPANSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3981) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 392]

YEAS—410

Adams	Bowman	Ciscomani
Aderholt	Boyle (PA)	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brecheen	Clarke (NY)
Alford	Brown	Cleaver
Allen	Brownley	Cline
Allred	Buchanan	Cloud
Amodei	Buck	Clyburn
Armstrong	Bucshon	Clyde
Arrington	Budzinski	Cohen
Auchincloss	Burchett	Cole
Babin	Burgess	Collins
Bacon	Burlison	Comer
Baird	Bush	Connolly
Balderson	Calvert	Correa
Balint	Cammack	Costa
Banks	Caraveo	Courtney
Barr	Carbajal	Craig
Barragán	Cárdenas	Crane
Bean (FL)	Carey	Crawford
Beatty	Carl	Crockett
Bentz	Carson	Crow
Bera	Carter (GA)	Cuellar
Bergman	Carter (LA)	Curtis
Beyer	Carter (TX)	D'Esposito
Bice	Cartwright	Davids (KS)
Biggs	Casas	Davidson
Bilirakis	Case	Davis (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Casten	Davis (NC)
Bishop (NC)	Castor (FL)	De La Cruz
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Dean (PA)
Blunt Rochester	Chavez-DeRemer	DeGette
Boebert	Cherfilus-	DeLauro
Bonamici	McCormick	DeBene
Bost	Chu	Deluzio

DeSaulnier	Johnson (OH)	Panetta	Watson Coleman	Wexton	Wilson (SC)	Duncan	Kean (NJ)	Peters
DesJarlais	Johnson (SD)	Pappas	Weber (TX)	Wild	Wittman	Dunn (FL)	Keating	Pettersen
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Pascarell	Webster (FL)	Williams (GA)	Womack	Edwards	Kelly (IL)	Pfluger
Dingell	Joyce (OH)	Payne	Wenstrup	Williams (NY)	Yakym	Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Phillips
Doggett	Joyce (PA)	Pelosi	Westerman	Williams (TX)	Zinke	Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Pingree
Donalds	Kamlager-Dove	Pence				Escobar	Khanna	Pocan
Duarte	Kaptur	Perez				Eshoo	Kiggans (VA)	Porter
Duncan	Kean (NJ)	Perry	Crenshaw	Meng	Simpson	Espallat	Kildee	Posey
Dunn (FL)	Keating	Peters	Jacobs	Mooney	Swalwell	Estes	Kiley	Pressley
Edwards	Kelly (IL)	Pettersen	Langworthy	Peltola	Trone	Evans	Kilmer	Ramirez
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Pfluger	Lee (CA)	Quigley	Vargas	Ezell	Kim (CA)	Raskin
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Phillips	Lucas	Rodgers (WA)	Waltz	Fallon	Kim (NJ)	Reschenthaler
Escobar	Khanna	Pingree	Luetkemeyer	Salazar	Wilson (FL)	Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (AL)
Eshoo	Kiggans (VA)	Pocan	Luna	Scalise		Ferguson	Kuster	Rogers (KY)
Espallat	Kildee	Porter	Magaziner	Sessions		Finstad	Kustoff	Rose
Estes	Kiley	Posey				Fischbach	LaHood	Rosendale
Evans	Kilmer	Pressley				Fitzgerald	LaLota	Ross
Ezell	Kim (CA)	Ramirez				Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Fallon	Kim (NJ)	Raskin				Fleischmann	Lamborn	Ruiz
Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Reschenthaler				Fletcher	Landsman	Rutherford
Ferguson	Kuster	Rogers (AL)				Flood	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Finstad	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)				Foster	Larson (CT)	Salazar
Fischbach	LaHood	Rose				Foushee	Latta	Salinas
Fitzgerald	LaLota	Rosendale				Fox	LaTurner	Sánchez
Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Ross				Frankel, Lois	Lawler	Santos
Fleischmann	Lamborn	Rouzer				Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Sarbanes
Fletcher	Landsman	Roy				Scott	Lee (NV)	Scanlon
Flood	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz				Frost	Lee (PA)	Schakowsky
Foster	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger				Fry	Leger Fernandez	Schiff
Foushee	Latta	Rutherford				Fulcher	Lesko	Schneider
Fox	LaTurner	Ryan				Gaetz	Letlow	Scholten
Frankel, Lois	Lawler	Salinas				Gallagher	Levin	Schrier
Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Sánchez				Gallo	Lieu	Schweikert
Scott	Lee (NV)	Santos				Garamendi	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Frost	Lee (PA)	Sarbanes				Garbarino	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
Fry	Leger Fernandez	Scanlon				Garcia (IL)	Luttrell	Scott, David
Fulcher	Lesko	Schakowsky				Garcia (TX)	Lynch	Self
Gaetz	Letlow	Schiff				Garcia, Mike	Mace	Sessions
Gallagher	Levin	Schneider				Garcia, Robert	Malliotakis	Sewell
Gallego	Lieu	Scholten				Gimenez	Mann	Sherman
Garamendi	Lofgren	Schrier				Golden (ME)	Manning	Sherrill
Garbarino	Loudermilk	Schweikert				Goldman (NY)	Massie	Slotkin
Garcia (IL)	Luttrell	Scott (VA)				Gomez	Mast	Smith (MO)
Garcia (TX)	Lynch	Scott, Austin				Gonzales, Tony	Matsui	Smith (NE)
Garcia, Mike	Mace	Scott, David				Gonzalez, Vicente	McBath	Smith (NJ)
Garcia, Robert	Malliotakis	Self				Good (VA)	McCaul	Smith (WA)
Gimenez	Mann	Sewell				Gooden (TX)	McClain	Smucker
Golden (ME)	Manning	Sherman				Gosar	McClellan	Sorensen
Goldman (NY)	Massie	Sherrill				Gottheimer	McClintock	Soto
Gomez	Mast	Slotkin				Granger	McCollum	Spanberger
Gonzales, Tony	Matsui	Smith (MO)				Graves (LA)	McCormick	Spartz
Gonzalez, Vicente	McBath	Smith (NE)				Graves (MO)	McGarvey	Stansbury
Good (VA)	McCaul	Smith (NJ)				Green (TN)	McGovern	Stanton
Gooden (TX)	McClain	Smith (WA)				Green, Al (TX)	McHenry	Stauber
Gosar	McClellan	Smucker				Greene (GA)	Meeks	Steel
Gottheimer	McClintock	Sorensen				Griffith	Menendez	Stefanik
Granger	McCollum	Soto				Grijalva	Meuser	Steil
Graves (LA)	McCormick	Spanberger				Grothman	Mfume	Steube
Graves (MO)	McGarvey	Spartz				Guest	Miller (IL)	Stevens
Green (TN)	McGovern	Stansbury				Guthrie	Miller (OH)	Strickland
Green, Al (TX)	McHenry	Stanton				Hageman	Miller (WV)	Strong
Greene (GA)	Meeks	Stauber				Harder (CA)	Miller-Meeks	Sykes
Griffith	Menendez	Steel				Harris	Mills	Takano
Grijalva	Meuser	Stefanik				Harshbarger	Molinaro	Tenney
Grothman	Mfume	Steil				Hayes	Moolenaar	Thanedar
Guest	Miller (IL)	Steube				Hern	Moore (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Guthrie	Miller (OH)	Stevens				Higgins (LA)	Moore (UT)	Thompson (MS)
Hageman	Miller (WV)	Strickland				Higgins (NY)	Moore (WI)	Thompson (PA)
Harder (CA)	Miller-Meeks	Strong				Hill	Moran	Tiffany
Harris	Mills	Sykes				Himes	Moskowitz	Timmons
Harshbarger	Molinaro	Takano				Hinson	Moulton	Titus
Hayes	Moolenaar	Tenney				Horsford	Mrvan	Tlaib
Hern	Moore (AL)	Thanedar				Houchin	Mullin	Tokuda
Higgins (LA)	Moore (UT)	Thompson (CA)				Houlahan	Murphy	Tonko
Higgins (NY)	Moore (WI)	Thompson (MS)				Hoyer	Nadler	Torres (CA)
Hill	Moran	Thompson (PA)				Hoyle (OR)	Napolitano	Torres (NY)
Himes	Morelle	Tiffany				Hudson	Neal	Trahan
Hinson	Moskowitz	Timmons				Huffman	Neguse	Trone
Horsford	Moulton	Titus				Huizenga	Nehls	Turner
Houchin	Mrvan	Tlaib				Hunt	Newhouse	Underwood
Houlahan	Mullin	Tokuda				Issa	Nickel	Valadao
Hoyer	Murphy	Tonko				Ivey	Norcross	Van Drew
Hoyle (OR)	Nadler	Torres (CA)				Jackson (IL)	Norman	Van Dyne
Hudson	Napolitano	Torres (NY)				Jackson (NC)	Nunn (IA)	Van Orden
Huffman	Neal	Trahan				Jackson (TX)	Obernolte	Vasquez
Huizenga	Neguse	Turner				Jackson Lee	Ocasio-Cortez	Veasey
Hunt	Nehls	Underwood				James	Ogles	Velázquez
Issa	Newhouse	Valadao				Jayapal	Omar	Wagner
Ivey	Nickel	Van Drew				Jeffries	Owens	Walberg
Jackson (IL)	Norcross	Van Dyne				Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Wasserman
Jackson (NC)	Norman	Van Orden				Johnson (SD)	Palmer	Schultz
Jackson (TX)	Nunn (IA)	Vasquez				Jordan	Panetta	Waters
Jackson Lee	Obernolte	Veasey				Joyce (OH)	Pappas	Watson Coleman
James	Ocasio-Cortez	Velázquez				Joyce (PA)	Pascarell	Weber (TX)
Jayapal	Ogles	Wagner				Kamlager-Dove	Payne	Webster (FL)
Jeffries	Omar	Walberg				Kaptur	Pelosi	Wenstrup
Johnson (GA)	Owens	Wasserman					Pence	Westerman
Johnson (LA)	Pallone	Schultz					Perez	Wexton
	Palmer	Waters					Perry	Wild

NOT VOTING—22

□ 1852

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

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA VA CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 475) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 393]
YEAS—409

Adams	Brown	Cloud
Aderholt	Brownley	Clyburn
Agular	Buchanan	Clyde
Alford	Buck	Cohen
Allen	Buchson	Cole
Allred	Budzinski	Collins
Amodei	Burchett	Comer
Armstrong	Burgess	Connolly
Arrington	Burlison	Correa
Auchincloss	Bush	Costa
Babin	Calvert	Courtney
Bacon	Cammack	Craig
Baird	Caraveo	Crane
Balderson	Carbajal	Crawford
Balint	Cárdenas	Crockett
Banks	Carey	Crow
Barr	Carl	Cuellar
Barragán	Carson	Curtis
Bean (FL)	Carter (GA)	D'Esposito
Beatty	Carter (LA)	David (KS)
Bentz	Carter (TX)	Davidson
Bera	Cartwright	Davis (IL)
Bergman	Casar	Davis (NC)
Bice	Case	De La Cruz
Biggs	Casten	Dean (PA)
Bilirakis	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bishop (NC)	Chavez-DeRemer	DelBene
Blumenauer	Cherfilus-	Deluzio
Blunt Rochester	McCormick	DeSaulnier
Boebert	Chu	DesJarlais
Bonamici	Ciscomani	Diaz-Balart
Bost	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Bowman	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Boyle (PA)	Cleaver	Donalds
Brecheen	Cline	Duarte

Williams (GA) Wilson (SC) Yakym
Williams (NY) Wittman Zinke
Williams (TX) Womack

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—22

Beyer Magaziner Scalise
Crenshaw Meng Simpson
Jacobs Mooney Swalwell
Langworthy Morelle Vargas
Lee (CA) Peltola Waltz
Lucas Quigley Wilson (FL)
Luettkemeyer Rodgers (WA)
Luna Ruppertsberger

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 663) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 32, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 394]

YEAS—378

Adams Brownley Cole
Aderholt Buchanan Comer
Aguilar Bucshon Connolly
Alford Budzinski Correa
Allen Burgess Costa
Allred Bush Courtney
Amodei Calvert Craig
Armstrong Carmack Crane
Arrington Caraveo Crawford
Auchincloss Carbajal Crockett
Babin Cárdenas Crow
Bacon Carey Cuellar
Baird Carl Curtis
Balderson Carson D'Esposito
Balint Carter (GA) Davids (KS)
Banks Carter (LA) Davis (IL)
Barr Carter (TX) Davis (NC)
Barragán Cartwright De La Cruz
Beatty Casar Dean (PA)
Bentz Case DeGette
Bera Casten DeLauro
Bergman Castor (FL) DelBene
Bice Castro (TX) Deluzio
Bishop (GA) Chavez-DeRemer DeSaulnier
Bishop (NC) Cherfilus-DesJarlais
Blumenauer McCormick Diaz-Balart
Blunt Rochester Chu Dingell
Boebert Ciscomani Doggett
Bonamici Clark (MA) Duarte
Bost Clarke (NY) Dunn (FL)
Bowman Cleaver Edwards
Boyle (PA) Cline Ellzey
Brecheen Clyburn Escobar
Brown Cohen Eshoo

Espallat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C.
Scott
Frost
Fry
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)

Bean (FL)
Biggs
Buck

Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perez
Peters
Petterson
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin

NAYS—32

Burchett
Burlison
Cloud

Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Foxy
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Harris
Loudermilk
Luttrell
McCormick
Norman
Ogles

NOT VOTING—22

Beyer Luetkemeyer Scalise
Bilirakis Luna Simpson
Crenshaw Magaziner Swalwell
Jacobs Meng Vargas
Kaptur Mooney Waltz
Langworthy Peltola Wilson (FL)
Lee (CA) Quigley
Lucas Rodgers (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1906

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for this evening's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 392, "yea" on rollcall No. 393, and "yea" on rollcall No. 394.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(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, September is Suicide Prevention Month, and nearly every 12 minutes, an American dies by suicide.

It is now the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Suicide claims the lives of more than 2,000 Pennsylvanians each year—an average of 5 lives each day.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is preventable.

Increasing access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide saves lives.

There is no single cause of suicide, and suicide risk increases when several health factors and life stressors converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair.

Together we can reverse this course.

By making mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and suicide prevention a national priority, we can reverse the tide on these deaths of despair.

In fact, in 2020, the U.S. designated 988 as the national suicide and crisis hotline, making it easier for all Americans to reach help, if needed.

Mr. Speaker, let's keep the conversation going year-round. We can all play an important role in prevention.

□ 1915

THE EXTREME MAGA REPUBLICAN AGENDA

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the extreme MAGA Republicans are plotting a government shutdown and forcing a partisan impeachment inquiry.

While my Democratic colleagues and I are putting people over politics to help working Americans, the extreme MAGA Republicans are doing nothing to make life better for average Americans. They are pushing an unpopular agenda of cuts to healthcare, childcare, education, and public safety. They want to allow dangerous people to own guns, and they want to limit voting so only their supporters can vote. They want to take away rights for women and minorities that are protected in the Constitution. Even Senate and moderate Republicans oppose their plans.

These extreme Republicans make our country weaker and hurt American families. They need to serve the American people and stop this reckless pursuit of a radical agenda.

REMEMBERING TASK FORCE RANGER

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the United States Air Force deployed Task Force Ranger to Somalia to restore order to the capital city of Mogadishu after it was taken over by a rebel warlord. The Battle of Mogadishu was the event which inspired the movie "Black Hawk Down."

The Somali people wanted democracy, but this general and his militia took over the nation to impose radical Islamic Sharia law. They hijacked food supplies and cut off water to anyone who did not support their reign of terror.

After several successful operations, Task Force Ranger set out on a mission to arrest two of the general's top lieutenants in a building by the Olympic Hotel in a militia stronghold neighborhood.

The plan was to surround the building the lieutenants were meeting in, lower themselves on ropes from helicopters and surround them, then take the prisoners to the vehicles that would be waiting outside.

Unfortunately, the mission took a catastrophic turn. Mr. Speaker, when two Black Hawk helicopters were shot down by rocket-propelled grenades. The soldiers were attacked, and the battle that followed lasted 18 hours. Eighteen of our brave men were killed and dozens were injured, and the Somalis lost over 1,000 men.

This October, Knoxville is holding a 30th anniversary event to commemorate this mission, where surviving members of Task Force Ranger can be reunited and they can remember their fallen brothers.

As a Christian, Mr. Speaker, I owe everything in my life, except for my salvation, to the men and women who wore our country's uniform. Members of Task Force Ranger are no different, and I look forward to seeing them in Knoxville this year and welcome the heroes and give them some true Tennessee hospitality.

HONORING DR. JOHN GILBERT

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of North Carolina's Dr. John Gilbert, who recently passed.

From Dr. Gilbert's time serving in the U.S. Army to his tenure on the Wake County School Board, he devoted his life to serving others.

John Gilbert was a towering figure in Wake County, best known for his unwavering dedication to the Wake County Public School System.

At a time of enormous change, Dr. Gilbert spearheaded innovative efforts to combat segregation and bring additional resources to underserved schools.

After 16 years of service on the school board, John served on the Wake County Board of Elections where he worked to uphold fair elections and secure voting rights for all.

Today, John Gilbert's enduring legacy lives on through the many people and students whose lives he transformed. Our community is forever indebted to John Gilbert.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT MINICHELLO ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Minichiello, a Blauvelt resident and American hero who recently turned 100 years old.

Born a few years after the end of World War I, he has lived through some of our country's most transformative moments and some of its greatest tests.

Robert served our country honorably during World War II, where he fought in Europe as part of the 26th Infantry Division and was wounded in the Moselle region of France in November of 1944.

Robert received the Purple Heart in recognition of his efforts and the injuries he sustained. The heroes of our Greatest Generation should never be forgotten, and I am proud to count Robert Minichiello, a hero of our Greatest Generation, as one of my constituents.

So please join me in wishing Robert Minichiello of Blauvelt a happy 100th birthday.

CELEBRATING JIMMY BUFFETT

(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 to celebrate a man whose music has not only entertained us for decades but has made a profound impact on society.

Jimmy Buffett, the legendary singer-songwriter, isn't just an artist who has given us catchy tunes and a taste of the beach life; he is a cultural icon whose contributions have touched the hearts and souls of people around the world.

Jimmy Buffett's music reminds us that our worth is not only tied to how much money we make or how much output we can produce in our consumer-driven society but that relaxing and enjoying the fruits of life with the people you love is okay.

Through his lyrics and melodies, he transports us to the sun-soaked shores of Florida and the carefree attitude that reminds us to embrace the things that truly matter and make life beautiful.

His influence went beyond music. He was a philanthropist who was dedicated to ending the climate crisis to environmental causes and inspired countless people to join the fight against climate change across the entire Nation.

I thank Jimmy Buffett for making our world a little more beautiful, a little more joyful, and a little more caring. His legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. Cheers to him and to the paradise he created for us all.

HONORING BILL SHIPP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bill Shipp and recognize his decades of political journalism and service to Georgians.

A newsman for the Atlanta Journal Constitution and his own independent publication, Bill Shipp was like the Google of Georgia politics, infinitely knowledgeable about all happenings within the State at a time well before the internet even existed.

Throughout his storied career, Shipp used his knowledge to cover everything from the civil rights movement to the space age and the Republican revolution.

His ability to keep Georgians informed and hold politicians accountable started at the young age of 20 when he served as managing editor of UGA's Red & Black newspaper.

It was in that position as editor that Shipp advocated fearlessly for the integration of UGA's law school, wielding his voice to do good.

The loss of Mr. Shipp marks the end of an era, and I will miss his sharp quips, witty remarks, and comprehensive coverage throughout Georgia.

REMEMBERING SANTOS RODRIGUEZ

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, this Hispanic Heritage Month I lift up the legacy of Santos Rodriguez, a child murdered by police in my home of Dallas, Texas, 50 years ago this year.

At only 12 years old, Santos was shot and killed by police in front of his brother in Dallas' Little Mexico district. He was unarmed.

Earlier this summer, I hosted a commemoration of Santos in Dallas, celebrating the tireless advocacy of his family in securing justice and change after his senseless murder.

In the years since his death, the Rodriguez family and the Latino community of North Texas have built a movement of resilience and strength in his honor.

Santos did not come into this world to become a martyr. He simply wanted to live and grow like any other child.

Today, I ask that we honor the life and the family of Santos Rodriguez not just with words but with actions.

No child should have to lose their life for the world to recognize that their life had meaning. We can and should do better for all, but especially for our kiddos.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the numbers don't lie, and data shows a staggering unmitigated disaster continues at our southern border.

There have been 5.8 million illegal crossings since Biden took office, 1.6 million got-aways, nearly 24,000 pounds of fentanyl, and 146 crossers on the terror watch list.

Mr. Speaker, Biden's open border policy is a cancer on our country, and it is making our Nation very sick.

One statistic that stands out to me in the wake of the manhunt for the escaped fugitive in Pennsylvania, a murderer who came here illegally and terrorized Pennsylvania communities for 2 weeks, is the number of criminal non-citizen arrests, Mr. Speaker.

Over 10,000 illegal aliens have been arrested this year who had serious convictions on their record. That is compared to 2,400 in 2020 during Trump's last year in office. These weren't petty convictions. These were for murder, rape, assault, DUI, drug trafficking, weapons trafficking, and more.

Mr. Speaker, this administration is turning a blind eye to our immigration laws. If the White House won't stop it, this House needs to.

STANDING WITH THE UNITED AUTOWORKERS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Labor Caucus, I rise today to stand in solidarity with the 150,000 members of the United Auto Workers who deserve a fair shake.

Something is wrong when corporate bigwigs increase their salaries by 40 percent but autoworkers get only a 6 percent increase in the last 4 years.

Something is wrong when the Big Three automakers enjoy \$250 billion in profits over the last 9 years, \$66 billion of that going to shareholders, while autoworkers can't even afford to buy the cars that they build.

Autoworkers play a huge role in this country's transition to clean energy, and they deserve to have a fair wage along with benefits and better working conditions.

I stand with the autoworkers in their fight to secure the contracts that they deserve.

HONORING THE EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HORNETS BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Central High School Hornets baseball team for their outstanding showing in the 2023 Mississippi High School Athletic Association Class 5A tournament.

After winning a State title last year, the Hornets were determined to repeat. In the playoffs, the Hornets found themselves in elimination games multiple times, but these athletes were unified by fortitude, not anxiety. To paraphrase senior all-state catcher Logan Terry: They just didn't lose.

This mentality brought the Hornets their first repeat championship in school history. Their success over the last two seasons is a testament to the leadership of Coach Bo Long and a large class of senior players.

Congratulations to the East Central Hornets baseball team on their outstanding season.

STANDING WITH THE UAW

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on day 4 since the United Auto Workers' contract expired to encourage all leaders of management and the union to find common ground to ensure workers receive their fair share of the success of the auto industry.

For Indiana's First Congressional District, I represent the incredible UAW members from Region 2B in Indiana and also members that work at the Ford plant across the State line in Illinois out of Local 551.

The steel and manufacturing industries of northwest Indiana are also crit-

ical suppliers for the automobile manufacturers.

Throughout our history, organized labor has been on the front lines fighting for fair pay, access to affordable healthcare, safe working conditions, and sound retirement benefits. That fight continues today on day 4.

I again encourage all parties at the table to recognize the inherent value of the UAW workers and their essential contributions to the success, not just in the auto industry, but for the economic success for our communities and the expansion of the middle class.

I also wish my mom a happy 89th birthday.

RESPECT FOR FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, during the month of August, we had several wildfires break out in my district up in Siskiyou County at the top of California.

As you know, our Federal wildland firefighters are on the front lines battling the blazes and preventing them from spreading to populated areas and burning down all of our forests and the habitat that is in them.

They are doing their jobs, working 16-hour days often, grueling heat, remote rugged terrain, and what happens?

The new food vendor for the Forest Service tried serving them beans and rice on bread on the far side there and then moldy cheese sandwiches for our firefighters that we ask to be out there in risky conditions and tough, hot conditions as well.

What an insult. What a slap in the face as they have a national food vendor trying to provide meals like that that actually would cause harm to their health as well as just the sustenance they need to work hard.

In light of all this, we also find that the Klamath National Forest supervisor who fired this food service vendor was later investigated by the Forest Service higher-ups, and they only backed off because a scandal was made public.

Since then, it has been corrected, thanks to that Klamath Forest supervisor, and these unacceptable conditions are not going to continue.

The American people expect accountability for our firefighters and for our workers.

JOINING THE PICKET LINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I proudly joined United Auto Workers on the picket line at United Auto Workers Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio, striking Jeep Stellantis in solidarity.

Our mother helped organize the United Auto Workers nearly 90 years ago at Champion Spark Plug, organizing and negotiating with United Auto Workers founders Victor and Walter Reuther.

Our father, Stephen, who they called Kappy, retired in 1969 from Jeep. Both were able to get better wages and benefits to help our family as we were growing up.

I am including in the RECORD our mother's brief summary of why she joined the union and worked so hard; primarily to assure seniority rights of employment so you couldn't be fired because the supervisor brought family members to replace you.

A bidding system was established so any open job was put up on the board so the one with the most seniority got the job, if qualified.

Discrimination was outlawed so the foreman could no longer put his pets or relatives on the best job. The right to ask for a pay raise was assured through negotiation and the right to strike granted to employees.

Leaves for illness were granted so people wouldn't be fired if a doctor certification was provided.

I will continue tomorrow and enter the additional three sentences orally, but I just want to say go, UAW. We are so proud of you.

When our mother Anastasia was in her early 20's, she landed a job at the Champion Spark Plug Company in Toledo where she had applied at the employment office every day for one year. She never missed a day of work between any of her jobs. Here, her weekly wage rose to \$40 a week. She worked the production line at plug tamping where she was paid based on her output and she always did the maximum number each day. It was at Champion that she was elected to the Charter Committee of the Local 12 United Auto Workers Trade Union that was forming. She summarized for her children why she helped form the union—"primarily to assure seniority rights of employment so you couldn't be fired because the supervisor brought family members to replace you. A bidding system was established so any open job was put up on the board so the one with the most seniority got the job if qualified. Discrimination was outlawed so the foreman could no longer put his pets or relatives on the best job. The right to ask for a pay raise was assured through negotiation and the right to strike granted to employees. Leaves for illness were granted so people wouldn't be fired if a doctor's certification was provided. Bathroom privileges were allowed for personal contingencies. Three months leave was allowed for pregnancy. Lay-offs would occur according to seniority. And a grievance procedure was established to curb harassment by mean foremen."

Elected union Secretary, Mom gained respect by both company and union members for her knowledge of the bidding system, her ability to handle grievances, and her detailed grasp of the labor contract.

RALLY AROUND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I call attention one more time to the Members of this body about the lack of respect for the Second Amendment that took place in the State of New Mexico recently.

We all know where the increase in crime rate came from; probably three things: first of all, the breakdown of the family, which was encouraged by Lyndon Johnson's war on the family; secondly, liberal judges, who are not predisposed to put criminals in jail; and finally, liberal district attorneys who do not want to put members of the criminal class in jail.

As a result, we wind up with an increase in murders and an increase in crimes committed with guns. We have to rally and make it impossible, politically impossible, for anybody else to do what the New Mexico Governor did a few weeks ago.

The Second Amendment is designed to keep the power in this country with the people. Just because we have a family breakdown, together with ultra leftwing judges and district attorneys, is no reason to give up on our Second Amendment.

Rally, America. Rally around that Second Amendment.

MARCHING AT THE CLIMATE SUMMIT

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday before the climate summit at the U.N., tens of thousands of people marched.

I want them to know that some of us in this building hear you, we see you, and we understand your demand for urgent action.

We have seen in my State the wildfires in California. We have seen the flooding in New Hampshire and Vermont. We have seen the hottest summers recorded, and we have seen the smoke-filled air.

We need this President to declare a climate emergency. We need to stop the export of our oil to other countries.

We need to stop subsidizing fossil fuel companies. We need this President to keep his promise of no new drilling on public lands. That means no to the Willow project.

We need to stand with the UAW workers who are building EVs to make sure they have a fair wage.

Thank you to Gen-Z for Change. Thank you to Sunrise. Thank you to Climate Defiance. Thank you to all of the groups who are marching.

OPPOSING THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am not voting for a continuing resolution. I am not voting to continue the failure and the waste and the corruption and the election interference, and in some cases, the efforts that could lead this country into world war III.

I oppose the CR authored by my friend and colleague from Florida, BYRON DONALDS. The Donalds CR continues the Ukraine policy negotiated by Speaker PELOSI and MITCH MCCONNELL in the omnibus that conservatives were against.

The Donalds CR is a permission slip for Jack Smith to continue his election interference as they are trying to gag the former President of the United States and the leading contender for the Republican nomination.

The Donalds CR abandons the principle that it is only a review of single-subject spending bills that will save this country and allow us to tweeze through these programs and force these agencies to stand up and defend their budget.

I say to my friends that we are approaching the days where we are facing a \$2 trillion annual deficits atop a \$33 trillion debt. This is unsustainable.

To just continue things with some facial 8 percent cut over 30 days that will lead to no programmatic reform is an insult to the principles we fought for in January.

THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR COMMUNITY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give a big shout-out to some truly exceptional workers, among many, who are the heartbeat of our community: the United States postal workers, firefighters, and TSA workers.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with U.S. postal workers who ensure packages get delivered even in some of our most rural communities. Indeed, our U.S. postal workers deserve protection.

I also visited with firefighters in Greenville and TSA agents at the Pitt-Greenville Airport who are doing incredible work, and that is why we must ensure pay equity.

I extend my deepest gratitude for the exceptional service and the work that is getting done each day for the American people. Let us never forget our essential workers who strengthen the Nation.

ADVOCATING FOR WORKER BENEFITS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the strength of America is in her workers,

and today I rise on the floor of the House to stand with the UAW workers around the Nation and those that are striking now in the Midwest.

There are UAW workers in Texas, and I stand with them. Can we at least understand that the value of what these workers are advocating for are American values; health benefits; the ability to have a permanent job; the ability to have compensation; to be able to buy and keep a house, or to provide for your family, or to buy a car that you make.

This is a crisis that does not have to be. I ask and encourage the Big Three, the automakers, to sit with the UAW workers and resolve this the American way, and that is with fairness and justice and equality for all.

UAW is fighting for American workers. American workers over the decades and centuries have helped build this Nation. Let us not continue a strike that does not respond to the basic human needs of the UAW workers.

Again, I stand with the workers. I look forward to a reasoned and responsible resolve of all of this.

DANGEROUS DEFICITS

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, for anyone out there who is insane enough to have C-SPAN on, I may suggest requisitioning a life.

If you don't want someone to talk to you like an adult, if you don't want someone doing big math, big numbers, and being serious, I am sure there is a video out there of a parakeet playing a piano someplace. Please leave now.

Today I was actually going to try to come here and do the happy, positive talk. I actually had put together some boards on some really good things that happened.

Then we made the mistake on my flight; the staff actually looked at the trust funds that were collapsing over the next few years.

People forget. The Medicare trust fund is gone within 7 years. We can't actually work out the math of how devastating that will be because about 40 percent of all Medicare spent comes through that trust fund. It is almost all the money that Medicare patients receive at the hospital level.

I do have one happy slide, so we are going to do that one, and then we are going to go on to the reality.

Let me sort of make a point. We are going to have the fight over the continuing resolution or the budget or these things.

People are going to do their political posturing, and we are going to fight and fight. Please understand. It is all important. It is rounding of the rounding of the rounding errors of what is really going on.

You are going to see some slides here where you have got to understand

every dime we vote on as Members of Congress is now borrowed—plus another \$300 billion—and that is in this fiscal year. It gets dramatically worse over the next few years.

If you actually somewhere in your head think: Well, if we just got rid of waste and fraud and got rid of foreign aid, we would be fine.

Foreign aid is 12 days of borrowing.

Why is it so hard for this place to grow up and understand the most basic parts of math? I went off track there. I apologize.

Let's go back. How many of you saw this article? These are happy things. These are also things that are moral. They could make incredible differences. They could also save billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars.

I have been tracking the researchers on this, and I think it is the University of Chicago. They had this crazy idea. We will give people a vaccine to train their body to attack things.

How about if we gave a vaccine to train their body not to attack things? If you think about it, multiple sclerosis is your body attacking your nerve systems.

One of the reasons I am interested in it, we had a horrible, horrible family tragedy in regards to multiple sclerosis when I was very, very young.

It is the concept of sort of an inverse vaccine to take on autoimmune diseases, and it turns out type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease.

I have been coming to the mike for years talking about the research on being able to replant islet cells back into the body, either through stem cells or the one that has been now FDA approved which actually is islet cells that are bleached from cadavers and adjusted with CRISPR so your body doesn't need antirejection drugs to know this concept of we are just going to teach your body not to attack. This is a big deal. There are some wonderful things happening.

Now, here is the really interesting question: Will we be so broke as a country and a society that the ability to actually make the investment to do what is moral actually lowers future borrowing?

Look. Today, we finally crossed the \$33 trillion, and some people are going to light their hair on fire. It is a big deal. It is about to get dramatically worse. We are going to look back fondly on this number the way we are going right now.

□ 1945

Do understand we now have—and we don't bet money—but we do have a little pool going with some of our staff and some of our economists of what will the fiscal borrowing be this year.

Remember, the administration is trying to play some games where they are going to try to credit themselves back some of the student loan money that the Supreme Court said they can't spend, so we are actually looking at the real-life borrowing number, not the fiscal deficit number, which has a journal entry fraud in it.

As of a couple of hours ago so far this fiscal year—and we still have a couple weeks left—I think we have borrowed \$2.158 trillion. Now, I don't want to win because I am the idiot who said we are going to borrow \$2.2 trillion. Please understand, a year ago, the Congressional Budget Office, 2002 May, said, this year we would borrow about \$860 billion. Does something seem wrong in those numbers—\$860 billion? Now it looks like we are going to borrow \$2.2 trillion and almost every dime of that growth is healthcare costs which have exploded, particularly Medicare.

Tax receipts have fallen fairly dramatically. So much for this Biden socialized economy. We have handed out a couple of trillion dollars of money to build factories, to subsidize this and subsidize that. This was actually their modern monetary policy. You now have proof in the pudding. They set off inflation, and tax receipts have actually fallen. If anyone wants to write an academic paper on modern monetary policy, you have got the laboratory right in front of you. It collapsed.

What is the third thing that has actually gone against us this year? Interest. The bond market has not been treating us kindly. We were playing with some math the other day, maybe another additional, on top of everything else, \$160 billion of interest. Those are big numbers. Almost no one can process that sort of math, but let's actually walk through it in a way you can all understand.

If you look at the last 12 months, we borrowed over \$72,000. We borrowed, not spent, borrowed because we are borrowing about 30 percent of all of our spending. We borrow about \$72,000 a second, and \$20,000 a second is interest. Next year, my math—look, I am a little more dour than some of the people around me, but my math has us closing in on \$800 billion of interest, just interest, next year.

I am going to show you a chart. Please pay attention. That is almost all defense. There was a time this place would have been losing its mind if I came to you and said interest next year will be pretty much what we spend on defense. Oh, David, that could never happen.

How many times have you heard anyone come behind these microphones showing any concern? Instead, we are going to do the theater on rounding errors. I am going to stop another \$50 million here. That is a big deal. It is fine.

Did I mention we are borrowing over 72,000 a second? This is really difficult math, and it is really uncomfortable.

Let's go back to my opening statement. If you are someone that doesn't like hearing something that is uncomfortable, please go watch something else.

What is the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt? A bunch of it, at least

the current cycle, is a bunch of stupid things the Democrats did last year when they had power here. But no. Right now, today, and over the next 30 years, what is the primary driver? It is our demographics.

We got old. We made lots of promises. They are moral promises, they are commitments, and we don't have the cash for them. We don't have the cash flow for them, and we are going to run out of the borrowing capacity for them, but we are not allowed to talk about them because if you talk about them, you will get unelected around here because it is the see-no-evil thing.

We had a President stand behind that podium on the State of the Union and say, you are not allowed to talk about Medicare and Social Security, and everyone got up and applauded. That was immoral, absolutely immoral. In 9 years, we double poverty in America.

Last week, I came here and was showing some stories of the number of baby boomers who are in retirement living on the street and in that article it talked about how many more by the end of this decade are expected to be living on the street. This is retirement in America, and in 9 years we cut the average couple's Social Security by \$17,400. That is the morality of this place, but you are not allowed to talk about it because that is difficult.

For those who are not good at math, but like pie charts, let's do this one. The entire discretionary budget—and this chart is a little off because the actual fully appropriated discretionary budget was \$1.831 trillion, but we will use the \$1.7 trillion because that is what they printed.

You have got to understand: What you see in orange, Members of Congress do not get to vote on. We should, but it was this politically safe thing to make Social Security, make Medicare, make veterans' benefits on a formula, they just happen. What we vote on is all of defense and the rest of what you think of as government—the State Department, the Supreme Court, our salaries. Every dime of that is borrowed.

My point here is just simple: If you have about \$1.7 trillion, \$1.8 trillion, that is the entire discretionary budget, including defense, and we are going to borrow \$2.2 trillion this year. Every dime we vote on is borrowed, plus about \$300 billion.

We will have people here who have little temper tantrums over rounding errors. Because these numbers are so difficult and so hard to get your head around, we will do the theater because the theater actually sells. Let's actually walk through how ugly some of this math gets.

I have done entire presentations of this concept of interest rate fragility. I just showed you that we crossed over the \$33 trillion of borrowing. About \$27 trillion of that is what we call publicly borrowed, the rest is actually transfers from trust funds.

The money that is in the Social Security trust fund gets borrowed by the

Treasury, Treasury gives them interest. We are going to pay \$50, \$60 billion at the end of the month. It is our monthly interest that we pay out to the trust funds through borrowing. That is why I think my \$2.2 trillion borrowing this year is correct. You forget about all the other bonds that have to be refinanced.

If any of you like to watch markets, go grab your phone and go look at what interest rates are right now on a U.S. 2 year. How about a U.S. 10 year?

You are at the very top of the range. You are seeing interest rates that we have not seen in a dozen years and that is what we are going to be refinancing, and here is the punch line: \$9.6 trillion, \$2 trillion of that will be new issue, new borrowing, but the rest of that is what we call refinancing. It is the bonds that come due.

When we are talking about these higher interest rates, it is not on the new virgin borrowing; it is on almost \$10 trillion of U.S. sovereign debt that is coming to market.

There was this old adage that if I have a U.S. debt instrument that when it comes due, I will just put it right back in. That is not what happens.

Foreign governments start to roll out of U.S. sovereigns, but you also see other people that say, look, I can go get this interest rate, but now I can go buy corporate paper or I don't trust U.S. inflation, I got to go put it some other place.

If you are bringing almost \$10 trillion to market in 2024, is there a chance of a stressed bond auction? Is there a chance of a spike? Sure, there is.

Now, we have some games with the fed and the Treasury we can play to gobble up an issuance, but the moment that happens, be prepared that the interest rates we have today look charmingly quaint.

This is the reality. This is what we have done to ourselves, but we are not allowed to talk about it because that requires math.

I sort of already gave this one away, but let's do it anyway. The defense appropriation bill is about \$830 billion and our best guess for interest is \$800 billion next year. Think about that. I just need you to process.

Do you remember the old days when you would meet a liberal and the first words are, just raise taxes on rich people and cut defense spending; we will be fine. However, interest now is pretty much equal to defense spending. Does anyone care? Will anyone talk about this? Will anyone pay attention, or will we just go back to our theatrics because there is no reporter that is going to write this? There is no blogger out there paying any attention to it.

If you are selling clickbait on the internet, you are not going to do any of this. This requires an intellect. This requires thinking. It may even require a calculator. I have just grown so weary.

How do you save a society? Remember, the very first lie: There are good things happening if we would embrace those things and run with it.

I have done entire presentations here week after week on showing if you took on diabetes—I even came here and talked about things you are not allowed to talk about. I took on obesity in America. Turns out it is the single most powerful thing from a debt standpoint and economic growth standpoint and morality standpoint of making your brothers and sisters healthier or letting them be healthier.

A handful of academics were just thrilled to death that Schweikert is willing to talk about this. Everyone else goes, yeah, but it didn't make me angry. The political class around here on the left and the right, we just sell having people be pissed off. Great. Did I mention we are borrowing over \$70,000 a second?

I do this almost every day with reporters. The working middle class in this country have every right to be angry. It would be crazy if they weren't. They are poorer today than they were a couple years ago. If you live in my community, Scottsdale, Phoenix, and you are not making 20 percent more today than you were 2 years ago, you are poorer today.

This is what the left brought upon us, and when they go, oh, no, it wasn't us; it was supply chains. Read your own academic papers. Even the most moderate academic papers say about half the inflation came from the excessive spending the Democrats engaged in, their insanely named Inflation Reduction Act, and now the last several months is 100 percent the derivatives of their excessive spending. Read your own literature. You might need a dictionary.

To my brothers and sisters on the left: Take responsibility for what you did. You made people poorer and now you want to know why they are angry. Next year every dime equal to defense will be borrowed. Does that not set off any alarm bells?

Some of these next slides are just going to get geekier and geekier, but they try to make a point. This isn't Schweikert math. We grabbed these things from CBO and OMB and some of the academic institutions because it has been shocking.

We spent hours and hours and hours today trying to work on the Medicare trust fund, which is gone in 7 years. It is empty in 7 years. You have to understand how hard it was just trying to find out where that several hundred billion dollars that goes to hospitals, what is the remaining cash flow able to cover if the trust fund is gone? We will have to spend another week working on that. You think that would pop. It is within 7 years.

We couldn't find any decent research that was walking us through the math. That gives you an idea of how sick this place is. These aren't little numbers. These are the types of things you plan decades for, except we are not allowed to talk about things like that.

□ 2000

Look, I have been trying once again to sort of show even the numbers we

know today. I am not going to take a shot at CBO. CBO's job is to do projections as they know it. But, darn it, they have been missing the numbers.

First off, the interest rates we are at, we weren't supposed to be here right now. Remember, we were all supposed to be in the economic slowdown, interest rates were supposed to be falling, so we are even doing some math just sort of showing things. Even in some of our worst case scenarios, we are off by hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars in additional interest if we start using these current interest rates.

We did this one because this one is the simplest to understand. If interest rates rise by 1 percent over the CBO projections—remember, CBO has already missed the projections by I think it is 1-plus percent. The fiscal year 10 years from now budget deficit will be about \$500 billion more than we already expect.

Are you prepared in the 10-year window, so 9 budget years from now, we will functionally have a \$3.7 trillion deficit. That is 9 years from now. This isn't a projection. This is pretty much where we are at. We are at \$3.7 trillion in 9 years because our brothers and sisters on the left needed to spend lots and lots of cash, hand it out, buy their votes, buy their industries, buy their love from corporate America, which they did.

They set off inflation, and they won't admit it. They made people poorer. Now they wonder why they are angry. Now we have to figure out how to survive this.

Let's actually walk through some of the Democrats' solutions. How about we use this one, even confiscating all income over \$500,000, so we will actually take—first off, the deficit number on here is absolutely wrong, but this is an old chart. If you took one of the Democrat proposals saying if you make \$500,000, the next dollar is all government. You pay your regular taxes, and then if you make over \$500,000, every dime over is government money. It is Federal Government money, not your State and local. The Federal Government takes every dime of it.

We are now actually seeing a deficit projection of a couple trillion dollars next year. Taking every dime over \$500,000 produces about \$1.5 trillion. It wouldn't even come close to covering this year's deficit. This is taking every dime over \$500,000. Huh? I was told by BERNIE SANDERS we would be fine.

I have done this dozens of times, so I am not going to belabor it. We have actually—one of the real ways you would do this sort of math is you do it by percentages of GDP. We did those, and we walked people through showing that all the Democrat tax proposals of confiscating money or doing something that is probably unconstitutional, we will know probably this time next year, of taxing and confiscating unrealized capital gains; you know, the oligarch taxes and those things some of the

hard left are pushing where you actually just say, well, you have got a building, you have a family business, you owe us 8 percent of the business.

This is a chart, and this one is easy to find. Just go Google Manhattan Institute, Brian Riedl. He has done all sorts of charts like this where he just takes CBO numbers, OMB numbers, and makes them sort of understandable. You see all the little tax ideas don't get you anywhere close, but we can lie and pretend, right?

Let's do a little more of this. As you start to understand the drivers of what is going on, remember, I told you one of the deep, dark secrets we are not allowed to say, 100 percent of the borrowing that is scheduled for today through the next 30 years, Medicare is 75 percent of it, Social Security is 25 percent. That includes interest, so if you want to throw interest in there, but that is rolled into those, the financing of those programs. The rest of the budget is actually pretty much flat.

When you look at charts like this—and you can find this one everywhere; I think we have even put it up on our website—you start to understand, when you start to see the explosion here, these three lines are net interest, Medicare, and Social Security, and everything else just lays flat or actually falls as a percentage of discretionary. However, we are not allowed to talk about this because it doesn't fit the narrative where the political class has not told the truth.

Let's be honest, those of us on the right, it is waste and fraud, it is foreign aid, and then the Democrats are saying, rich people don't pay enough. I am going to show some more rich people don't pay enough slides and show you complete fraud in math.

Then there is the thing I am fixated on, and I am going to do more on Social Security because I am not comfortable enough with my Medicare numbers yet, but you have got to understand, highway trust fund, that is gone in 3 or 4 more years. Okay. It is big, but it is not ginormous. The Medicare trust fund, we have gone in 7 years. It is big, but it is nothing compared to Social Security, which is gone in 9 years.

Did anyone notice something there? The three big trust funds are gone within this 9-year window. How much discussion have you heard on how we are going to recapitalize these? We have a moral obligation to keep Social Security. We have a moral obligation to keep Medicare functional. Anyone here talking about how to do it?

I have come behind this mic over and over and over walking through how you could revolutionize the cost of healthcare. You have got to be willing to legalize technology. It turns out that upsets people because much of this is all about the money, but there are so many things we can do. There are so many good things happening out there, it is just will we allow the good

things to come to us before we have got ourselves in such a debt crisis that all we are doing is just paddling to survive?

All right, let's do the thing that they train you the day after you get elected, a bunch of really smart consultants sit down with you and say, David, welcome to Congress. There is this thing called a third rail. It has something to do with subways. I am from the desert. We don't have subways. You are not allowed to talk about things like Medicare and Social Security because they will run nasty ads about you, and you will get unelected.

Therefore, let's tell the truth, let's talk about Social Security. In 9 years—it could be 8 years—this chart has a mistake on it; this is 2033, not 2034. In 2033, the Social Security trust fund is empty, and that causes about a 25 percent cut to the average recipients in America. This is 9 years away. That average cut will be \$17,400, as we had testimony in the Ways and Means Committee. That will double senior poverty. Doubling of senior poverty is 9 years away.

I was here on the floor last week already showing you that because of rents and other things and Bidenflation, you are already seeing the number of baby boomers in retirement who are ending up homeless. This is 9 years away, \$616 billion.

When you show this to someone on the left, Well, DAVID, if we would just tax people over \$400,000 a year and not give them any benefits, but we make them pay the entire 12.4 percent FICA tax, we are going to be fine. Then you do the math, and you realize they have never actually put a calculator to that, have they? One more time, in 9 years, \$616 billion is the shortfall. In 9 years, everyone is getting a 25 percent cut.

Let's do the first suggestion given to us by our Democrat colleagues. Just create a doughnut hole. You pay your FICA tax up to \$160,200 today. It will go up with inflation over the next few years. You create a doughnut hole, then people \$400,000 and up, you get to pay the 12.4 percent tax from that to the sky's the limit, whatever you make, but you get no benefits for it. It turns out our best estimate, we have to work at these numbers to do this because for some reason no one wants to actually put these on charts. Our math comes out to about \$86 billion.

You remember the chart before, let's do this again. Sorry, but this is important because almost no one ever wants to talk about this. Do you see the \$616 billion? That is the shortfall in 9 years. Take taxing people the full FICA portion of Social Security at the 12.4 percent produces \$86 billion. Does anyone notice a math problem?

Let's do the hard left suggestion, DAVID, we just need to get rid of that Social Security cap. We will let them have benefits up to that \$160,200, but every dime above that still pays the 12.4 percent tax, but you don't give them any benefits.

All right. So this is lifting the cap. I have had some of the most arrogant leftists over and over say that solves the problem. Does it? One more time. The shortfall in 9 years, our estimate is \$616 billion. Lifting the cap, our best estimate produces about \$164.7 billion. You get about 20 percent of it.

This is what the brain trust around here has as the solution. We are going to force the Republicans to just lift the cap on Social Security taxes, and we will be fine.

Really? Really? You have \$420-some—\$427, \$428 billion, you are still short. That is in the first year. That is in one year. You are still doubling senior poverty at these numbers. This is the left's plan for us?

Come on, people. This shouldn't be Republican or Democrat. We had a President get behind that microphone and say we are not allowed to talk about this.

Please understand, it is absolutely just abysmal that we are going to spend the next couple weeks doing theatrics and fighting, and we will scrape out some savings, but those savings are going to be tiny compared to the scale of this sort of nuclear debt bomb.

This isn't way off in the future. This is no longer about your kids and your grandkids. This is you. This is your retirement.

Let's actually do a couple other pieces of math that really upset people, but it is math. Okay, we are going to do something called expected present values. Why this is important is you have a lot of folks who somehow believe that they have paid in stunning amounts of money into Social Security and Medicare and they are getting cheated. In some ways you actually are, but it may not be what you think.

What we are trying to show is lifetime taxes, lifetime benefits. The blue here, or is that purple, is Social Security, Social Security. Medicare and Medicare. On Social Security, the average couple, you get every dime back plus about \$72,000.

Now, remember, if 25 years ago when George Bush tried—and he was absolutely nuked by the retirement—I have got to come up with a name for the folks that basically want to nationalize retirement and the Democrats. President Bush ran around saying could we just take a sliver of it and allow people to have their own private account? Oh, you are trying to privatize. Too late now. That window is long past.

You are going to put in several hundred thousand dollars into Social Security through your taxes. This is an average couple who works their 40 quarters. You get about a \$72,000 SPIF. It would be several times more than that if over those working years you had been allowed to put that 15 percent or so into a private account, but water under the bridge. This is the left's brilliant economics.

Primary driver of debt, though, turns out this is the lifetime Medicare taxes. It is about \$200,000. We are still work-

ing on updating the number, but our newest number is maybe just shy of \$700,000 per couple on the benefits they are going to get from Medicare.

Does someone see a problem? Average couple—remember, there are 76 million baby boomers—that couple will put in a couple hundred thousand in Medicare, and they are probably getting close to \$700,000 in benefits. That gap right there is the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt. Almost no one will ever tell you that.

□ 2015

Mr. Speaker, the reason I keep coming behind this microphone is I truly believe there are people out there in the public that want to be talked to like adults. Yes, some like getting the stimuli of having someone say something angry and crazy, but that is not how you save the Republic.

There are ways to stabilize this. There are ways for this to be another "American Century," but that clock is ticking on us. Do you think we are going to recapitalize if the Medicare Trust Fund is how many billion dollars of shortfall starting in 7 years? I just showed you Social Security is 616 in the first year; transportation is also gone in that time. Plus, we are heading into 3 trillion-dollar-year deficits at the end of the decade. We are going to do 2.2 this year.

This is moving away from us very, very fast, and I do need people out there to understand the difference between a million, a billion, and a trillion. Play with your calculators to see how many zeros are the difference. Don't let someone trying to get your vote pander to you by making crap up if they are not being serious with you.

I will argue, this is the thing that destroys your Republic. This is what will make you much less free. This is what will take your freedoms from you, destroy your retirement, and heaven knows the misery we are leaving to our kids.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. 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-1908. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, OUSD (A&S)(A)/DPC, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Defense Commercial Solutions Opening (DFARS Case 2022-D006)

[Docket DARS-2023-0002] (RIN: 0750-AL57) received August 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1909. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting Board's 33rd annual report to the Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note; Public Law 100-583, Sec. 8; (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1910. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to exports, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1911. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to exports, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1912. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to exports, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1913. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Child Nutrition Program Integrity [FNS-2016-0040] (RIN: 0584-AE08) received August 24, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-1914. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Dishwashers [EERE-2023-BT-TP-0007] (RIN: 1904-AF50) received August 30, 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-1915. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Dehumidifiers [EERE-2019-BT-TP-0026] (RIN: 1904-AE60) received August 30, 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-1916. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Alternate PCB Extraction Methods and Amendments to PCB Cleanup and Disposal Regulations [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0556; FRL-7122-03-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH08) received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1917. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; South Carolina: New Source Review Updates [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0397; FRL-10011-02-R4] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1918. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; Oxides of Nitrogen [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0682; FRL-10126-02-R9] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1919. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Texas; Updates to Public Notice and Procedural Rules and Removal of Obsolete Provisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0307; FRL-10892-02-R6] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1920. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Aspergillus flavus* strain TC16F, TC35C, TC38B, and TC46G; Amendment to Temporary Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0797; FRL-10971-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1921. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Spinosad*; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0386; FRL-11036-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1922. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Pyraclonil*; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0004; FRL-11246-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1923. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Trifluralin*; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0502; FRL-11272-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1924. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Imazapyr*; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0577; FRL-11274-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1925. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Methoxyfenozide*; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0139; FRL-11276-01-OCSPP] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1926. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guidance — Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Proposed Nuclear Power Reactor Sites [Regulatory Guide 4.26, Revision 1] received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1927. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guidance — Use of Arcon Methodology for Calculation of Accident-Related Offsite Atmospheric Dispersion Factors [Regulatory Guide 1.249, Revision 0], 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-1928. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1929. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, "Resolution of the Cyprus Dispute"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1930. A letter from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Species; Critical Habitat for the Threatened Caribbean Corals [Docket No.: 230726-0177] (RIN: 0648-BG26) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-1931. A letter from the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees, Occupational Illness Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting the 2022 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7385s-15(e)(1); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 108-375, Sec. 3161); (118 Stat. 2185); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1932. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; St. Mary's River, St. George's Creek, Piney Point, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0418] (RIN: 1625-AA08) 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1933. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31499; Amdt. No.: 4071] 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-1934. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31500; Amdt. No.: 4072] 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.

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 Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 5521. A bill to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Marcelino Serna for acts of valor as a private in the Army during World War I; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5522. A bill to impose sanctions against certain persons engaged in the proliferation or use of foreign commercial spyware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5523. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include information in the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report on improvements by countries in combating narcotics-related money laundering, to require a report on the consistency of Bank Secrecy Act examinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 5524. A bill to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. ROY, and Mr. ARMSTRONG):

H.R. 5525. A bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 5526. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished 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 Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 5527. A bill to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself and Mrs. BOEBERT):

H.R. 5528. A bill to evaluate the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 5529. A bill to require a study of the risk of space debris impacting a metropolitan area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5530. A bill to provide for certain limitations to the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs rate of payment or reimbursement provided for transportation of veterans and other eligible individuals on special modes of transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 5531. A bill to prohibit the use of United States contributions to the United Nations to support the iVerify tool developed by the United Nations Development Programme, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5532. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to North Korea's support for Russia's illegal war in Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Financial Services, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 5533. A bill to combat toxic indoor mold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5534. A bill to prohibit targeted advertising by advertisers and advertising facilitators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 5535. A bill to prohibit the Federal Insurance Office of the Department of the Treasury and other financial regulators from collecting data directly from an insurance company; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRY (for himself, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 5536. A bill to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 5537. A bill to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 5538. A bill to amend title 5 of the United States Code to provide special overtime pay for certain border patrol agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. NICKEL):

H.R. 5539. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation 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. LAMBORN (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 5540. A bill to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to maintain a national list of licensed private child placement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTI (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 5541. A bill to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 5542. A bill to provide for the review and appeal of determinations that personnel of the Department of State should be restricted or precluded from serving in certain assignments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5543. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5544. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to eliminate exceptions to the provisions of such title commonly referred to as the Miscellaneous Receipts Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 5545. A bill to authorize an Action Plan for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to increase access to sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in healthcare facilities, promote stronger health systems and sustainable health infrastructure, build capacity of health workers, and promote the safety of health workers and patients, especially women and girls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 5546. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit individuals eligible for Indian Health Service assistance to qualify for health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NICKEL (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5547. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to protect access to genetically targeted technologies; 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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5548. A bill to provide for interim appropriations for the District of Columbia courts and related agencies with respect to

any fiscal year for which appropriations are not otherwise provided for such courts and agencies; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5549. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to the Congress completed proposals for the termination of the conservatorships of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 5550. A bill to amend the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 to expand the President's authority to deny any individual's admission to the United States as a representative to the United Nations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5551. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish minimum interregional transfer capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 5552. A bill to allow mandatory nighttime curfews at certain airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Ms. WEXTON):

H.R. 5553. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 5554. A bill to prohibit the use of organophosphate pesticides on food; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE:

H.J. Res. 90. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, and Mr. TRONE):

H. Res. 691. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 17 through September 23, 2023, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H. Res. 692. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 693. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 9 as "National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MACE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. BROWN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 694. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as “National Kinship Care Month”; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H. Res. 695. A resolution commemorating the 1-year anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini and the subsequent protests in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 696. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 23, 2023, as “Mary Church Terrell Day”, and calling on Congress to recognize Mary Church Terrell’s lasting contributions to the civil rights and women’s rights movements; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H. Res. 697. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives relating to the Communist Party of China’s “Made In China 2025” Plan and publicly-known malign Communist Party of China’s actions supporting the goals of its “Made in China 2025” plan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H. Res. 698. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 18 through September 24, 2023, as “Rail Safety Week” in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of reducing highway-rail grade crossing-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-61. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 90, to memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to assist in the establishment of a Louisiana pilot program for the recruitment of new United States Army members to address the military recruitment shortage; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ML-62. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 11, to memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to improve the mental health of military veterans by supporting exposure to nature with the designation of “Get Outside Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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 Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 5521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would authorize sanctions on individuals and entities who facilitate spyware, including spyware that could enable the targeting of United States Government officials or personnel of the intelligence community.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5523.

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 improve financial access for nations that appear in the Money Laundering volume of the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INSCR), issued annually by the Department of State.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 5524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

National security

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide continuing appropriations for the security of the nation.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

healthcare

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution, in that the legislation regulates forms of commerce specified in that clause; and, Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution, in that the legislation “is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Procurement

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 5529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 14 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for a study on the risk of, and response to, orbital debris impacting a metropolitan area

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S.C.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Creates a limitation to the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain changes to the rate of payment or reimbursement provided for transportation of veterans on special modes of transportation prior to a review of the impact a change in rates would have on veterans access to care and development of a process for updating those rates.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 5531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation changes US policy and funding toward the iVerify program within the United Nations Development Programme.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 5532.

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 will expand sanctions on any activity related to an agreement between North Korea and Russia to provide material support for Russia’s illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 5533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:

The subject of this bill is to protect those living in federally-assisted housing from the health and safety risks of mold and other environmental hazards.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 5534.

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:

To prohibit targeted advertising

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 5535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Repeal the subpoena and enforcement powers of the Director of the Federal Insurance Office, in addition to subpoena powers of the Director of the Office of Financial Research, and prescribe the treatment of data collected by financial regulators from an insurance company.

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 5536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: federal grants

By Mr. GIMENEZ:
H.R. 5537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution stating that Congress has the authority to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution"

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:
H.R. 5538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide special overtime pay for certain U.S. Border Patrol agents.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 5539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is: Healthcare

By Mr. LAMBORN:
H.R. 5540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to maintain a national list of licensed private child placement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 5541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have 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 provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment.

By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 5542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Foreign Affairs

By Ms. MACE:
H.R. 5543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides continuing appropriations to prevent a government shutdown if any appropriations measure for a fiscal year has not been enacted before the fiscal year

begins and continuing appropriations are not in effect.

By Ms. MACE:
H.R. 5544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires all moneys received by the federal government from any source (like user fees), other than programs where the federal government is holding money for states/localities, are deposited in the Treasury General Fund for appropriation.

By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 5545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Water

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 5546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; and

Article I, Section 8, clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would allow individuals receiving hospital care or medical services under the Indian Health Service to qualify for a health savings account.

By Mr. NICKEL:
H.R. 5547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health care

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 5548.

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 would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have jurisdiction over local District of Columbia civil and criminal justice matters.

By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 5549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to submit proposals called for in the letters to amend the Preferred Stockholder Purchase Agreements with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 5550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 to expand the Presidents authority to deny any individual's admission to the United States as a representative to the United Nations.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Electric transmission

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 5552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation

By Ms. SPANBERGER:
H.R. 5553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce and relations between the United States and Indian Tribes, and to pass all laws necessary and

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 5554.

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:

Environment

By Mr. MACE:

H.J. Res. 90.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 5 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

An amendment to the Constitution of the United States which will require the total expenditures for a year will not exceed the average annual revenue collected in the three prior years.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 27: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 41: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 357: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 384: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 494: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 530: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 542: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 544: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 569: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 594: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 595: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 615: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 620: Mr. HIMES and Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 681: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 700: Mr. ZINKE, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. AMODEL, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 760: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 770: Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 830: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. WILD, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 866: Mr. PALLONE.

- H.R. 882: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 894: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 895: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 906: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 920: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 949: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 974: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 977: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1002: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1139: Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CASAR, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CROW, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1150: Mr. PETERS and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1230: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1235: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1263: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1321: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1325: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1359: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 1365: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 1378: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 1382: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1413: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 1459: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1465: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 1477: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 1610: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 1634: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1671: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1685: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 1689: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 1763: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1764: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1777: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1785: Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 1831: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 2378: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 2439: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2548: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 2581: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 2604: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2672: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 2725: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 2742: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2748: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2755: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 2766: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2768: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 2785: Mr. POCAN and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2803: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2814: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 2891: Mr. LANDSMAN and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2923: Ms. MANNING, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 2933: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 2949: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2987: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3005: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3012: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3029: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3031: Ms. JACOBS, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BALINT, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 3032: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 3127: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 3165: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 3199: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3202: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3247: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3269: Mr. CRANE, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 3328: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 3350: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3372: Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 3377: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 3378: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 3413: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. HOCHIN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3433: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 3448: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 3475: Ms. STEVENS and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 3508: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3511: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3520: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 3530: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3546: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 3561: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3569: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3601: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3608: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3639: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 3656: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3668: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3771: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3783: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 3792: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3838: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. HOCHIN.
H.R. 3850: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3866: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 3879: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 3887: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 3888: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3949: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 3984: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 3990: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 4052: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4064: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4076: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 4132: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 4153: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4154: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 4157: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 4167: Mrs. HOCHIN.
H.R. 4235: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4248: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4262: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4263: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mrs. BICE.
H.R. 4274: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4327: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 4328: Ms. BROWN and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4333: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 4334: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4424: Mr. KILDEE and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4428: Mr. DONALDS and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4438: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4498: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4522: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4534: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4541: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4566: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 4576: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4577: Mrs. HOCHIN.
H.R. 4581: Mr. HIMES and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4583: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 4619: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CASE, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. MACE, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4624: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 4627: Mr. JAMES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 4708: Mr. LUTTRELL.
H.R. 4714: Mr. KILMER and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4721: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. OWENS, Ms. FOX, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 4729: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 4771: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4800: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4831: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 4844: Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4859: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 4868: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4968: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4984: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. MACE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. FOX.
H.R. 5012: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5041: Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 5049: Mr. CASE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 5076: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 5077: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 5099: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5110: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 5119: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 5141: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 5159: Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 5163: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 5182: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 5239: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 5246: Mr. NICKEL and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5249: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5257: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5290: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5291: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5292: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5293: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5294: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5295: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5299: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5308: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 5339: Mrs. HOCHIN.
H.R. 5342: Mr. FALLON, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LUTTRELL.
H.R. 5353: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5359: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 5383: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5391: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 5399: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MACE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5402: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 5406: Mr. BURLISON, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 5409: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 5415: Mr. GARBARINO and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 5433: Mr. KILDEE and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5440: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5447: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 5456: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 5457: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5482: Mr. BABIN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 5499: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CRANE, and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 5507: Mr. GUEST and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 5512: Mr. HILL and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 5513: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mrs. HINSON.
H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 126: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 214: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 345: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 451: Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 459: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H. Res. 527: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H. Res. 580: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. HUDSON.

H. Res. 585: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 588: Ms. SEWELL.

H. Res. 613: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. ALLRED.

H. Res. 616: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H. Res. 651: Mr. YAKYM.

H. Res. 665: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H. Res. 674: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H. Res. 675: Mr. LAWLER.

H. Res. 682: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PETERS.

H. Res. 683: Mr. SELF, Mr. FALLON, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H. Res. 684: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. STEIL, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. LESKO.

H. Res. 685: Ms. MACE.

H. Res. 688: Mr. HARDER of California.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, guide our lawmakers today as they seek to do Your will. Deliver them from the forces that seek to destroy freedom. Use our Senators to make a better world as they strive to create a planet where people can dwell together in harmony. Inspire our legislators to decrease that You may increase and illuminate our world with Your glory. Give them the wisdom to seek You often in prayer, with grateful hearts. Lord, guard their hearts and minds with Your peace. Help them to turn their struggles into stepping stones that will glorify You.

We pray in Your Holy 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 18, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a

Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report.

The bill 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.

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute.

Murray amendment No. 1205 (to amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 1207, to change the effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

H.R. 4366

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the lesson of the past few years has

been that bipartisanship is key to getting things done in the Senate, even in these divided times.

A few months ago, bipartisan majorities in both Chambers passed an agreement on appropriations top lines for the fiscal year 2024 and avoided a catastrophic default, which would have been so damaging to America.

Since then, Senate appropriators, led by Chair PATTY MURRAY and Vice Chair SUSAN COLLINS, have drafted legislation honoring this bipartisan agreement. It took months of work and a lot of compromise, but all 12 appropriations bills have made it through the committee, all of them bipartisan and many with unanimous support. Nobody got everything they wanted, but disagreements did not stymie progress.

So, again, bipartisanship is getting things done. That has been proven over and over again in recent years. But the reverse is also true. When a small band of Senators chooses partisanship over progress—when they mimic the chaos of the House Freedom Caucus—it threatens the good work of this Chamber.

That is what happened last Thursday, when one Senator's objections prevented us from moving forward with the appropriations process. One Member, mimicking the House Freedom Caucus, has derailed the Senate and prevented us from considering amendments, including Republican amendments.

It is a reminder that in both Chambers a small band of hard-right Republicans are dead set on grinding down the gears of government. For these MAGA Republicans, it is as if gridlock is a virtue and cooperation a crime.

I ask this small group of Senate Republicans: What happened to wanting to do appropriation bills regular order?

We said we would allow amendments. We have put a minibus on the floor with the cooperation and guidance of Senate Republican appropriators. These stunts of this very small band

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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only serve to undermine regular order in the first place and fly in the face of what our Republican colleagues asked us to do.

That is the danger of MAGA extremism. It is incapable of governing. It only produces chaos. It is so bad that, last week, MAGA extremists in the House prevented even a defense bill—even a defense bill—from moving forward. It is a scary pattern we are seeing emerge with some on the hard right: extremism at all costs, even at the cost of our national defense. I urge my Republican colleagues to resist and reject these hard-line attempts to derail the Senate's work.

A great majority of Senators from both parties want to see us move forward. In the coming days, I will work with my colleagues on getting the appropriations process back on track so we can finish processing these appropriation bills and get us one step closer to funding the government, because we all know, if the government shuts down, it will hurt millions and millions and millions of Americans who did nothing at all.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Madam President, on the CR, September 30 is only 12 days away. If bipartisanship is allowed to work, we can avoid a government shutdown before then. Sadly, things in the House are not off to a good start. Last night, House GOP Members released what they called a deal for a CR but in reality reads like a hard-right screed. Instead of working with Democrats to keep government open, House Republicans want to cut virtually all non-defense spending by a devastating 8 percent—8 percent—8 percent cuts to law enforcement, cancer research, and other critical priorities. Not one penny is dedicated to the President's disaster relief request, despite the anguish in so many States. No health extenders are included, no attempt to reauthorize the FAA.

And with no Ukraine funding, the proposal is an insult to Ukraine and a gift to Putin. I cannot think of a worse welcome for President Zelenskyy, who visits us this week, than this House proposal, which ignores Ukraine entirely.

Last night's proposal in the House can be boiled down to two words: slapdash, reckless—slapdash because it is not a serious proposal for avoiding a shutdown and reckless because, if passed, it would cause immense harm to so many priorities that help the American people. Again, this Freedom Caucus wish list is not a serious proposal for avoiding a government shutdown and, if passed, would never have enough votes to make it through the Senate.

To his credit, the Speaker knows a shutdown would be a terrible outcome. When I spoke with him in late July, we had a very encouraging conversation about the need for bipartisanship to avoid a shutdown. We both recognized that a bipartisan CR would be the way

forward. Two months later, a bipartisan CR is still the only answer for avoiding a government shutdown.

I urge Speaker MCCARTHY, as well as reasonable House Republicans, to resist the 30 or so extremists within their ranks who seem dead set on provoking a crisis. The House Freedom Caucus cannot be allowed to bully the rest of the House into submission, as hard as they might try.

Time is short to finish the job. If both sides embrace bipartisanship, a shutdown will be avoided. If the hard right is given a license to run the show, a shutdown is almost inevitable. It is that simple.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

Madam President, now, on the UAW strike, today, the United Auto Workers enters its fourth day on strike for better wages, health benefits, and safer working conditions.

America wouldn't be what it is today without strong unions like the UAW. The UAW helped build and strengthen the middle class, and, for decades, the UAW has been a leader in the fight for workers' rights and fair labor standards. So it is no surprise that the UAW is once again leading the way with this historic strike on the big three car companies.

The UAW's demands to these companies are simple: better pay, better benefits, better working conditions. Surely, that is not too much to ask of these car companies, which brought in record profits over the last few years. The workers helped create those profits. They are largely the reason there are such profits, and now, they deserve to get some of the benefits.

I stand in solidarity with my brothers and sisters at the UAW, and I urge the big three car companies to bargain in good faith to quickly reach a new contract that is fair and equitable for workers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

IRAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today, five American hostages are on their way home from unjust detention in Iran. Unfortunately, the deal that secured their release may very well be the latest example of President Biden rewarding and incentivizing Tehran's bad behavior. For the past 2½ years, the administration's weakness and desperation have emboldened—emboldened—a massive state sponsor of terror and would-be nuclear arm aggressor.

Take the \$6 billion the United States has reportedly just released to the Iranian regime. Administration officials have insisted that this money is subject to strict oversight and may only be used for humanitarian purposes.

Iran's President, on the other hand, understands that money is fungible. He said:

Humanitarian means whatever the Iranian people needs . . . and the needs of the Iranian people will be decided and determined by the Iranian government.

Well, we know quite well that the Iranian people's needs and the Iranian regime's priorities rarely overlap. For example, protesters continue to take to the streets across Iran to denounce the regime 1 year after the so-called morality police killed a young woman for not wearing her head scarf correctly. Brave Iranians are taking greater and greater risks to speak up for freedom from the brutality of a corrupt, theocratic regime.

Meanwhile, as the regime meets these protests at home with force, its focus abroad remains on exporting repression, terror, and economic interference throughout the region and beyond.

Tehran continues to accelerate its enrichment of weapons-grade uranium and stonewall international inspectors seeking the truth about Iran's weaponization work. Just last week, the regime barred several U.N. inspectors from conducting scheduled oversight across the country.

The regime is racing to ramp up production of the weaponized drones it uses against Arab and Israeli civilians to supply Russian violence in Ukraine.

Iran-backed militia continue to threaten U.S. servicemembers in Iraq and Syria. Tehran continues to funnel resources to terrorist proxies—like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza—that attack Israel. And the regime has even plotted to kill U.S. officials and dissidents here on American soil.

And last week, the IRGC seized two more tanker ships in the Arabian Gulf and detained their civilian crews, part of a longer campaign to threaten freedom of navigation and the entire global economy. This growing threat has led the U.S. military to deploy 3,000 additional marines to the Red Sea and prepare to put U.S. personnel on commercial vessels to try to deter Iranian aggression.

By every measure, Iran poses a greater threat to its neighbors and to the United States than it did 2½ years ago. The Biden administration's record of appeasement and squandered leverage has left Americans less secure.

The urgent question now is when the President will decide to change course because, so far, his administration's obsession with reviving a flawed nuclear deal actually suggests otherwise.

BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, on another matter, on the Biden administration's watch, America's southern border has

descended into humanitarian disaster. And across the country, Democrats' open border policies have turned every State into a border State.

The fentanyl trafficked across the southern border has become the leading cause of death among Americans 18 to 45. Of the 2,135 overdose deaths in my home State last year, fentanyl was the most prevalent drug involved. And nationwide, synthetic opioids contributed to about 75,000 of the nearly 110,000 overdose deaths.

The painful ripple effects of Washington Democrats' failure to address the border crisis extend even further. In major cities all across the country, the flow of illegal migrants is testing the patience of even the most liberal mayors.

The number of arrivals in New York City is now close to 10,000 a month, and Mayor Adams has said that the city's response will cost \$12 billion over the next 3 years if the flow continues at the same rate. Being a sanctuary city is starting to come at a price.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration has continued to sit on resources that were already paid for during the previous administration. The Army Corps of Engineers is paying \$160,000 per month to store more than 20,000 unused border wall panels that have already been paid for by the taxpayers.

But instead of finally starting to enforce our immigration laws, the Biden administration apparently wants to respond by gutting the Agency tasked with doing so, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The junior Senator from Tennessee, Senator HAGERTY, wrote recently about how the administration's supplemental funding proposal included a provision to redirect ICE funding toward paying for community-based residential facilities, airplane tickets, and hotel rooms.

As our colleague put it:

This would effectively convert ICE from a law enforcement agency into a U.S. travel agency for illegal aliens.

So Washington Democrats' neglect has shattered American border security. Now, they want to make life even harder for men and women working harder to clean up this mess. The American people need security, not another attack on law enforcement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in a moment, Senator MURRAY will move to suspend rule XVI and file cloture on that motion. This is an effort to move forward on the minibus and keep the appropriations process on track here in the Senate.

It is unfortunate that one Member who does not represent the views of most Senators prevented us from moving forward last week, but I believe a majority of Senators want to keep moving forward.

Our Republican colleagues have asked for regular order, and we have worked with them to let that happen.

It was with the cooperation and guidance of Republican appropriators that we brought these three appropriations bills to the floor, and we have said we will allow amendments.

In short, we are doing what our Republican colleagues have properly asked for—pursuing regular order. So I hope Senators from both sides will vote to allow the appropriations process to continue.

A deep debt of gratitude and thank you for the hard work to Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, and appropriators on both sides of the aisle.

WITHDRAW MOTION TO COMMIT

Madam President, I withdraw my motion to commit H.R. 4366 to the Appropriations Committee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has that right.

The motion is withdrawn.

The Senator from Washington.

MOTION TO SUSPEND

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, having notified the Senate under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I move to suspend rule XVI for consideration of amendment No. 1092 to H.R. 4366.

CLOTURE MOTION

Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 motion to suspend the rules under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to substitute amendment No. 1092 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, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2023.

Patty Murray, Susan M. Collins, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tom Carper, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Charles E. Schumer.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, Monday, September 18, be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1230

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to commit the bill, H.R. 4366, to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the amendment.

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 1230.

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 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore.

Mrs. MURRAY. For the information of all Senators, last week, an overwhelming 91 Senators voted to begin debate on the bipartisan appropriations package. This is a package of bills which—each one of them passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously.

We have been working very hard in a bipartisan effort and in good faith to set up a very robust process for amendments and for debate. Unfortunately, a few Senators decided to object to us last week, and now we are moving forward.

I would say a lot of Senators have come to me and others and spoken on the floor about how much they hate doing a gigantic omnibus at the end of the year. We have been working really hard on this package to make sure we don't get stuck doing that once again. So if everyone is serious about wanting to show that this place can actually work, well, now is the time to come together to make sure we can do that.

We cannot let a few Senators toss out months of hard work to move us closer to regular order and abandon an overwhelmingly bipartisan effort to do something as basic as funding our government and then put us on a collision course for another huge omnibus. That is why we are filing for a necessary procedural vote today that we will vote on later this week that will keep this bipartisan process on track.

Madam President, I would inform Senators that as we wait for this vote to ripen, we are continuing to work through a list of amendments and a package of amendments that we can approve as soon as we can get the necessary votes to get back on the bill.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, what you just witnessed here is, we hope, a new day in the U.S. Senate. You see, we have the responsibility of appropriating the money for the Federal Government. We do it in 12 different bills. The total cost to the taxpayers for the resources for the government come to the neighborhood of \$1 trillion, so it is a big undertaking.

For 5 years, we failed to pass those 12 bills individually. We passed them in a group known as an omnibus. It is usually done either at the end of the fiscal year, which ends September 30, or a few weeks or months thereafter.

So this year, we decided in the Senate to try to do it differently, do it better. What we have done through the

Appropriations Committee, which I serve on, is to take up each individual bill of the 12 bills. We are trying to pass them on a bipartisan basis because this body is divided, 51 Democrats and 49 Republicans.

We picked two of the best legislators in the Senate to accomplish this—Senator PATTY MURRAY, who just spoke, from the State of Washington, a Democrat, and Senator SUSAN COLLINS, a Republican, from Maine. The two of them did miracle work in the committee; they got all 12 bills individually passed.

We are in the process of trying to consider three of those bills at a time—three of those bills now. That is what we were embarking on last week. In order for us to take up these bills, we needed to suspend the rules of the Senate because of the procedure that we face. When we tried to do that, one Senator, a Republican Senator from Wisconsin, objected. Because of his objection and the nature of the Senate, we were back to the starting point, and it led to what we saw today.

Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic leader, and Senator MURRAY, the President pro tempore and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, have asked for permission to take up those three bills and to amend them and debate them and pass them. In order to do that, we have to suspend the rules of the Senate. It is not an easy thing. Usually we do it by saying, “Do I have unanimous consent to suspend the rules?” and it happens. This time, when we said, “Do we have unanimous consent?” that one Senator objected. He has his own reasons. He can explain them. But it meant we had to come back here today and start to suspend the rules. It takes a two-thirds vote, 67 votes, in the Senate.

So, you see, this isn't an easy Chamber in which to get things done, but I think we are on the right track. It is a bipartisan undertaking, and we are considering each of the bills and subjecting them to amendments—just the way it used to be for many years, for many decades. I think that is better.

Contrast that with what is going on in the House of Representatives. At this point, they can't pass any bills. They couldn't pass any appropriations bills, and now they are considering a bill for short-term spending for our government. Speaker MCCARTHY said he will call for a vote this week. I don't know if it will pass or not. There is quite a feud going on over there.

We are following an orderly, bipartisan process to have a closer look at each of the spending bills for the Senate and for taxpayers in this country. I think this is the right way to do it. I hope the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives can get their act together. We will find out this week.

That is not the reason I came to the floor, but I wanted to make sure that we made a point of what Senator MURRAY said. This is a historic, bipartisan undertaking. I think the American peo-

ple more than anything want us to get along and work together and solve some problems, and this will be a step in that direction.

So that is what we just went through.

UKRAINE

Madam President, each year, the United Nations in New York has a General Assembly meeting. Countries come with their leaders from all around the world.

Many people—myself included—watch “60 Minutes” on Sunday. Last night on “60 Minutes,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, talked about what he is facing with this Russian invasion by Putin and what it has meant to his country. He said that he is coming to New York to make a presentation to the United Nations.

I think it is important that he does this. I want him to remind the American people, who, through the NATO alliance, have been steadfastly in support of the Ukrainian people, what is at stake.

Vladimir Putin said he wants to restore Russia's so-called “lost glory.” That is the twisted rationale behind his disastrous invasion of Ukraine, one that has led to nearly half a million Ukrainians and Russians being killed or wounded simply for Putin's bloodthirsty ambition.

Putin will not be traveling much outside Russia. If you wonder why, it is because the International Criminal Court, when it looked at the activity of the Russian invaders in Ukraine, ended up issuing an arrest warrant, branding Vladimir Putin a war criminal.

Why would they call him a war criminal? Because they killed innocent civilians certainly but equally because they had a mass abduction of Ukrainian children into Russia—something that has hardly ever happened in history, but Putin has done it.

So they issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the war crimes. It is the first time in history for a leader of one of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to be so charged. It is no surprise when you see what he has done and what he threatens to do. Putin has isolated Russia. He has arrested Russians for political dissent. He has quashed the freedom of the press. He is destroying the Russian economy.

Despite these clearly tragic outcomes, he is doubling down even further in a move my Delaware colleague, Senator COONS, aptly called the “devil's deal.” You see, international sanctions, global isolation, and a determined Ukrainian military have left Putin scrambling for military supplies and weapons. He first turned to help from one of the world's worst rogue nations. You might have heard Senator MCCONNELL talk about Iran earlier. That is right—while the Iranian Government was beating, murdering, and repressing mass protesters who were demanding basic freedoms, Putin was

there, hat in hand, pleading for military weapons.

Just last week—what classic photographs these are. He turned and asked for help from Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea. It is hard to imagine a more deadly duo than these two.

While the Iranian Government was doing these things, he is pleading for weapons; and now he has met with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, further request for weapons. His effort to restore Russian glory has, instead, resulted in pleading for help from two global despots and fostered NATO enlargement along Russia's border. That is the thing that we have got to keep in mind that has been achieved by this war. There is more unity in the NATO alliance than anytime in its history. In fact, for the first time in recent history, we have expanded NATO to include Sweden and Finland.

It has been my good fortune to attend the Munich security council in Germany this spring and to meet, again, the President of Finland, President Niinisto.

This morning's New York Times has an article, which I commend to you.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FINNISH LEADER WARNS EUROPE ABOUT RUSSIA

(By Steven Erlanger)

Helsinki, Finland—The president of Finland, Sauli Niinisto, is the person considered most responsible for bringing his country into the NATO alliance—and Sweden, too, which is awaiting ratification—following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. President Biden has consulted him about Russia and its president, Vladimir V. Putin, whom Mr. Niinisto has met numerous times.

In a long interview in his light-filled modernist residence in Helsinki, Mr. Niinisto warned European leaders and citizens not to become complacent over the risks of escalation in Russia's war against Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine will last a long time, he said, and wars can take unexpected paths, even toward the use of nuclear weapons.

The invasion, Mr. Niinisto said, was “a wake-up call” for Europe and NATO.

“Well, it was ringing loudly in February 2022,” he said. “But do you hear it anymore? That clearly? That might be a good question—whether all Europeans realize that this is a European issue.”

Mr. Niinisto, 75, is nearing the end of his 12 years as the Finnish president. In the interview, he was philosophical, but troubled, too. Finland has much experience—and an 830-mile border—with its imperialist neighbor, Russia.

Recalling Finland's numerous wars with Moscow, including the 1939 Winter War and World War II, when the Finns fought off the Soviets but had to cede some territory, Mr. Niinisto said European countries that let down their defenses after the collapse of the Soviet Union made a grave mistake.

Here are a few highlights from the interview:

He warned about the risks of Russian escalation and even nuclear war.

Speaking about debris from what appeared to be a Russian drone landing recently in Romania, which is a member of NATO, Mr.

Niinisto cautioned: "We're in a very sensitive situation. Even small things can change matters a great deal and unfortunately for the worse. That is the risk of such large-scale warfare." He added, "The risk that nuclear weapons could be used is tremendous."

Given those risks, he urged critics without political responsibilities to understand the hesitation of leaders to accelerate the war.

His warnings, he said, were partly a response to those who criticize the policies of Mr. Biden and Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany as too cautious in supplying Ukraine with sophisticated, long-range missiles and drones that could easily hit Russian-occupied Crimea and Russia.

"There's a difference between those who have responsibility and those who don't," he said. "Also, in Finland, we hear voices that America should do that or that. And I just wanted to point out that if there's escalation to a big war, that's world war, so then the nuclear risk becomes clearly bigger." He urged everyone "to understand the position of those who have responsibility."

Some countries shrank their militaries after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finland did not.

He urged Europeans to heed Finland's example.

Unlike Sweden, a close neighbor in all fields, including defense, Finland still has conscription for males, and also allows women to enlist. Those who finish conscription remain in the reserves, as they do in Israel, for decades, and take part in military training and exercises at least twice a year—now more often—in conjunction with other public services, such as the police and the fire brigades.

And Finland, schooled in self-reliance, maintains large artillery forces, still makes its own shells and ammunition, and even bought advanced F-35 fighter jets before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

After the Cold War, Mr. Niinisto said, "we Europeans learned to live an always improving life."

"Decade after decade," he said, "it strengthened the feeling that it's a bit old-fashioned even to talk about defense forces or defending because that's not possible in a modern world. Now there's a huge wake-up. Fortunately, in Finland, our position remained totally different."

He has few illusions about Russia and Mr. Putin.

In their meetings before the invasion in February 2022, Mr. Niinisto said, Mr. Putin was focused, aggressive and well-informed, even obsessive, about Russian culture. He said he decided to test Mr. Putin by asking him about Mikhail Lermontov's poem on the death of Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet. Mr. Putin spoke for more than half an hour. "He knew everything about that—for him it's Russia, Russia overall," Mr. Niinisto said.

Russia ruled Finland for more than a century, until, in the chaos of Lenin's takeover, Finland declared independence in 1917. The wars with Russia since then are seared "in our backbone," Mr. Niinisto said. Russian history goes in waves, he said, citing "a centuries-old Finnish saying that 'the Cossack takes anything that is loose,'" that is not tied down. (Finns used to use "Cossack" as shorthand for "Russians," he said.) But it is a reminder that free countries must keep their defenses up and their goods safely stored.

He and Mr. Biden talked often about Russia.

The two presidents spoke about Russian intentions in Ukraine before Mr. Niinisto met Mr. Putin in Moscow in October 2021, continuing their conversations at the Glasgow climate summit the next month and afterward, as Russian troops were building

up on the border with Ukraine. They spoke again in January, and Mr. Biden asked Mr. Niinisto to urge Mr. Putin not to invade. Russia invaded the next month.

After the invasion, Mr. Niinisto was among the first European leaders to meet Mr. Biden in the White House, on March 4, where he put forth the possibility of Finland joining NATO. After the Russian invasion, he said, "it became very obvious that we had no other alternative than giving up our military nonalignment."

Mr. Biden was supportive from the start, Mr. Niinisto said.

Russia isn't going anywhere.

Mr. Niinisto said he does not know how long the war will last, or how it will end, or "what life will be like when we again have peace."

But even when the conflict ends, Russia will remain. "There's also a big European interest to make sure that Russia is not returning back to warfare after peace in Ukraine" without insisting that the Russians "have to be blown out," he said carefully. But he emphasized that trust would be needed to ensure that "a new war is not waiting behind the door."

There is always life after war, he said, and there is nothing more valuable for people than peace.

"Without peace, you have nothing, so I'm sure that ordinary Russians share these feelings," Mr. Niinisto said. "It's a basic human feeling."

There must be a way to maintain a relationship with Russia, he said. "I don't mean any great friendship" Mr. Niinisto said, "but the capability to tolerate, even understand each other a bit."

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the September 18 New York Times, the Finnish leader, President Niinisto—now serving his second term—made an historic decision to ask for membership in NATO. He is a wonderful man; he is on a second term and is extremely popular in his country. And he asked to join the NATO alliance so that it could stand up against Putin.

He reminds us in this article that Finland has a great experience with its neighbor Russia and an 830-mile border with the Russian leadership.

He recalls "Finland's numerous wars with Moscow, including the 1939 Winter War and World War II, when the Finns fought off the Soviets but had to cede some territory, Mr. Niinisto said European countries that let down their defenses after the collapse of the Soviet Union made a grave mistake."

And so he has asked to join the alliance.

I was at a meeting with President Niinisto, and he said he picked up the phone one day and called Vladimir Putin in Moscow. It is hard to imagine, isn't it? But he said: I told him, point-blank, I am joining the NATO alliance.

Putin said: You don't have to. I am not going to invade your country.

He said: I can't trust you anymore after what you have done to Ukraine.

That is a message that Zelenskyy was delivering last night on "60 Minutes." I want to make clear on the floor: Putin is not going to stop his ambition to acquire other countries, and there are many that are in fragile, dangerous situations.

I am blessed to represent the State of Illinois and city of Chicago, as the Presiding Officer does. And there are some

wonderful groups of people who have come to the State and our city that have made us what we are today. Among them are the Polish people. They say that Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world, next to Warsaw. It is probably true. They are great folks, and I am honored to represent them. They know what the Soviet occupation through the Warsaw Pact meant to Poland, and they understand the danger if Putin is successful in Ukraine. The neighbors to Poland feel the same way—the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. I have a special connection there. My mother was born in Lithuania. I have been there many times, and I greatly admire the people of all the Baltic states. But they are small countries; they couldn't stand a chance of fighting off Vladimir Putin if he decided to invade them.

The point made by Niinisto—the point made by the NATO alliance, the point that President Biden is making and, I might add, many Republican leaders, like Senator MCCONNELL, is that it is in our best interest to stop Putin now in Ukraine because he has ambitions that reach far beyond the borders of that country.

The United States is not sending troops. We are sending military equipment, artillery, ammunition; and we are giving advice to the Ukrainians so that they can win this battle. This battle is not just for Ukrainian sovereignty; it is for our own protection in the years to come.

This week in Washington, we will be visited by President Zelenskyy of Ukraine. He will go to New York first to address the United Nations General Assembly. I think he is going to come through with a clear message to global leaders, to NATO, to Congress, and to the American people: Quite simply, Ukraine is fighting with the lives of its own people against a nuclear state—Russia—that threatens the world. If Ukraine falls, Putin will certainly go farther—to Poland, to the Baltic states—and trigger an even wider war. Putin cannot be changed, but he can be stopped in Ukraine. The Ukrainian people are showing extraordinary courage and determination.

I agree with President Zelenskyy. We must continue our support for these brave people fighting for their country and against Russian tyranny that threatens the world.

We can start by passing the Biden administration's most recent funding request. I am going to do my part in the Senate to make sure we get that done, and I call on my colleagues to do the same.

I would say to President Zelenskyy: Your message was delivered on "60 Minutes." You are looking for allies who will stand up against the aggression of the war criminal Vladimir Putin. The United States and NATO will be those allies.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

H.R. 4366

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the end of the fiscal year is just 12 days away, and the Senate has not yet voted on a single one of the 12 appropriations bills that have passed on a bipartisan basis out of the Appropriations Committee.

The majority leader, who controls the agenda of the Senate and the timing at which we consider matters, has had all year to plan and prepare for the September 30 deadline. But here we are, less than 2 weeks before a shutdown, with no clear path to funding the government.

At the start of last week, this Chamber was preparing to take up a three-bill minibus. In other words, having not started to vote on any single bill, the majority leader put a bill on the floor that combines 3 of those 12 appropriations bills. This is something the Senate has done before; but to be clear, this is not a feature of the regular order of things. Following the regular order involves taking up and passing each appropriation bill one at a time.

Had the majority leader taken this process seriously, he would have had time to do that. The Appropriations Committee passed the first funding bills on June 22, which is nearly 3 months ago. The Senate could have been processing those funding bills at any point over the summer. We could have followed the regular order and debated, amended, and passed all 12 bills ahead of the September 30 deadline. Sadly, that didn't happen, which is now why we find ourselves in this situation. It didn't have to be this way; but, apparently, the majority leader Senator SCHUMER, the Senator from New York, wanted it this way.

Diverging from regular order to take up a minibus requires unanimous consent because it is in violation of rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate. And we know there are objections to waiving the provisions of rule XVI, hence we are where we are today.

In politics, we sometimes talk about the art of the possible. We take stock of different Members' positions, time constraints, procedural hurdles, and determine what is possible, what is feasible. Now, plan A should have been to follow the regular order and pass these bills one at a time through regular order, as I said, consistent with the Standing Rules of the Senate. But since that ship has sailed, we now have to figure out what plan B is.

Like many of my colleagues, I want the Senate to work the way the rules provide for. And finding ourselves in the predicament we are in, which is entirely predictable, I think the best course of action is to move forward with all three of these bills.

Each of these bills passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously. They are products of a thorough bipartisan committee process, and they are ready for a thorough bipartisan floor

process. Unfortunately, we know that with only 12 days to go, how this movie will end. Ultimately, there are two choices. One is we pass a continuing resolution to give the House and the Senate more time to work on the underlying appropriation bills, or we will end up in a government shutdown. It didn't have to be this way.

But if it is not possible to move forward on all three of those bills contained in the minibus, which it currently is not possible, we need to move forward with the Military Construction-VA funding bill. There is no objection to doing that, and we are wasting valuable time by not processing that appropriation bill.

But with just 12 days before the end of the fiscal year, I know we are all anxiously watching the calendar because our country is barreling toward a shutdown, and the American people are confounded by the fact that the United States Senate has not even yet—even with all this time—has not even yet started to vote on any funding bills.

Again, this is not inevitable. We didn't have to deal with it this way. Senator SCHUMER could have put the first appropriations bill on the floor in June, July, August; but here we are on September 18 trying to map out the process for the first funding bill.

There is bipartisan bewilderment at why we have landed here. After all, the Appropriations Committee put us in the strongest possible position to advance these funding bills on a timely basis.

Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS—the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee—promised to return to regular order, and that is exactly what they delivered. What they didn't figure on is that their principal obstacle would prove to be the majority leader of the Senate who sabotaged their bipartisan regular order effort by not bringing these bills to the floor on a timely basis.

As I said, all of the appropriations process happened in June and July, and there is no reason why it should have taken this long for the majority leader to start mapping out the floor process. This is no way to run a railroad, much less the U.S. Senate; and I am frustrated we find ourselves just 12 days before a government shutdown.

So I hope we will be able to find a path to process appropriation bills. But if that is not possible, we need to do what we can while we can. One bill is better than nothing, which seems to be Senator SCHUMER's preferred outcome—nothing. So if there is a shutdown, which I hope there is not, it doesn't serve the interests of the American people or either of the political parties—the House or the Senate. But if there is, then it has to be called a SCHUMER shutdown.

22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Madam President, on another matter, last week marked the 22nd anni-

versary of the terrible terrorist attacks against the United States of America on September 11, 2001. The 9/11 attacks are one of those events that we will always remember where we were and what we were doing—just like I remember when I was 11 years old, when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, TX.

Even though more than two decades have passed since 9/11, the pain our Nation endured on that day is still fresh in the minds of many Americans and, certainly, all of us who were old enough to remember it. We remember the images that covered the front pages of the newspaper and the scenes we saw depicted on our television sets. We remember the bravery of the firefighters who ran into the buildings and the Good Samaritans who put their lives on the line to save others.

But most of all, we remember the people who lost their lives that day—the 2,977 innocent lives, the thousands more who were injured, and the countless people whose lives were changed in an instant.

As a country, we came together and vowed to never forget the events of September 11 and ensure that those responsible would be brought to justice. As part of that commitment, Senator SCHUMER and I introduced legislation called the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA, which became law in 2016. It amended the Federal law so that foreign sponsors of terrorist attacks could be held accountable. What this meant, in practical terms, was that the people impacted the most, who lost families, loved ones, property, or businesses, could bring a civil suit against the foreign nation that sponsored and financed terrorist attacks on our soil on that day. This includes the parents who lost their children, wives who lost their husbands. This legislation provided a path forward for families who lost everything so they could have their day in court. This law made clear that any country, any person, or entity that finances terrorists for attacks on American soil could be expected to be hauled into a U.S. court to face justice.

There was a sigh of relief from the victims of 9/11, but over the last several years, it has become clear that the law needs technical fixes. Some defendants, including countries accused of financing and sponsoring terrorism, have exploited perceived loopholes in the law to claim total immunity from lawsuits, which was not our intention. This flies in the face of the text, the structure, and the intent of this law, and prevents the 9/11 families and survivors from pursuing justice.

Earlier this year, Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and I introduced new legislation to make important technical corrections to JASTA. Actually, I think the law doesn't need a correction, but it does deserve a clarification, where a court listening to an argument made by a country, perhaps,

that financed these terrorist attacks, says: Well, it doesn't include some categories of recovery for damages. Our bill simply clarifies who can sue and who can be sued to ensure JASTA operates the way we originally intended it to back in 2016.

So when Congress debated JASTA several years ago, folks were divided into two distinct camps. In one camp were the supporters of the bill. This included the 9/11 families, obviously, whose lives were forever changed because of the attacks on our country. They wanted foreign nations and entities to be held liable if they aided and abetted terrorists, and I was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them and help move this legislation through the Senate. The majority of our colleagues in Congress—Democrats and Republicans—fell into that one camp. We wanted to see justice for the 9/11 families.

In another camp—let's call it camp 2—were opponents of this law. This included the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which did not want to be held accountable for any role it might have played in spreading terrorism or financing these attacks on American soil. It launched an extensive lobbying campaign and promoted bogus narratives in an attempt to defeat or weaken support for JASTA. Sadly, camp 2 included some members of the Obama administration, which parroted a lot of the Saudi talking points and tried to stop the bill from becoming law. As a matter of fact, President Obama vetoed JASTA, but this legislation had such overwhelming support, it gave way to the only veto override of the Obama administration.

Several years have passed, and the camps haven't changed, but the occupant of the White House has. President Biden still hasn't taken a public position on fixing JASTA, but his administration seems to be leaning toward camp 2, siding with the Saudis over the 9/11 families.

High-ranking Biden officials have dusted off the Saudi talking points that we once heard from the Obama administration. One of the arguments I have heard against this bill is that we do not enact laws that affect pending litigation. But that simply is not true. Every statute that amends the United States Code alters current litigation unless we state that it is only prospective in application.

JASTA was enacted while there was an appeal pending in the Second Circuit relating to the ability of the 9/11 plaintiffs to sue them under the tort exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. JASTA itself is the example of Congress viewing errors in judicial interpretation and stepping in to fix them. It is the law we passed, and we need to see that our intent—congressional intent—is actually enforced by the courts. Nobody complained that we were doing this then, and every Member of this body who was serving in 2016 voted for JASTA. It passed twice, 100 to 0.

JASTA maintains strong bipartisan support today. My bill with Senator MENENDEZ to make technical corrections has that same strong bipartisan support. President Biden and his administration need to make a decision, is he in camp 1 or camp 2—a foreign government that is accused of helping carry out the deadliest attack on American soil or the thousands of Americans and families who lost everything on 9/11? It is embarrassing that this is even a question because the correct choice is so obvious.

Earlier this month, the families of the 9/11 victims sent a letter urging Congress to pass this legislation to, as they wrote, “fulfill Congress’ promise to the American People.” That letter had more than 4,000 signatures.

I want to thank two women, in particular, who have been fierce advocates of this legislation: Terry Strada and Angela Mistrulli. They both lost loved ones on 9/11, and they have made it their mission in life to ensure that victims of terrorism can finally have their day in court. I know they will not stop fighting until they get justice, and it has been an honor to stand alongside them and hold sponsors of terrorism accountable.

I am disappointed that the Senate was not able to pass this bill ahead of the anniversary of September 11, but that doesn't mean the urgency has gone away.

The majority leader, despite our differences on other things like the appropriations process—the majority leader was my partner on JASTA several years ago, and he is an original cosponsor of the legislation that I am talking about today that would make these critical technical fixes. I know he is committed to passing this legislation, and I hope he will put this bill on the floor soon so we can deliver on the promise Congress made to the 9/11 families and to the American people.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, before I begin my remarks today, I want to mention that it is the 76th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to recognize the brave men and women who are serving at Arnold Air Force Base, our Air National Guard members, and the Air Force veterans who call Tennessee home. We thank them for their service.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FORUM

Madam President, last week, the majority leader hosted a forum on arti-

cial intelligence. That meeting really complemented the hearings that we have been having on this issue and, indeed, two hearings—one in the Commerce Committee and one in the Judiciary Committee—that we held last week. It is vital that we develop an understanding of what it is going to take to put the guardrails in place for AI. We are going to need to continue regular discussions between policymakers and the industry.

We have seen this model work in our favor. In 2019 and 2020, I led the Judiciary Committee's Tech Task Force. This brought experts to the table so that we on the Judiciary Committee could sit down with them, talk with them, learn more about how their technology worked and the dangers that it may pose. We did this with several of our emerging technology sectors. These discussions really yielded great results, and the body became more engaged on technology issues.

But we must stay focused and remember that AI raises the same concerns that plague other technological innovations. I was disappointed with how little the executives who participated in last week's forum had to say about data privacy because, in our committee hearings and with those witnesses, they have engaged on that issue. They have talked about how we need to have that Federal privacy law before we move forward with quantum computing, before we have more utilization of blockchain, and, of course, before we move forward with AI.

We have to remember, when you are online, when you are on an open-source platform—you and your data—you are the product. It is virtually impossible to talk about new technology without also talking about how to protect a customer's data. I like to call that the “virtual you.” How do you protect yourself and your information online?

For an entire decade, I have called for comprehensive data privacy legislation. I brought it up again in last week's Commerce hearing. Many of my colleagues agreed: This is something we cannot continue to ignore. So I would ask them to stay focused on that.

We heard the same thing from our witnesses. You cannot ignore online privacy. You are going to have to deal with this issue.

Artificial intelligence is the most powerful technological innovation we have seen since the inception of the internet, and it is already taking over many of the digital systems that we use every single day. Those systems depend on enormous amounts of data to function. If we don't protect our data online and reinject control over how these systems exploit our data, we are going to lose the ability to do so.

Think about this because AI systems have to be trained. They are trained on your data.

Let's take, for instance, what happens with an entertainer. Let's say you are a singer-songwriter out of Tennessee. Let's say that you have written

a hit. Let's say that an AI system, such as Jukebox, which is there on GPT—let's say you are going to train that system to sound like one of our Nashville hit makers. Then that means you are going to use their name, their image, their likeness, and their voice. It is a concept called voice cloning, and it is something we should be paying attention to.

Is there good that can come through artificial intelligence? Of course, there is. Think about what can happen as you are using it for predictive diagnoses in medicine, as you are using it for predictive disease analysis in medicine. Think about how you can use it for remote surgeries. There are good uses—the same thing for logistics, the same thing for manufacturing—all of which we see in our State. But there is also harm that can come for entertainers, for singers, for songwriters, for authors, for publishers. We need to realize that there can be good, but there also can be harm.

We also know that regimes that are hostile to the United States are doing everything that they can right this minute to exploit that technology, another of the adverse uses of artificial intelligence.

Here is an example. China has long used social media platforms like TikTok to push propaganda in the United States. Now, the Chinese Communist Party—the dear old CCP—they are at it again, using generative models to make these campaigns even more convincing. And it is not just those of us in Congress who see this. Microsoft recently released a report showing us exactly how the Chinese Communist Party is doing it.

We also know that authoritarian regimes will use AI to enhance their surveillance capabilities. The CCP, again, is already doing this. They are using it to surveil the Uighurs, tracking them. They are doing the same with the Tibetans and the Mongolians.

Then you look at Iran. They are using this to track and follow and use facial recognition to identify women, making certain that they are properly dressed and wearing that hijab in public. If they are willing to weaponize it against their own people—think about it. They have weaponized this technology. They are tracking and following and monitoring and surveilling individuals in their daily lives. If they are doing it to them, of course, they are going to do it to us.

Before we lead on AI, the United States must be technologically superior, but even the tech execs who came to Capitol Hill last week admit that there is a role for Congress to play in addressing privacy, national security, and other concerns. U.S. regulations must not hurt the ability of U.S. companies to dominate, but the lack of any governing standards can be just as damaging.

For example, because the United States doesn't have a data privacy law, we have fallen behind our counterparts

in the European Union on AI regulation. Back in February, Commissioner Vestager described for me, in a meeting that we had, how the GDPR has allowed the EU to move forward on AI.

The difficulty of installing guardrails while still encouraging freedom and innovation is not unique to AI. We have done this in the past, and we are going to need to do it again so that we retain that superiority in artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

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. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF VERNON D. OLIVER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am very pleased and proud to speak to my colleagues today about Vernon Oliver, whose nomination is before us. We will vote on it shortly. I anticipate that he will be approved, and I hope it will be with bipartisan support because Vernon Oliver represents exactly the kind of jurist, lawyer, public servant whom we want on the Federal bench.

Judges on our Federal trial courts are often the face and voice of justice. All too often, litigants are there for justice, and it is the end of the road for them one way or the other because they don't have the resources to appeal to the courts of appeal, which sit in other States, far away often, requiring expenditure of resources. So that district judge sitting in the court where, often, they live is the person who represents justice—the face and voice of justice—for them.

Vernon Oliver is exactly the kind of person who will be trusted to give justice. He grew up in Bridgeport, with not a lot in his home in the way of financial resources. He worked hard, went to the University of Connecticut for his B.A. and then for his J.D. The University of Connecticut prepared him for a life of public service, and that is what he has done, with a brief break for private practice and as a temporary assistant clerk for the Hartford Judicial District.

He joined the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, serving in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, and then as a prosecutor in the Bristol Superior Court.

Then I had the great honor to hire Vernon Oliver to be an assistant attorney general. And I say I had the great honor because when I knew him first, when I met him, I knew he was the kind of person who would be a really superior, extraordinary assistant attorney general.

He went to work in the child protection unit, which essentially tries to protect children from abuse and neglect, tries to hold families together or reach some resolution when there is violence or other kind of dispute that divides them.

Here is what I learned about Vernon Oliver: He has a strong mind, he has a big heart, and he has a passion for justice. He handled dozens, hundreds, thousands of those cases over the time that he served as an assistant attorney general, and each one of them required him to focus his mind and his heart and that passion for justice. He took every one of them seriously, the same seriousness for every one. They are often extremely demanding, not just intellectually but emotionally, and he stepped up. He showed the fiber of his character.

He was nominated in 2009 to be a judge on the Connecticut Superior Court. His nomination was done by a Republican Governor, Jodi Rell. Throughout his 15 years on the bench, he has presided over numerous civil and criminal cases, including approximately 30 bench trials, approximately 20 jury trials, and thousands of hearings.

You don't really need to listen to me about Vernon Oliver; you can go to his colleagues, the legal community of Connecticut. A group of Connecticut attorneys, many of whom have practiced in front of Judge Oliver, wrote that he has "an exceptionally keen legal mind" and "is committed to the fair and impartial administration of justice." The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association noted that "[Judge Oliver's] decisions are well reasoned and thoughtful" and that "[p]ut simply, he is a phenomenal judge."

He is a phenomenal person, not just an extraordinary judge. That is why Connecticut State Representative Christie Carpino, a Republican, wrote this to the committee, our committee, the Judiciary Committee: "[Judge Oliver's] breadth of knowledge in both criminal and civil law, as well as the diversity of his judicial assignments, makes him uniquely qualified to be appointed to the federal bench" and that "he has the demeanor one could only hope all jurists possess."

I take this time to talk to my colleagues because I think we need to be mindful of a standard, a standard of excellence on our Federal bench. I thank and commend President Biden for this

nomination because he has recognized the importance of diversity, as well as high performance intellectually, and he has enabled us, I think, to raise that standard.

Judge Oliver is a perfect example of that standard, and he is the gold standard we are seeking to achieve and I believe we are achieving when we confirm him and others who have those same qualities.

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.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 229 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—40

Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Cramer	Lummis	Vance
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Mullin	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Kelly	Risch
Hoeben	Moran	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING WW HOMESTEAD DAIRY

•Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize WW Homestead Dairy of Waukon, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by Tom and Paul Weighner and Tom Walleser in 2011, WW Homestead Dairy is a creamery that features a retail shop in Waukon, IA. With over 90 years of dairy industry experience between the three founders, WW Homestead Dairy offers nonhomogenized milk, butter, cheese curds, and block cheddar cheese. The cheese curds are available in nine flavors and are made, along with the block cheddar cheese,

by creamery manager Bruce Snitker. For ice cream options, they offer over 30 flavors with 16 dipping options. WW Homestead also has a rotating menu of seasonal ice cream flavors, and the ice cream is made fresh once a week.

WW Homestead Dairy supports the Northeast Iowa community. In the past, they have hosted a chili cook-off to benefit vocational education training at Waukon High School and coordinated the Cheese Curds for Schools fundraiser. They also host a "Drive-In Moo-vie" night during the summer and the annual Corn Days Car Show. In 2023, the Corn Days Car Show celebrated its 10th anniversary, and WW Homestead Dairy celebrated its 12th business anniversary.

WW Homestead Dairy's dairy products have also been recognized, with their cheese curds sweeping the top three prizes at the 2022 Iowa Quality Dairy Products competition. Their best-of-show ranch peppercorn, second-place grilled steak and onion, and the third-place white cheddar cheese curds were all on display at the State fair. In the same competition, they also took home best of show" and second place in the Cow Cheese category with their Chipotle Morita cheddar and medium cheddar respectively. Finally, in 2021, at the World Dairy Expo, their chocolate milk tied for second in the skim chocolate milk class.

WW Homestead Dairy's commitment to providing high-quality dairy products in Waukon, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Tom and Paul Weighner, Tom Walleser, and the entire team at WW Homestead Dairy for their dedication to the Waukon community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on The Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1435. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines.

H.R. 1450. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1435. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1450. An act 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; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 14, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolutions:

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”.

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”.

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-2126. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance on Section 603 of the SECURE 2.0 Act with Respect to Catch-Up Contributions” (Notice 2023-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2127. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice: Section 5000D Excise Tax on Sales of Designated Drugs; Reporting and Payment of the Tax” (Notice 2023-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2128. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance on Requirements for Home Energy Audits for Purposes of the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit under Section 25C” (Notice 2023-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2129. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Income Tax Consequences of Certain State Payments” (Notice 2023-56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2130. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Contract Year 2024 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly” (RIN0938-AU96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2131. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program and CHIP; Mandatory Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting” (RIN0938-AU52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2132. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2024” (RIN0938-AU96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2133. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Recapture of Certain Excess Employment Tax Credits under COVID-19 Legislation” (RIN1545-BQ08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2134. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program” (RIN1545-BQ81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2135. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure 2023-26: Fast-Track Processing of Certain Letter Rulings” (Rev. Proc. 2023-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2136. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure on the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program” (Rev. Proc. 2023-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2137. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant General Counsel (Treasury)/Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2138. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “FY 2020 Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2139. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Large Residential Washers: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Import Relief”; to the Committee on Finance.

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-49. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California requesting the United States Congress to enact, and the President of the United States to sign, legislation that would repeal the Governmental Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, Two federal Social Security Administration laws, the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, passed by Congress more than 30 years ago, without statistical analysis, diminish or eliminate the fully earned Social Security benefits of large numbers of public service employees in California; and

Whereas, These provisions affect workers who have been employed in a government position that is not coordinated with the Social Security program, such as California public school teachers who have not been able to receive Social Security credits since 1965; and

Whereas, Most peace officers, including the California Highway Patrol, firefighters, and many other public servants working for cities and special districts are not covered by Social Security, making them subject to these provisions; and

Whereas, In California, more than 375,000 retirees have had their Social Security benefits diminished or completely eliminated by these laws; and

Whereas, Effective government requires highly qualified and motivated personnel, and California governmental agencies need to compete to recruit and retain outstanding employees, including hiring up to 19,700 teachers by the 2025-26 school year; and

Whereas, The recruitment and retention of qualified individuals reentering the workforce is impeded by these two provisions, which reduce or eliminate the Social Security retirement benefits either earned by

workers, themselves, or received through dependent status; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset severely cuts, and usually eliminates, all spousal and survivor benefits that were earned from what is deemed by the State of California to be community property income; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset requires that a recipient of benefits report any yearly cost-of-living increase in the recipient's public pension, so that the recipient's Social Security benefits may be reduced by two-thirds of that amount; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision cuts earned Social Security benefits from work that is separate from the work for which the individual earned a pension from a governmental entity; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision subverts the purpose of Social Security retirement benefits by eliminating the formula that reimburses low-income workers at a higher rate than high-income workers, causing severe hardships for those who have not had high-paying public service; and

Whereas, New public sector workers were not notified they would be subject to these unjust penalties until 2005, which means that thousands of workers had no notification of them until they applied for Social Security benefits; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests that the Congress of the United States enact legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act, and further requests that President Joseph Biden sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-50. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to adopt national carbon fee and dividend legislation; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Whereas, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres recently said, "Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator"; and

Whereas, carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas and its concentration in the atmosphere has been increasing at progressively rapid rate for more than sixty years, as shown by measurements taken at observatories on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, and now registers at more than four hundred twenty parts per million; which is fifty percent higher than before the Industrial Revolution; and

Whereas, many climate change impacts are anticipated for the Hawaiian Islands, including increases in ocean and air temperatures, sea level rise, droughts, severe weather patterns, ocean acidification, and more frequent and severe wildfires; and

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated in the most recent report of its mitigation working group that any pathway to limit warming to two degrees Celsius would have to "involve rapid and deep and in most cases immediate green-

house gas emissions reductions in all sectors"; and

Whereas, the United States needs powerful new policies to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; and

Whereas, imposing a tax on the burning of fossil fuels and returning the revenues to households to spend as they see fit, a carbon-pricing policy commonly known as carbon fee and dividend, is an effective and equitable way to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, carbon fee and dividend is supported by more than thirty-six hundred economists, including twenty-eight Nobel Laureates and fifteen former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers, who signed a statement that begins, "A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary" and the statement continues, "to maximize the fairness and political viability of a rising tax, all the revenue should be returned directly to American citizens through equal lump-sum rebates"; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program can include border adjustments, such as carbon-content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon taxes paid, to maintain the competitiveness of United States businesses in global markets; and

Whereas, major trading partners of the United States like Canada and the European Union have adopted meaningful carbon taxes and are now considering carbon border adjustments to level the playing field by ensuring that imports are subject to the same carbon pricing as local goods; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crises, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the tax, and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee and dividend program would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and the advancing of clean energy technologies in the 21st century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon pricing policies, thereby reducing global greenhouse gas emissions without the need for complex international agreements; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the United States Congress is urged to pass national carbon fee and dividend legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice-President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM-51. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the President of the United States to reconsider the signed agreement that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, on August 18, 2022, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) signed a confidentiality commitment with Ecuador's vice minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries (VAP) within the Ministry of Pro-

duction, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries of the Republic of Ecuador; and

Whereas, the purpose of the confidentiality commitment or agreement is to allow for the exchange of confidential information, including inspection of records, draft rulemaking and guidance, and other nonpublic documents; and

Whereas, the agreement with Ecuador is designed to ensure the safety of shrimp imported to the United States and offers guarantees for aquaculture exports to the United States; and

Whereas, according to an article from the seafood industry's trade publication Seafood Source, in the first six months of 2022, Ecuador exported at least one billion one hundred million pounds of shrimp abroad at that time, with the United States being its second-biggest market; and

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2020, the United States imported approximately one billion six hundred million pounds of shrimp, an increase of up to seven and one half percent from 2019; and

Whereas, in 2022, Ecuador was the second leading source of shrimp exports to the United States, after India, exporting four hundred forty-one million pounds of shrimp to the United States, according to Seafood Source; and

Whereas, according to the 2021-2022 annual report from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, shrimp are the state's most valuable fishery; and

Whereas, the average real dockside value of Louisiana shrimp fell from one dollar and ninety-three cents per pound in 2000 to one dollar and three cents per pound in 2018; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market, devastating local industries. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the president of the United States to reconsider an agreement signed with Ecuador that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the White House and to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-52. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe savings accounts for disaster-related expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

Whereas, three U.S. states—Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina—currently provide within their respective tax codes for catastrophe savings accounts; and

Whereas, these accounts are regular savings or money market accounts that taxpayers designate with their financial institutions as catastrophe savings accounts and to which limited amounts of tax-deductible contributions may be made; and

Whereas, the laws of the three states that provide for such accounts all stipulate that a taxpayer may establish only one catastrophe savings account and shall specify that the purpose of the account is to cover the amount of insurance deductibles and other uninsured portions of risks of loss from floods, hurricanes, or other catastrophic windstorm events; and

Whereas, funds may be withdrawn from these accounts tax-free if used to pay disaster-related expenses defined in law as

“qualified catastrophe expenses”; if funds are withdrawn from these accounts for purposes other than paying qualified catastrophe expenses, then the amounts withdrawn are taxed as income; and

Whereas, the function of catastrophe savings accounts with respect to disaster-related expenses is similar to that of health savings accounts, long established in the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 223), for health-related expenses; and

Whereas, with the frequency and destructive force of weather-related disasters increasing nationwide, the need for some form of catastrophe or emergency savings account program for all Americans has become more pronounced; and

Whereas, legislation providing exclusively for the type of savings account discussed in this Resolution was introduced in the One Hundred Fifteenth United States Congress (H.R. 2818) and legislation including a catastrophe savings account component has been introduced in the current congress (One Hundred Eighteenth United States Congress, H.R. 312); Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe savings accounts for disaster-related expenses; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-53. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

Whereas, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

Whereas, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States, the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

Whereas, because labor costs are much lower overseas, peeled crawfish meat is much cheaper when imported, resulting in many entities purchasing from other countries instead of supporting the local market; and

Whereas, seafood imported from overseas is not always safe to consume; and

Whereas, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices, while devastating local industries and coastal communities built around them; and

Whereas, domestically produced shrimp and crawfish offer the best option for the health and safety of United States consumers. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-54. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

Whereas, the domestic fishing industry has faced severe hardships such as Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters, repeated openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, unfair trade practices, illegal chemicals, rising inflation, gas prices, and supply chain issues; and

Whereas, in October of 2022, United States Congressman Garret Graves announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased up to twenty five million dollars of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic wild caught shrimp; and

Whereas, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes USDA to purchase domestic shrimp; and

Whereas, purchases such as this will help provide relief to Louisiana's shrimp industry; and

Whereas, Louisiana's seafood industry is the largest supplier in the country and the main economic driver in coastal areas; and

Whereas, more relief is necessary for the Louisiana seafood industry to compete with foreign importers; and

Whereas, strategies to ensure that domestic commercial fishermen are able to sell their products are necessary for the continued success of the Louisiana seafood industry; and

Whereas, plans to buy shrimp directly from domestic commercial shrimp fishermen are of vital importance to ensure the success of coastal communities that rely heavily on this industry; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America

and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1648. A bill to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

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. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 2827. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish minimum interregional transfer capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms.

SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2828. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons in certain programs for activities such as archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr.

CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH,

Ms. SMITH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs.

GILLIBRAND, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLO-

BUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FEIN-

STEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY,

and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2829. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr.

BROWN):

S. 2830. A bill to update and improve vocational data and eligibility criteria for the Social Security Disability Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself,

Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2831. A bill to prohibit the non-consensual release of claims by States, municipalities, federally recognized Tribes, or the United States against non-debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr.

BRAUN):

S. 2832. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr.

BOOKER):

S. 2833. A bill to prohibit targeted advertising by advertisers and advertising facilitators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2834. A bill to combat toxic indoor mold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 2835. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 346. A resolution honoring the Thai-American garment workers who opened the country's eyes to sweatshop conditions in the United States and, against all odds, expanded rights for immigrant workers and survivors of human trafficking while holding corporations responsible for the conditions in which their clothes are made; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 347. A resolution designating the week beginning on September 11, 2023, as "National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week."; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 348. A resolution designating the week of September 24 through September 30, 2023, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 135, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 762

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 762, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require coverage of, and expand access to, home and community-based services under the Medicaid program, to award grants for the creation, recruitment, training and education, retention, and advancement of the direct care workforce and to award grants to support family caregivers, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1219

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1219, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide health equity for people with disabilities.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2224

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2224, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny interest and depreciation deductions for taxpayers owning 50 or more single family properties.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2231, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to

support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 2242

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2242, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make available for sale renewable fuel credits, and for other purposes.

S. 2336

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2336, a bill to address the threat from the development of Iran's ballistic missile program and the transfer or deployment of Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 2365

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2365, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to authorize funds for certain employment and training activities, and for other purposes.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2407, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to make commodities available for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

ROSEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2791

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2791, a bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to make appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires before the enactment of a new appropriations Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2801

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2806

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2806, a bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

S. 2807

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2817

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2820

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)".

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) 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. 2

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 2, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.

AMENDMENT NO. 1120

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1120 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. 1129

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1129 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. 1191

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1191 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. 1192

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1192 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. 1210

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1210 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 346—HONORING THE THAI-AMERICAN GARMENT WORKERS WHO OPENED THE COUNTRY'S EYES TO SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND, AGAINST ALL ODDS, EXPANDED RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WHILE HOLDING CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEIR CLOTHES ARE MADE

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 346

Whereas Thai garment workers were forced to work behind barbed wire and under armed guard in an apartment complex in El Monte, California, sewing garments for 16 to 18 hours a day, 7 days a week under the threat of harm to themselves and their families in Thailand;

Whereas the workers were trafficked into the United States, held against their will, had their passports taken from them, and were denied contact with the outside world until August 2, 1995, when a multiagency law enforcement raid exposed their conditions of involuntary servitude;

Whereas the workers were threatened with deportation until community advocates intervened and helped the workers find freedom, shelter, new jobs, and the chance to rebuild their lives in the United States;

Whereas the workers filed a landmark lawsuit against their captors and against the companies they were sewing for, which was the first Federal lawsuit of its kind, transformed the garment industry, and launched anti-sweatshop legislation and campaigns across the country and around the world that reverberate to this day;

Whereas advocates fought for the workers to stay in the United States and pioneered the use of S visas, in partnership with Federal prosecutors, which led to the creation of T and U visas to protect workers who serve as material witnesses to come forward and report abuse and exploitation without fear of immigration-based retaliation;

Whereas the workers have inspired countless individuals, and their story has been documented in books, an animated short, museums, including the National Museum of American History, and is taught in high school, college, and law school curricula;

Whereas the workers freed from the El Monte sweatshop went on to contribute in invaluable ways to the United States as activists, spokespersons, small business owners, health care professionals, service providers, and more; and

Whereas the workers are now inducted into the United States Department of Labor's Hall of Honor, taking their rightful place in the labor history of the United States for their courage, resilience, and groundbreaking efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Thai garment workers freed from the El Monte sweatshop for their courage, persistence, and resilience;

(2) recognizes the many legal, cultural, and policy changes that have resulted from the El Monte sweatshop case;

(3) recognizes the individuals that continue to fight against forced labor and human trafficking, for corporate accountability, and for an end to exploitative working conditions; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit—

(A) an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Director of the National Museum of American History; and

(B) 5 copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Labor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 347—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK.”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ, MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 347

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many low-income and underserved students and creating opportunities and increasing access to higher education for such students;

Whereas, in the 2021-2022 academic year, 572 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operated in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, enrolling more than 5,000,000 students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are engines of economic mobility and a major contributor to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas, Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent 19 percent of all institutions of higher education, yet serve 30.5 percent of all undergraduate students and 65.6 percent of all Hispanic undergraduate students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 28 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas the number of Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions, defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24.9 percent, stands at 400 institutions operating in 43 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in empowering and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are leading efforts to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (commonly known as “STEM”);

Whereas 7 of the top 10 institutions of higher education ranked by the Social Mobility Index were Hispanic-Serving Institutions;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

(2) designates the week beginning on September 11, 2023, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 348—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 348

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother's Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother's Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother's Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the

families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 24 through September 30, 2023, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1227. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) 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 1228. Mr. PADILLA 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 1229. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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 1230. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1231. Mr. PADILLA 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 1232. Mr. LANKFORD 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 1233. Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 1234. Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 1235. Mr. WARNOCK 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 1236. Mr. WARNOCK 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 1237. Mr. RUBIO 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 1238. Mr. RUBIO 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 1239. Ms. ROSEN 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 1240. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) 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 1241. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) 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 1227. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) 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 amendment, add the following:

DIVISION D—NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2023

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

Section 10302 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (43 U.S.C. 407 note; Public Law 111–11) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (29);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (27), (28), and (30) as paragraphs (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), (27), (28), (30), (31), and (32), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) **DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION FUND.**—The term ‘Deferred Construction Fund’ means the Navajo Nation’s Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Deferred Construction Fund established by section 10602(i)(1)(A).”;

(4) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “DRAFT” and inserting “FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL”;

(B) by striking “Draft Impact” and inserting “Final Environmental”;

(C) by striking “draft environmental” and inserting “final environmental”; and

(D) by striking “March 2007” and inserting “July 6, 2009”;

(5) in paragraph (19) (as so redesignated), by striking “Draft” and inserting “Final Environmental”;

(6) by inserting after paragraph (25) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(26) **PROJECT SERVICE AREA.**—The term ‘Project Service Area’ means the area that encompasses the 43 Nation chapters, the southwest portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the City that is identified to be served by the Project, as illustrated in figure IV–5 (Drawing No. 1695–406–49) of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.”;

(7) by inserting after paragraph (28) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(29) **SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS.**—The term ‘Settlement Trust Funds’ means—

“(A) the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund established by subsection (a)(1) of section 10702;

“(B) the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund established under subsection (b)(1) of that section; and

“(C) the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund established under subsection (c)(2) of that section.”; and

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(33) **WORKING COST ESTIMATE.**—The term ‘Working Cost Estimate’ means the Bureau of Reclamation document entitled ‘NGWSP October 2022 WCE’ and dated February 26, 2023, that details the costs totaling \$2,138,387,000, at the October 2022 price level, of the Project, as configured on that date.”.

SEC. 103. NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.**—Section 10602 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1379) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “AUTHORIZATION”;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”;

(C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking “Draft Impact Statement” and inserting “Final Environmental Impact Statement, as further refined in, and including the facilities identified in, the Working Cost Estimate and any subsequent supplemental documents prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **ADDITIONAL SERVICE AREAS.**—

“(A) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

“(i) expanding the Project Service Area would create opportunities to increase service for additional Nation Tribal members and would not increase the cost of the Project beyond authorization levels described in section 10609(a); and

“(ii) the unit operations and maintenance costs of the Project would be reduced by adding more customers to the Project.

“(B) **AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECT SERVICE AREAS.**—

“(i) **NEW MEXICO.**—In addition to delivering water supply from the Project to the Nation communities in the San Juan River Basin, the Nation may expand the Project Service Area in order to deliver water supply from the Project to communities of the Nation within the Rio San Jose Basin, New Mexico.

“(ii) **ARIZONA.**—In addition to delivering water supply from the Project to the Nation communities of Fort Defiance and Window Rock, Arizona, and subject to section 10603(c)(1), the Nation may expand the Project Service Area in order to deliver water supply from the Project to the Nation community of Lupton, Arizona, within the Little Colorado River Basin, Arizona.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “acquire,” before “construct.”; and

(ii) by striking “Draft Impact Statement” and inserting “Final Environmental Impact Statement, as further refined in, and including the facilities identified in, the Working Cost Estimate and any subsequent supplemental documents prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) The water conveyance and storage facilities associated with the San Juan Generating Station (the coal-fired, 4-unit electric power plant and ancillary features located by the San Juan Mine near Waterflow, New Mexico), including the diversion dam, the intake structure, the river pumping plant, the pipeline from the river to the reservoir, the dam and associated reservoir, and any associated land, or interest in land, or ancillary features.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) by striking “River near Kirtland, New Mexico,” and inserting “Generating Station Reservoir”; and

(ii) by inserting “generally” before “follows United States Highway 491”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “generally” before “follows United States Highway 550”; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “(including any reservoir facility)” after “treatment facility”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND FACILITIES” after “LAND”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “any land or interest in land that is” and inserting “any land or facilities, or interest in land or facilities, that are”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On satisfaction of the conditions described in paragraph (7) of the Agreement and after the requirements of sections 10701(e) and 10703 are met, the Secretary shall take legal title to the following land and, subject to subparagraph (D), hold that land in trust for the benefit of the Nation:

“(i) Fee land of the Nation, including—

“(I) the parcels of land on which the Tohlokai Pumping Plant, Reach 12A and Reach 12B, are located, including, in McKinley County, New Mexico—

“(aa) sec. 5, T. 16 N., R. 18 W., New Mexico Prime Meridian; and

“(bb) sec. 33, T. 17 N., R. 17 W., New Mexico Prime Meridian (except lot 9 and the NW¼ of lot 4);

“(II) the parcel of land on which Reach 12.1 is located, including—

“(aa) NW¼ and SW¼ sec. 5, T. 16 N., R. 18 W.;

“(bb) N½ sec. 11, T. 16 N., R. 19 W.; and

“(cc) sec. 12, T. 16 N., R. 20 W.; and

“(III) the parcel of land on which Reach 12.2 is located, including NW¼ sec. 2, T. 16 N., R. 21 W.

“(ii) Public domain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, including—

“(I) the parcel of land on which the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant is located, including S½ sec. 9, T. 25 N., R. 9 W., New Mexico Prime Meridian; and

“(II) the parcel of land on which the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry turnout is located, including NW¼ and NE¼ sec. 34, T. 26 N., R. 9 W., New Mexico Prime Meridian.

“(iii) The land underlying the San Juan Generating Station (the coal-fired, 4-unit electric power plant and ancillary features located by the San Juan Mine near Waterflow, New Mexico) acquired by the United States, as described in subsection (b)(1).

“(B) **PART OF NAVAJO NATION.**—The land taken into trust under subparagraph (A)

shall be part of the Navajo Reservation and administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

“(C) RESTRICTIONS.—

“(i) FEE LAND OF THE NATION.—The fee land of the Nation taken into trust under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be subject to valid existing rights, contracts, and management agreements, including easements and rights-of-way, unless the holder of the right, contract, lease, permit, or right-of-way requests an earlier termination in accordance with existing law.

“(ii) PUBLIC DOMAIN LAND.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The public domain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management taken into trust under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be subject to valid existing rights, contracts, leases, permits, and rights-of-way, unless the holder of the right, contract, lease, permit, or right-of-way requests an earlier termination in accordance with existing law.

“(II) BIA ASSUMPTION OF BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS.—The Bureau of Indian Affairs shall—

“(aa) assume all benefits and obligations of the previous land management agency under the existing rights, contracts, leases, permits, or rights-of-way described in subclause (I); and

“(bb) disburse to the Nation any amounts that accrue to the United States from those rights, contracts, leases, permits, or rights-of-ways after the date on which the land described in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) is taken into trust for the benefit of the Nation from any sale, bonus, royalty, or rental relating to that land in the same manner as amounts received from other land held by the Secretary in trust for the Nation.

“(iii) LAND UNDERLYING THE SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The land underlying the San Juan Generating Station (the coal-fired, 4-unit electric power plant and ancillary features located by the San Juan Mine near Waterflow, New Mexico) taken into trust under subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be subject to a perpetual easement on and over all of the land underlying the San Juan Generating Station reserved to the United States for use by the Bureau of Reclamation and its contractors and assigns—

“(aa) for ingress and egress;

“(bb) to continue construction of the Project; and

“(cc) for operation and maintenance of Project facilities located on that land.

“(II) RESERVED PERPETUAL EASEMENT.—The reserved perpetual easement described in subclause (I) shall remain vested in the United States unless title to the Project facilities and appropriate interests in land are conveyed pursuant to subsection (f).

“(D) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any—

“(i) water right of the Nation in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023; and

“(ii) right or claim of the Nation to any land or interest in land in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023.”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1)(D), by striking “Draft” and inserting “Final Environmental”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER.—

“(A) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—For any portion of the Project that does not have access to Colorado River Storage Project power, the Secretary may use not more than \$6,250,000 of the amounts made available under section 10609(a)(1) to develop renewable energy.

“(B) HYDROELECTRIC POWER.—Notwithstanding whether a Project facility has access to Colorado River Storage Project power, the Secretary may use not more than \$1,250,000 of the \$6,250,000 authorized to be used to develop renewable energy under subparagraph (A) to develop hydroelectric power for any Project facility that can use hydraulic head to produce electricity.”;

(6) in subsection (h)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, store,” after “treat”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT FACILITIES.—

“(1) DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT FACILITIES.—On mutual agreement between the Nation and the Secretary, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation if the deferred Project facilities benefit the Jicarilla Apache Nation, construction of selected Project facilities may be deferred to save operation and maintenance expenses associated with that construction.

“(2) DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION FUND.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘Navajo Nation’s Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Deferred Construction Fund’, to consist of—

“(i) amounts that correspond to portions of the Project that have been deferred under paragraph (1); and

“(ii) any interest or other gains on amounts referred to in clause (i).

“(B) USE OF THE DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION FUND.—The Nation may use amounts in the Deferred Construction Fund—

“(i) to construct Project facilities that have been deferred under paragraph (1); or

“(ii) to construct alternate facilities agreed on under subparagraph (C).

“(C) ALTERNATE FACILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT.—On agreement between the Nation and the Secretary, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation if the deferred Project facilities benefit the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and in compliance with all applicable environmental and cultural resource protection laws, facilities other than those previously agreed to be deferred under paragraph (1) may be constructed if those alternate facilities are consistent with the purposes of the Project described in section 10601.

“(3) AMOUNTS TO BE DEPOSITED.—Funds allocated from the amounts made available under section 10609(a)(1) to build facilities referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deposited into the Deferred Construction Fund.

“(4) ADJUSTMENTS.—On deposit of amounts into the Deferred Construction Fund under paragraph (3), the adjustments to authorized appropriations under section 10609(a)(2) shall no longer apply to those amounts.

“(5) DEADLINE TO CONSTRUCT PROJECT FACILITIES.—On deposit of all amounts into the Deferred Construction Fund for construction of Project facilities agreed on under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall be deemed to have met the obligation under section 10701(e)(1)(A)(ix).

“(6) FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT FACILITIES.—On agreement between the Nation and the Secretary, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation if the deferred Project facilities benefit the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Nation shall use amounts deposited into the Deferred Construction Fund to construct—

“(A) Project facilities deferred under paragraph (1); or

“(B) alternate Project facilities described in paragraph (2)(C).”.

(b) DELIVERY AND USE OF NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WATER.—Section 10603 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1382) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting “or, if generated on City-owned facilities, by the City” after “the Nation”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, except that the City shall retain all revenue from the sale of hydroelectric power that is generated on City-owned facilities” after “hydroelectric power”; and

(2) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “, except as provided in section 10604(f)”.

(c) PROJECT CONTRACTS.—Section 10604 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1388) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “Subjunct to subsection (f), the” and inserting “The”;

(2) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “MINIMUM PERCENTAGE” and inserting “MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE”;

(ii) by striking “at least 25 percent” and inserting “not more than 25 percent”; and

(iii) by striking “, but shall in no event exceed 35 percent”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) MAXIMUM REPAYMENT OBLIGATION.—The repayment obligation of the City referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not exceed \$76,000,000.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting “subsection (f) and” before “section 10603(g)”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “Draft” and inserting “Final Environmental”;

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “Draft” and inserting “Final Environmental”;

(6) by striking subsection (f); and

(7) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10609 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1395; 129 Stat. 528) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$870,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2024” and inserting “\$2,175,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2029”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted by such amounts as may be required—

“(i) by reason of changes since October 2022 in construction cost changes in applicable regulatory standards, as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved; and

“(ii) to address construction cost changes necessary to account for unforeseen market volatility that may not otherwise be captured by engineering cost indices described in clause (i), as determined by the Secretary, including repricing applicable to the types of construction and current industry standards involved.

“(B) DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION FUND.—Amounts deposited in the Deferred Construction Fund shall not be adjusted pursuant to this paragraph.”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “10 years” and inserting “15 years”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$30,000,000, as adjusted under paragraph (3), for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2019” and inserting “\$37,500,000, as adjusted under paragraph (4), for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2032”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2024” and inserting “2032”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “The amount under paragraph (1)” and inserting “The amount under paragraphs (1) and (2)”.

(e) TAXATION OF CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT FACILITIES.—Part III of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1379) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 10610. TAXATION OF CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT FACILITIES.

“(a) NATION LAND.—Any activity constituting the construction, operation, or maintenance of Project facilities—

“(1) shall, if the activity takes place on land that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Nation, be subject to taxation by the Nation; and

“(2) shall not be subject to any fee, tax, assessment, levy, or other charge imposed by any State or political subdivision of a State.

“(b) OTHER LAND.—Any activity constituting the construction, operation, or maintenance of Project facilities—

“(1) shall, if the activity takes place on land other than the land described in subsection (a)(1), be subject to taxation by the State in which the land is located, or by a political subdivision of that State to the extent authorized by the laws of that State; and

“(2) shall not be subject to any fee, tax, assessment, levy, or other charge imposed by the Nation.”.

SEC. 104. NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS.

(a) AGREEMENT.—Section 10701(e) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1400; 129 Stat. 528) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking clause (vii) and inserting the following:

“(vii) NAVAJO NATION WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND.—Not later than December 31, 2019, the United States shall make all deposits into the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund established by section 10702(a)(1).”;

(B) in clause (ix), by striking “2024” and inserting “2029”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) DEFERRED CONSTRUCTION FUND.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2029, the United States shall make all deposits into the Deferred Construction Fund in accordance with section 10602(i)(3).

“(II) PROJECT DEADLINE.—On deposit of the amounts into the Deferred Construction Fund under subclause (I), even if certain Project facilities have not yet been constructed, the Secretary shall be deemed to have met the deadline described in clause (ix).”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “Trust Fund” and inserting “Settlement Trust Funds”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “Trust Fund” and inserting “Settlement Trust Funds”.

(b) SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS.—Section 10702 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10702. SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS.

“(a) NAVAJO NATION WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the

‘Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund’, consisting of—

“(A) such amounts as are appropriated to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund under paragraph (5); and

“(B) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund under paragraph (3).

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Nation may use amounts in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund—

“(A) to investigate, construct, operate, maintain, or replace water project facilities, including facilities conveyed to the Nation under this subtitle and facilities owned by the United States for which the Nation is responsible for operation, maintenance, and replacement costs; and

“(B) to investigate, implement, or improve a water conservation measure (including a metering or monitoring activity) necessary for the Nation to make use of a water right of the Nation under the Agreement.

“(3) INVESTMENT.—Beginning on October 1, 2019, the Secretary shall invest amounts in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund in accordance with subsection (e).

“(4) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—Any investment earnings, including interest, credited to amounts held in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund are authorized to be used in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for deposit in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund—

“(A) \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014; and

“(B) \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

“(6) AVAILABILITY.—Any amount authorized to be appropriated to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund under paragraph (5) shall not be available for expenditure or withdrawal—

“(A) before December 31, 2019; and

“(B) until the date on which the court in the stream adjudication has entered—

“(i) the Partial Final Decree; and

“(ii) the Supplemental Partial Final Decree.

“(7) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund in accordance with subsection (d).

“(8) CONDITIONS FOR EXPENDITURE AND WITHDRAWAL.—After the funds become available pursuant to paragraph (6), all expenditures and withdrawals by the Nation of funds in the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund must comply with the requirements of subsection (f).

“(b) NAVAJO NATION OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT TRUST FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a trust fund to be known as the ‘Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund’ for the purposes set forth in paragraph (2), to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary, and to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury, consisting of the amounts deposited in the trust fund under paragraph (3), together with any interests earned on those amounts under paragraph (4).

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Nation may use amounts in the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund to pay operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the Project allocable to the Nation under section 10604.

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for

deposit in the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund \$250,000,000.

“(4) INVESTMENT.—Upon deposit of funding into the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund pursuant to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall invest amounts deposited in accordance with subsection (e).

“(5) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—Any investment earnings, including interest, credited to amounts held in the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund are authorized to be used in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(6) AVAILABILITY.—Any amount authorized to be appropriated to the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund under paragraph (3) shall not be available for expenditure or withdrawal until the Nation is responsible for payment of operation, maintenance, and replacement costs as set forth in section 10603(g).

“(7) FLUCTUATION IN COSTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (3) shall be increased or decreased, as appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs occurring after October 2022 as indicated by the Bureau of Reclamation Operation and Maintenance Cost Index.

“(B) REPETITION.—The adjustment process under this subparagraph shall be repeated for each subsequent amount appropriated until the amount authorized, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

“(C) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of indexing adjustment under this subparagraph for any increment of funding shall end on the date on which the funds are deposited into the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund.

“(8) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund in accordance with subsection (d).

“(9) CONDITIONS FOR EXPENDITURE AND WITHDRAWAL.—All expenditures and withdrawals by the Nation of funds in the Navajo Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund must comply with the requirements of subsection (f).

“(c) JICARILLA APACHE NATION OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT TRUST FUND.—

“(1) PREREQUISITE TO ESTABLISHMENT.—Prior to establishment of the trust fund under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct an Ability to Pay study to determine what operation, maintenance, and replacement costs of that section of the Project serving the Jicarilla Apache Nation are in excess of the ability of the Jicarilla Apache Nation to pay.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Upon completion of the Ability to Pay study as set forth in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish a trust fund to be known as the ‘Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund’ for the purposes set forth in paragraph (3), to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury, consisting of the amounts deposited in the trust fund under paragraph (4), together with any interests earned on those amounts under paragraph (5).

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Jicarilla Apache Nation may use amounts in the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund to pay operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the Project allocable to the Jicarilla Nation under section 10604.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for

deposit in the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund the amounts the Secretary has determined are in excess of the ability of the Jicarilla Apache Nation to pay in the Ability to Pay study required under paragraph (1) up to a maximum of \$10,000,000.

“(5) INVESTMENT.—Upon deposit of funding into the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund pursuant to paragraph (4), the Secretary shall invest amounts in the fund in accordance with subsection (e).

“(6) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—Any investment earnings, including interest, credited to amounts held in the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund are authorized to be used in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(7) AVAILABILITY.—Any amount authorized to be appropriated to the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund under paragraph (4) shall not be available for expenditure or withdrawal until the Jicarilla Apache Nation is responsible for payment of operation, maintenance, and replacement costs as set forth in section 10603(g).

“(8) FLUCTUATION IN COSTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (4) shall be increased or decreased, as appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs occurring after October 2022 as indicated by the Bureau of Reclamation Operation and Maintenance Cost Index.

“(B) REPETITION.—The adjustment process under this subparagraph shall be repeated for each subsequent amount appropriated until the amount authorized, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

“(C) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of indexing adjustment under this subparagraph for any increment of funding shall end on the date on which the funds are deposited into the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund.

“(9) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund in accordance with subsection (d).

“(10) CONDITIONS FOR EXPENDITURE AND WITHDRAWAL.—All expenditures and withdrawals by the Jicarilla Apache Nation of funds in the Jicarilla Apache Nation Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement Trust Fund must comply with the requirements of subsection (f).

“(d) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Settlement Trust Funds, invest amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds pursuant to subsection (e), and make amounts available from the Settlement Trust Funds for distribution to the Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

“(e) INVESTMENT OF THE TRUST FUNDS.—The Secretary shall invest amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds in accordance with—

“(1) the Act of April 1, 1880 (25 U.S.C. 161);

“(2) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a); and

“(3) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

“(f) CONDITIONS FOR EXPENDITURES AND WITHDRAWALS.—

“(1) TRIBAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On approval by the Secretary of a Tribal management plan in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation may withdraw all or

a portion of the amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to any requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), a Tribal management plan shall require that the Nation and Jicarilla Apache Nation only use amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2), (b)(2), or (c)(3), as applicable.

“(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may take judicial or administrative action to enforce the provisions of any Tribal management plan to ensure that any amounts withdrawn from the Settlement Trust Funds are used in accordance with this subtitle.

“(3) NO LIABILITY.—The Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure or investment of any amounts withdrawn from the Settlement Trust Funds by the Nation or the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

“(4) EXPENDITURE PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Nation and Jicarilla Apache Nation shall submit to the Secretary for approval an expenditure plan for any portion of the amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds made available under this section that the Nation or the Jicarilla Apache Nation does not withdraw under this subsection.

“(B) DESCRIPTION.—An expenditure plan submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe the manner in which, and the purposes for which, funds of the Nation or the Jicarilla Apache Nation remaining in the Settlement Trust Funds will be used.

“(C) APPROVAL.—On receipt of an expenditure plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall approve the plan if the Secretary determines that the plan is reasonable and consistent with this subtitle.

“(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Nation and Jicarilla Apache Nation shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes any expenditures from the Settlement Trust Funds during the year covered by the report.

“(6) LIMITATION.—No portion of the amounts in the Settlement Trust Funds shall be distributed to any Nation or Jicarilla Apache Nation member on a per capita basis.”.

(c) WAIVERS AND RELEASES.—Section 10703 of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1403) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2030”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2030”.

SA 1228. Mr. PADILLA 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. _____. Section 226B(f) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “organizations” and inserting “organizations, institutions of higher education, and local educational agencies”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “institutions on research, program improvements, or agricultural education opportunities” and

inserting “institutions or community-based nonprofit organizations on research, program improvements, agricultural education opportunities, or technical skills and job training programs”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) Assessing the effectiveness with respect to farmworkers of Department outreach programs.

“(H) Developing and implementing a plan to coordinate outreach activities and services provided by the Department with respect to farmworkers.

“(I) Collaborating with and providing input on programmatic and policy decisions relating to farmworkers to the agencies and offices of the Department, including—

“(i) the Farm Service Agency;

“(ii) the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

“(iii) the rural development mission area;

“(iv) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;

“(v) the Food and Nutrition Service;

“(vi) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

“(vii) the Forest Service;

“(viii) the National Agricultural Statistics Service; and

“(ix) any other agency or office that the Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

“(J) Communicating to employers of farmworkers, and publicizing on the website of the Department, information about Federal programs for which the employees of those employers may be eligible.

“(K) Identifying research priorities to inform the research activities of the Department relating to farmworkers.

“(L) Measuring and analyzing outcomes of the programs and activities of the Department on farmworkers.

“(M) Recommending new initiatives and programs to the Secretary.

“(N) Carrying out any other related duties that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) STAFF.—The Secretary, acting through the Coordinator, shall employ such staff as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the duties described in paragraph (2).”; and

(4) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (B), by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

SA 1229. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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 the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, shall be \$256,134,000, to remain available until expended; and

(2) the amount made available under this Act for “Agricultural Programs—Agriculture Buildings and Facilities” shall be \$33,081,000.

SA 1230. 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 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1231. Mr. PADILLA 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 257, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

HEALTHY STREETS PROGRAM

For the healthy streets program under section 11406 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 149 note; Public Law 117–58), \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SA 1232. Mr. LANKFORD 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—PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2023”.

SEC. 4002. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 1311. Automatic continuing appropriations

“(a)(1)(A) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue, at the rate for operations specified in subparagraph (C), the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year.

“(B)(i) Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) shall be available for a period of 14 days.

“(ii) If, at the end of the first 14-day period during which appropriations and funds are made available and authority is granted under subparagraph (A), and the end of every

14-day period thereafter, an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity under a provision of law other than subparagraph (A), the appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) during the 14-day period shall be extended for an additional 14-day period.

“(C)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), the rate for operations specified in this subparagraph with respect to a program, project, or activity is the rate for operations for the preceding fiscal year for the program, project, or activity—

“(I) provided in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year;

“(II) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year was not enacted, provided in the law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

“(III) if the corresponding appropriation bill and a law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year were not enacted, provided under this section for such preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided for the previous fiscal year in appropriations Acts, under a law other than this section providing continuing appropriations for such previous year, or under this section, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, appropriations and funds made available during a fiscal year under this section shall be at the rate necessary to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act.

“(2) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available, in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), for the period—

“(A) beginning on the first day of any lapse in appropriations during such fiscal year; and

“(B) ending on the date of enactment of an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for such program, project, or activity (whether or not such Act provides appropriations for such program, project, or activity) or a law making continuing appropriations for the program, project, or activity, as applicable.

“(3) Notwithstanding section 251(a)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(1)) and the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(a)), for any fiscal year for which appropriations and funds are made available under this section, the final sequestration report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1)) and any order for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(5) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 901(f)(5)) shall be issued—

“(A) for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted; and

“(B) for the Office of Management and Budget, 15 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted.

“(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made

available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

“(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity or a law making continuing appropriations until the end of such fiscal year for such program, project, or activity is enacted.

“(d) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

“(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

“(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1311. Automatic continuing appropriations.”.

SEC. 4003. TIMELY ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATION ACTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “covered officer or employee” means—

(A) an officer or employee of the Office of Management and Budget;

(B) a Member of Congress; or

(C) an employee of the personal office of a Member of Congress, a committee of either House of Congress, or a joint committee of Congress;

(2) the term “covered period”—

(A) means any period of automatic continuing appropriations; and

(B) with respect to the legislative branch—

(i) does not include any period of automatic continuing appropriations that occurs during the period—

(I) beginning at the time at which general appropriations Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government (including an appropriation Act providing continuing funding) have been enacted or passed in identical form by both Houses and transmitted to Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House for enrollment and presentment to the President for his signature; and

(II) ending at the time at which 1 or more general appropriations Acts—

(aa) are vetoed by the President; or

(bb) do not become law without the President's signature under article I, section 7 of the Constitution of the United States based on an adjournment of the Congress; and

(ii) includes any period of automatic continuing appropriations that is not a period described in clause (i) and that follows a veto or a failure to become law (as described in item (bb) of clause (i)(II)) of 1 or more general appropriations Acts;

(3) the term “Member of Congress” has the meaning given that term in section 2106 of title 5, United States Code;

(4) the term “National Capital Region” has the meaning given that term in section 8702 of title 40, United States Code; and

(5) the term “period of automatic continuing appropriations” means a period during which automatic continuing appropriations under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 4002 of this division, are in effect with respect to 1 or more programs, projects, or activities.

(b) LIMITS ON TRAVEL EXPENDITURES.—

(1) LIMITS ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no amounts may be obligated or expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee during a covered period.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

(i) RETURN TO DC.—If a covered officer or employee is away from the seat of Government on the date on which a covered period begins, funds may be obligated and expended for official travel for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee.

(ii) TRAVEL IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee from one location in the National Capital Region to another location in the National Capital Region.

(iii) NATIONAL SECURITY EVENTS.—During a covered period, if a national security event that triggers a continuity of operations or continuity of Government protocol occurs, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for any official travel relating to responding to the national security event or implementing the continuity of operations or continuity of Government protocol.

(2) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS.—Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “for ordinary” and inserting “except as provided in subsection (d), for ordinary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL DURING AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), during a covered period (as defined in section 4003 of the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2023), a contribution or donation described in subsection (a) may not be obligated or expended for travel in connection with duties of the individual as a holder of Federal office.

“(2) RETURN TO DC.—If the individual is away from the seat of Government on the date on which a covered period (as so defined) begins, a contribution or donation described in subsection (a) may be obligated and expended for travel by the individual to return to the seat of Government.”.

(c) PROCEDURES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During a covered period, in the Senate and the House of Representatives—

(A) it shall not be in order to move to proceed to any matter except for—

(i) a measure making appropriations for the fiscal year during which the covered period begins;

(ii) any motion required to determine the presence of or produce a quorum; or

(iii) on and after the 30th calendar day after the first day of a covered period—

(I) the nomination of an individual—

(aa) to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code; or

(bb) to serve as Chief Justice of the United States or an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; or

(II) a measure extending the period during which a program, project, or activity is authorized to be carried out (without substantive change to the program, project, or activity or any other program, project, or activity) if—

(aa) an appropriation Act with respect to the program, project, or activity for the fiscal year during which the covered period occurs has not been enacted; and

(bb) the program, project, or activity has expired since the beginning of such fiscal year or will expire during the 30-day period beginning on the date of the motion;

(B) it shall not be in order to move to recess or adjourn for a period of more than 23 hours; and

(C) at noon each day, or immediately following any constructive convening of the Senate under rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall direct the clerk to determine whether a quorum is present.

(2) WAIVER.—

(A) LIMITATION ON PERIOD.—It shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to move to waive any provision of paragraph (1) for a period that is longer than 7 days.

(B) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE.—A provision of paragraph (1) may only be waived or suspended upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the applicable House of Congress, duly chosen and sworn.

(d) MOTION TO PROCEED TO APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the 30th calendar day after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to a program, project, or activity has not been enacted, it shall be in order in the Senate, notwithstanding rule XXII or any pending executive measure or matter, to move to proceed to any appropriations bill or joint resolution for the program, project, or activity that has been sponsored and cosponsored by not less than 3 Senators who are members of or caucus with the party in the majority in the Senate and not less than 3 Senators who are members of or caucus with the party in the minority in the Senate.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—For a bill or joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the bill or joint resolution may be considered the same day as it is introduced and shall not have to lie over 1 day; and

(B) the motion to proceed to the bill or joint resolution shall be debatable for not to exceed 6 hours, equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the motion, and upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate shall vote on the motion to proceed.

SEC. 4004. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this division and the amendments made by this division shall be estimated as if this division and the amendments made by this division are discretionary appropriations Acts for purposes of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(b) BASELINE.—For purposes of calculating the baseline under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), the provision of budgetary resources under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this division, for an account shall be considered to be a continuing appropriation in effect for such account for less than the entire current year.

(c) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—For purposes of enforcing the discretionary spending limits under section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)), the budgetary resources made available under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this division, shall be considered part-year appropriations for purposes of section 251(a)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(4)).

SEC. 4005. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This division and the amendments made by this division shall take effect on September 30, 2023.

SA 1233. Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTEGRATED ENTERPRISE WORKFLOW SOLUTION SYSTEM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing the following:

(1) A description of efforts of the Secretary to secure personal identifiable information (PII) and private protected health information (PHI) within the Department of Veterans Affairs Integrated Enterprise Workflow Solution (VIEWS) system.

(2) A description of actions taken by the Secretary to secure other sensitive records of veterans within the system described in paragraph (1).

SA 1234. Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 GUIDANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DUE TO WAIT TIMES FOR CARE FROM A FACILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the following:

(1) A description of oversight efforts undertaken or quality assurance processes implemented to ensure accurate calculations are used at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of eligibility for community care due to wait times for care from a facility of the Department.

(2) A description of any inaccurate calculations identified and corrective actions that have been made with respect to such eligibility.

(3) A description of guidance or training undertaken to ensure that facilities of the Department correctly determine eligibility for community care from the Department due to wait times for care from a facility of the Department consistent with the designated access standards developed by the Secretary under section 1703B of title 38, United States Code.

(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1235. Mr. WARNOCK 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:

On page 241, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

AVIATION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Aviation Workforce Development Programs”, to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by section 625 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$10,000,000 shall be made available for projects described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 625; and

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be made available for projects described in subsection (a)(2) of such section 625.

SA 1236. Mr. WARNOCK 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:

On page 235, after line 20, add the following:

ALTERNATIVE FUEL AND LOW-EMISSION AVIATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

For an additional amount for the “Alternative Fuel and Low-Emission Aviation Technology Program”, to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by section 40007 of Public Law 117-169 (49 U.S.C. 44504 note) \$703,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$489,258,000 shall be made available for projects described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 40007;

(2) \$209,682,000 shall be made available for projects described in subsection (a)(2) of such section 40007; and

(3) \$4,060,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (a)(3) of such section 40007.

SA 1237. Mr. RUBIO 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 appropriate place in title II of division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to impose updated minimum energy efficiency standards for new housing financed by the Department as part of carrying out the notice entitled “Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing” (88 Fed. Reg. 31773 (May 18, 2023)).

SA 1238. Mr. RUBIO 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 appropriate place in title II of division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer a blood quantum test, DNA test, or any other medical or chemical test intended to determine an individual’s race or racial composition for the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for any program, sub-activity, or project funded by this Act.

SA 1239. Ms. ROSEN 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 II of Division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Using amounts made available under this title for technical assistance that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to States and units of local government to support the efforts of States and local governments to—

(1) increase housing production and affordability; and

(2) provide forums for communities to share best practices, knowledge, and evidence-based expertise on ways to—

(A) cut red tape;

(B) reduce regulatory barriers to development;

(C) lower development costs; and

(D) deploy new technologies and innovations.

SA 1240. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) 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 “FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL” under the heading “FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION” in title I of division C, strike “\$100,000,000” and insert “\$1,500,000,000”.

SA 1241. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) 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.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LEE. 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 and Rule XXII, including germaneness requirements and dilatory provisions, to offer the following amendments, either as floor amendments, or as motions to recommit with instructions: Vance No. 1125, Lee No. 1121, Cruz No. 1158, Rubio No. 1159, Marshall No. 1161, Braun No. 1182, Paul No. 1226, Paul No. 1217.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns from my office be granted floor privileges for the rest of this Congress: Haylee Acton, Sedrie Orantes, and Madeleine Katz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 347, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 347) designating the week beginning on September 11, 2023, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”.

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. 347) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 348, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 348) designating the week of September 24 through September 30, 2023, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week".

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. 348) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, AS A "NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 334.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 334) recognizing September 11, 2023, as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and 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. 334) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 11, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19; 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 proceed to executive

session to resume consideration of the Oliver nomination postcloture; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and following the cloture vote on the Lin nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the Lin nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. and that upon disposition of the Lin nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the consideration of H.R. 4366; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

JAMEL SEMPER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JOHN MICHAEL VAZQUEZ, RESIGNED.

MUSTAFA TAHER KASUBHAI, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON, VICE ANN L. AIKEN, RETIRING.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MARSHA BRUHN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marsha Bruhn, a public servant and long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong, for her numerous outstanding contributions to the city and the Grandmont Rosedale community she calls home.

Before settling in Detroit's Grandmont Rosedale community, Ms. Bruhn lived all over the country. She developed her passion for community development when she volunteered with the Staten Island Citizens Planning Commission. The community engagement work she witnessed while later living in Los Angeles spurred her to return to school to complete her master's degree in urban planning. She used that experience and education over 22 years of service as the director of the Detroit Planning Commission.

In 1988, Ms. Bruhn fell in love with and made her home in Detroit's North Rosedale Park neighborhood. She quickly became a champion for North Rosedale Park and the entire 5-neighborhood area that comprises Grandmont Rosedale. She has steadily invested her time and energy into maintaining and further cultivating this unique and close-knit community for future generations to enjoy. As a long-time board member of the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, Ms. Bruhn has contributed immensely to strengthening housing, retaining and attracting new small businesses that are the backbone of the community's corridor, and beautifying the neighborhoods. Notably, she spearheaded the capital campaign to revitalize the North Rosedale Park Community House, a major hub and home to numerous neighborhood events and gatherings.

Please join me in thanking Ms. Marsha Bruhn as we recognize her dedication and thank her for her commitment and service to North Rosedale Park, Grandmont Rosedale, and the City of Detroit.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND CAREER OF ADRIENNE KOTLER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the current treasurer of Amherst Democratic Committee and long-time political volunteer, Adrienne Kotler. From a very young age, Adrienne has been actively involved in the electoral process, and she has continued this commitment through all her life in numerous cities across the country.

In 1970, Adrienne joined Arthur Goldberg's campaign for Governor of New York before quickly joining the New York Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee. While working for the DACC, she enjoyed success as the Democratic Party took back control of the New York State Assembly. It was there that her work began for Majority Leader Al Blumenthal until his retirement in 1976, to be followed by work for the Speaker of the Assembly and the Committee on Reapportionment. When Adrienne wanted to get a B.S. in Accounting, she moved to attend Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. In Arizona, she was hired to be the Staff Accountant to Bruce Babbitt's presidential bid. This allowed Adrienne to travel the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

After the presidential campaign, Adrienne moved onto work in the private sector. She worked for both Citibank on their audit staff in Arizona and Florida. In the last move of her career, Adrienne became a Compliance Officer at Citibank here in Buffalo, NY. She retired in 2000, met then-Amherst Democratic Committee Chairman Dennis Ward, and began volunteering for the Committee. As I thank her for all the sacrifices she has made for the Committee and her community, I am pleased to recognize Adrienne Kotler for all of her hard work and dedication to Western New York and Democratic ideals.

HONORING EUGENE W. SULZBERGER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Eugene W. Sulzberger of Dade County, Florida, for his more than 60 years practicing law in the state of Florida and commitment to the Dade County community.

Eugene was born on July 12, 1926, in Sheephead Bay, New York. In 1941, his family moved to Florida where Eugene graduated from Miami Beach Senior High School in 1944. Upon graduation, Eugene enlisted in the Navy, serving over 2 years in the Atlantic with the 12th Naval District Pacific Command during World War II.

After his discharge, Eugene enrolled in the University of Miami Business School and graduated from the University of Miami Law School in 1951, a proud Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity member.

In 1952, Eugene was appointed as a Municipal Judge in Miami, Florida, at the age of 26, making him the youngest judge in the state. In 1954, the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized Eugene as 1 of 10 outstanding young people in the state.

Also during this time, Eugene met his wife of over 60 years, Beverley. Beverley was the former President of the Miami Beach Board of Realtors and has worked by Eugene's side

giving back to the Miami community. They instilled in their children, Gene and Eric, a love and commitment to service. This included working with the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation, Gable Stage, the University of Miami, the Our Fund Foundation, and many other Miami charities.

Eugene was deeply committed to engaging his community, serving as the President of the North Shore Kiwanis Club, and sitting on the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of Florida.

He was also a strong supporter of education. He served as a trustee for Miami Country Day School, trustee and chairman of the board of directors for St. Thomas University, a member of the Grand Founders of the University of Miami, a member of the Society of Founders of Barry University. In 1983, he received the Champion of Higher Independent Education in Florida (CHIEF) Award from the Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

For over 60 years, Eugene has remained committed to serving others, whether in the Armed Forces, the courtroom, or one of the many community organizations he was involved in. May we celebrate and honor Eugene and others like him for actively working to improve their communities.

HONORING TERESA ALEXANDER

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Ms. Teresa Alexander for her outstanding service as part of Stafford County Public Schools.

For more than 15 years, Ms. Alexander has served as a Special Education/Autism teacher. In her role, she has nurtured a love for learning in her students and provided them with the tools they need to succeed. Her dedication to her students, their education, and their futures is admirable.

Prior to joining Stafford County Public Schools, Ms. Alexander taught at Fredericksburg City Public Schools. She was nominated for "Teacher of the Year" all 8 years she taught there—and she won the award twice.

Her expertise, commitment, and passion for teaching is inspiring. Her contributions as an educator help shape Virginia's future by both empowering students with knowledge and inspiring them to continue to learn. I am honored to recognize Ms. Alexander. Her hard work does not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Alexander for her unwavering commitment to education and her continued commitment to educating tomorrow's leaders.

• 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.

CELEBRATING 240 YEARS OF
FAYETTE COUNTY

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on its 240th anniversary and its place as an integral part of our community.

Fayette County was founded on September 26, 1783, and named after Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero who served alongside President George Washington. The county was carved out of southern Westmoreland County on land with an already rich and storied heritage. Fayette County represented a new frontier for Pennsylvania and America in its early days. Its people persevered through the hardships of early frontier life to build a better life for themselves and their families. The county would also become a crucial point along the newly created National Road.

The story of Fayette County and its people is an important and unique part of our region's history. The county served as an early steamboat manufacturing hub. The area quickly became one of the earliest industrial areas in America. After building the Pittsburgh Railroad, the local industry shifted from steamboat manufacturing and glass production to coal mining.

Today, Fayette County is a regional agriculture hub, with over 23 percent of the county devoted to farmland. Additionally, attractions such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater House, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Ohiopyle State Park make Fayette County one of the best places to visit and live in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Fayette County, is distinctively American and important to Pennsylvania. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate its citizens on this remarkable milestone and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 240 years.

HONORING THE WORK OF
COLONEL MICHAEL A. HONEYCUTT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Michael A. Honeycutt, who is retiring as Colonel after serving decades of military service. A decorated Officer, he worked as an Active Guard and Reserve servicemember, climbing to the Mississippi National Guard, culminating as the Director of Joint Plans, Training, and Exercises.

Colonel Honeycutt graduated from all professional military education courses, including the National War College. He is decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and many other awards. He served in many tactical, operational, and strategic assignments, including an overseas combat tour to Iraq in 2004 to 2005, where I served alongside him.

He has worked at and served in all geographic areas of Mississippi on 17 different as-

signments. He was the Commander of the 154th Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Colonel Honeycutt has spent countless days, weeks, months, and years traveling throughout the state, country, and world, supporting and driving missions.

Colonel Honeycutt is one of the most influential leaders in the Army, maintaining the highest standards during the most demanding and complex times in history. He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian. We are immensely grateful for his dedication to our country and the great state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CARL E.
SHELTON, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Carl E. Shelton, Jr., United States Marine Corps, Retired, at the conclusion of 43 years of dedicated service to the United States, both in uniform and as a civilian. Carl is a native of Newark, New Jersey and earned a Bachelor of Art Degree in Political Science from Rutgers University. Prior to joining the Marine Corps, he served this House as staff member to Congressman Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass). Carl was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in June 1980.

Beginning his career as an Infantry Officer serving in North Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia and California. He served at sea aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) and on the USS *Denver* (LPD-9) during which time he deployed for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then attended the National War College, Washington, D.C. and earned a master's degree in National Security Strategy. In 2006 he was reassigned to the Inspector General's office in September 2006 where he served as Director, Assistance and Investigations Division for 3 years and became Acting Deputy in September of 2009.

When Carl retired from the Marine Corps in 2010 his commitment to the Marine Corps, and the Nation, continued. He immediately began serving as the Deputy Inspector General, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. In that capacity Carl served as the principal advisor to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) on all matters related to inspections, analysis, assessments, investigations, and other oversight matters of importance to the United States Marine Corps with particular emphasis on institutional readiness.

Among his noteworthy accomplishments, Carl is the only senior official within the Department of the Navy (DON) who is a certified inspector general through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and the Association of Inspectors General. As a result of his extraordinary Inspector General qualifications and tested leadership abilities, Carl was elevated to "Acting Inspector General of the Marine Corps" on a number of occasions to include extended periods from 2014 to 2016 and 2020 through 2022. Of note, the Service Inspectors General for the Army, Navy and Air Force are 3-star flag officers.

During the uncertainty of the Pandemic, Carl flawlessly executed the full range of respon-

sibilities to include senior official investigations and an aggressive inspections process throughout the Pandemic (2000 through 2022). What's more remarkable is that Mr. Shelton executed these substantial duties without an assigned Deputy.

Our Nation is better because of great Americans like Carl Shelton. Those who volunteer to wear the uniform and continue to serve after they take it off. It is my great pleasure to offer my own congratulations for Carl on the happy occasion of his retirement after 43 years of service to the United States.

HONORING ANTHONY EDGEComb

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Anthony Edgecomb for his outstanding service as a part of the U.S. Army.

Throughout his 10 years of service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Anthony Edgecomb upheld the important values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. His career included a Classified National Security mission that spanned over 4 years and earned him the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to servicemembers for "distinguished service and performance above that normally expected, over a sustained period." Typically awarded to senior officers and senior enlisted servicemembers, Mr. Anthony Edgecomb achieved this milestone as an Army Staff Sergeant in 2013.

I am honored to extend my congratulations to Mr. Anthony Edgecomb. His hard work and sacrifice do not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Mr. Anthony Edgecomb for his service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
PATRICIA LAVELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize one of our community's great activists, Patricia LaVell, as she is honored at the Amherst Democratic Committee's member recognition dinner. A former Buffalo public school teacher, Pat's passion for the Democratic Party led to better candidates and governance for thousands of her neighbors.

Since 2000, Pat has been a quintessential piece to the Amherst Democratic Committee's operation. She served as secretary to then-Chairman Dennis Ward and has run the Committee's fundraisers and dinners at Classic V Banquet hall. Pat understood that her opinion and voice carried weight, so was elated to learn of her appointment to the Nominating Committee that interviews candidates running for local office. With so many crucial decisions coming from Town of Amherst officials in the last 2 decades, it is undeniable that Pat's influence over candidates has led to more prosperous results for the citizens of Amherst. She

also volunteered for morning lawn sign efforts at fire stations, churches, and lawns on each Election Day. Even to this day, those passing Pat's front lawn are made aware of all the candidates that she believes are best for the community.

Every community has its well-known leaders but has even more leaders that rarely make headlines. Patricia LaVell is the epitome of quiet leadership—the type of person that works tirelessly behind the scenes to put the community ahead of their own interests. It is my honor to recognize her, and I know that everyone wishes her the best in her future endeavors with the Committee.

CELEBRATING MICHAEL ANTHONY MERCADANTE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the 100th birthday of my constituent, Mr. Michael Anthony Mercadante of Helendale, California. Mike was born on September 20, 1923, to Joseph Mercadante and Maria Santa Padre, who immigrated from Italy to pursue the American Dream.

Mike grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. At a young age, he began working a variety of difficult jobs, including at a steel mill and as a delivery boy using a horse and carriage. At age 18, Mike answered the highest of callings—serving his country during a time of war. He and his friends joined the Army during WWII, serving in the Artillery tank division in the South Pacific repairing tanks and overseeing communication between troops. Following the war, Mike continued to serve in the Army in the Active Reserves, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant and training troops for the Korean and Vietnam Wars for 23 years.

In addition to his long military career, Mike taught high school for over 25 years. After graduating from Bryant University, he taught machine and auto shop and Redondo Union High School in Redondo Beach, California and eventually coached baseball at St. Hedwig's School in Los Alamitos. As a coach, teacher, and mentor, Mike was known for his passion for baseball and for helping kids achieve success.

After moving to Helendale, Mike served as the commander and chief of Citizens on Patrol for nearly 25 years. His service, work ethic, and passion for our community serves as an inspiration for all of us.

Mike's passion for his students, his community, and his country is equaled by his love for his family. He married Leonardi Cathrine (Kay) in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1946 and together they proudly raised 7 children—Connie, Cathy, Michael, Mary, Stephen, Robert, and Linda. They are blessed with 30 grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michael Mercadante's 100th birthday. His contributions have had a profound impact on our High Desert Community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROCIO OCAMPO

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Rocio Ocampo, a community mother, whose contributions had an enormous positive impact on the families of southwest Detroit, as we honor her memory.

I first met Rocio when I served in Michigan's State Legislature at a parent advocacy meeting at Phoenix Elementary. I was instantly impressed with her tenacity and drive to pursue a better quality of life and future for all the children. She was involved with numerous community organizations, serving on the board of Urban Neighborhood Initiatives and City of Detroit's Property Assessment Board of Review, as well as the Parent Teacher Association at the school her children attended. Rocio's active involvement in the community was marked by her dedication, not only to making it a safer and healthier place to live, but to making it a more beautiful place to thrive.

Above all, Rocio loved her children and grandchildren deeply. Her love extended out to the children of the neighborhood where she lived. She could always be counted on for a kind word, warmth, and generosity of spirit.

Rocio Ocampo's vibrant presence will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognition of her contributions and services to our community in Detroit as we honor her memory.

RECOGNIZING THE OPERATION OF THE INTEGRATED WASTE TREATMENT UNIT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, to recognize the committed staff at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site's Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU). In the face of many challenges, the employees who supported IWTU demonstrated professionalism, expertise, dedication to the mission, and exemplified the spirit of American innovation.

IWTU engineers, scientists, crafts specialists, plant operators, and administration professionals always believed they could overcome the challenges of this first-of-a-kind radioactive liquid waste treatment facility. Following its construction from 2007 to 2011, the IWTU underwent testing of its steam-reforming process, which was chosen to solidify 900,000 gallons of liquid sodium-bearing waste from an underground tank farm. This waste was generated during the INL's spent nuclear fuel reprocessing mission during the height of the Cold War.

From the first demonstration run at the IWTU in 2012, mechanical problems were apparent as metal filters became plugged, resulting in a quick shutdown of the facility. During subsequent runs, further mechanical problems surfaced as well as chemistry challenges with-

in the IWTU's primary reaction vessel. The Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors didn't give up. Together, they devised a plan to systematically identify and resolve all problems. They employed some of the brightest scientists at the INL and across the country, worked with academia in several states, and utilized the resources of corporate and small businesses. In all, engineers, scientists, and fabricators made hundreds of modifications to the IWTU, and with each subsequent demonstration run, the facility became more reliable and predictable.

On April 11, 2023, 16 years after construction began, IWTU operators were given permission to start radiological operations. At first, 10 percent radioactive liquid waste was blended with 90 percent simulant. This ratio was increased to 50:50 and later to 100 percent sodium-bearing waste. For those on the project who sacrificed countless weekends, holidays, and quality time with family, this moment was the culmination of years of committed work for a greater cause.

I want to thank all the Idaho Environmental Coalition employees who have supported this project. Their contributions are protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer, which is the primary source of drinking water and agricultural water for more than 300,000 Idahoans. Furthermore, their actions in treating legacy Cold War waste and closing these sites pave the way for future nuclear research work in Idaho.

I would like to join my distinguished colleagues Senators CRAPO and RISCH, in congratulating the IWTU team on this extremely important achievement. They represent the most talented and committed individuals in the DOE Complex. Perhaps more importantly, they represent the greatest of our country and the ingenuity that makes the United States stand out in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CARL THOMAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a stalwart figure in the Buffalo community, Carl Thomas. After roughly 4 decades of leading by example at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Kevin's Guest House, it is only proper to acknowledge and give gratitude for a lifelong dedication to those in need of help.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, he has always put the needs of his hometown neighbors ahead of his own. At the very beginning of his professional career, Carl recognized an unfortunate and common challenge for so many cancer patients—having a stable place to stay during treatment. As a volunteer at Kevin's Guest House, a local hospitality guest house, he undoubtedly recognized that a community effort can make the bleak reality of cancer a little easier on a patient and their loved ones. Of course, Carl was familiar with cancer treatment and hospital care due to his father's employment at Roswell. As he began his own career at Roswell Park (later earning the role of Chief of Public Safety), Carl devoted his time and energy toward the needs and safety of the entire Roswell campus. He

saw these 2 institutions, Kevin's Guest House and Roswell Park, as inherently intertwined and was one of the earliest to recognize Roswell Park's leading role in the fight against cancer. Carl's passion for Roswell's success earned him the position as Chief Organizational and Community Liaison. In essence, he has worked as an ambassador for Roswell with community organizations, government officials, churches, and block clubs in Western New York.

As an African American executive, Carl Thomas has often cited his responsibility to lead a new generation of achievers. Those who know Carl understand retirement will not result in the end of his mentorship; as a resident of the University District, he has already expressed an interest in maintaining his position as a role model within the community. Nonetheless, retirement will allow Carl some much-deserved time with his wife of over 4 decades. Betty, along with their children, Mario, Samantha, and Phylcia. Buffalonians and Roswell Park patients, alike, owe Carl an incredible debt of gratitude, and it is my pleasure to recognize his career as a capable worker and generous man.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN ZELENSKO

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Benjamin Zelenko, a distinguished constituent and exemplary citizen who helped shape the revival of our national commitment to equality through the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mr. Zelenko has accomplished a lifetime of excellent service to this great Nation and this body, making vital contributions to our journey towards a more perfect union.

Mr. Zelenko served as a top aide to Representative Emanuel Celler, the legendary Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during the apex of the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Zelenko played a critical role in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, and the Gun Control Act of 1968. Mr. Zelenko helped Representative Celler shepherd these bills through fraught Committee debates, floor debates and final passage.

Later in his career, Mr. Zelenko represented Japanese Americans in their fight for reparations and redress for their unlawful and outrageous internment by the U.S. Government during World War II. He argued their case in *United States v. William Hohri, et al.* before the U.S. Supreme Court. This case helped pave the way for the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which awarded \$20,000 in reparations and an official apology from the U.S. Government to tens of thousands of Japanese Americans.

Throughout his career in several of our Nation's leading law firms, Mr. Zelenko championed human rights, workers' rights, and intellectual property rights. Mr. Zelenko documented his experiences helping to pass monumental legislation for an oral history project conducted by this body's Office of the Historian for the public record. His encyclopedic recollection of the minutiae of the events of

1964 reminds us that landmark civil rights protections were not inevitable but rather were won through grueling and sustained efforts spanning decades of social struggle. A Princeton University and Harvard Law graduate, Mr. Zelenko contributed his great knowledge and gifts to the unending quest for a more perfect union. We are fortunate as a Nation that he chose to use his immense talents to serve the causes of social justice and equality.

Mr. Zelenko is a beloved husband, father and grandfather. He married Barbara (Saltz) Zelenko in 1961. In 1964, the Zelenkos moved to Maryland's beautiful Eighth District where they raised their 3 children, Brian, Laura and Carin. Ben and Barbara Zelenko still live in the same house they first occupied. This year, Mr. Zelenko celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by his loving children and 6 grandchildren, Leslie, Jennifer, Sasha, Katya, Lia and Kayla. Mr. Zelenko is known by his family for being a gracious and captivating host, performing magic shows at all 6 of his grandchildren's birthday parties and seizing any opportunity to tell a great story. I am proud to salute Mr. Zelenko for his lifetime of service and extraordinary character.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2023, I was unable to be present for the recorded suspension votes on Roll Call No. 383, 384, and 385. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yes on Roll Call No. 383, H.R. 3152, Fight CRIME Act, as amended; Yes on Roll Call No. 384, H.R. 589, MAHSA Act; and Yes on Roll Call No. 385, H. Res. 492, Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

On September 14, 2023, my vote was recorded as YES on Roll Call No. 391 for H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. I intended to vote No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to technical issues with my member voting card, my vote was unable to be recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 384/H.R. 589.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SUSAN GRELICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the first

woman elected Town Supervisor and Town Clerk of Amherst, Susan Grelick. She embodies the very best of our community, and has shaped Amherst, NY into one of the best rated and safest places to live in the entire country.

A graduate of Union College, Susan would later earn her MBA, JD, and master's degrees in Information Science and American Economic History. She utilized her extensive education to the town's benefit—always in search of ways to improve its financial stand, promote local businesses, and preserve neighborhoods and green space. Indeed, during her 9 years as Supervisor, Amherst had the highest bond rating of any municipality in Western New York. Susan also initiated the Town's first Vision Summits, a tool she used to develop a comprehensive plan for her future agenda. Once her time had finished as a town official, Susan became the legislative director and counsel to New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. This is in addition to involvement in countless local organizations, including as a Trustee Emeritus of the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, as a Board member of the Amherst Youth Foundation, and as Vice President of the Chautauqua Institution Women's Club Board of Directors. She previously worked as President of the Amherst Youth Foundation, President of the Buffalo Amherst Business and Professional Women's Association, and sat on the Board of Directors for YMCA of Greater Buffalo, the UB Alumni Association, and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Her commitment to public service goes beyond the listed organizations. She is unquestionably sincere in her desire to help others, and she has gone above and beyond to deliver for her neighbors and community.

Many groups have recognized Susan over the years, so it is only fitting that the Amherst Democratic Committee recognizes her efforts over the last 25 years as a member. Susan Grelick has been a steadfast friend to so many in the Western New York area, and all its citizens (particularly those in Amherst), owe her a debt of gratitude. She has been an asset to the growth of our region, and I am thrilled that she is being honored for her inspiring achievements. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have jurisdiction over local District of Columbia civil and criminal justice matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have gotten enacted each year

since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from federal government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from federal government shutdowns: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., D.C. Courts, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under the District's control and are funded exclusively by the federal government. These agencies provide critical local services to the District, including law enforcement, and should continue to function during a federal government shutdown.

Each of these agencies has been adversely affected by federal government shutdowns, including canceled services and furloughed employees. My bill would allow these agencies to continue to function during a federal government shutdown, in much the same way that the D.C. government itself is now exempt from shutting down during a federal government shutdown.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN ANDRIY "JUICE" PILSCHCHIKOV

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Ukrainian fighter pilot Captain Andriy Pilshchikov, better known by his call sign "Juice," who tragically lost his life at the age of 30 while fighting for Ukraine's freedom on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Born in February 1993, Andriy was a Captain in Ukraine's Air Force 40th Tactical Aviation Brigade and leader of the "Ghost of Kyiv" unit. He flew MiG-29 fighter jets, protecting the central and northern Ukrainian air space from Russian attacks. Andriy earned the call sign "Juice" during his time in California performing training exercises with the U.S. Air National Guard because he preferred juice over alcoholic beverages.

Juice boldly resisted the Russian air offensive despite using aging Soviet-era technology. With destroyed ground-based navigation, Juice flew missions using simple Garmin GPS units.

Juice was one of the lead advocates for the delivery of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine from allied countries. His efforts included contacting American government officials to encourage support for this cause. Many of us became familiar with Juice from his numerous interviews with prominent Western news outlets. Luckily, allied countries, including the United States, agreed to send F-16s. Juice was among the initial group of Ukrainian pilots slated for F-16 training due to his fluency in English.

Juice and 2 other pilots, Major Vyacheslav Minka and Major Serhiy Prokazin, tragically lost their lives on August 25 when a pair of L-39 Combat Trainer jets collided during a training accident near Zhytomyr.

In June 2022, I was introduced to Juice by actor and filmmaker Sean Penn. Over dinner in Washington D.C., Juice shared his passion for Ukraine's freedom and the need for the United States to provide fighter jets to his

country. I promised Juice I would seek that. And I plan to follow through on that promise.

Juice was a true Air Force leader, possessing tactical skills, confidence, and a calm demeanor under the immense pressure that war brings. His bravery and courage went above and beyond, flying over 500 combat hours, never once backing away from a fight. He is survived by his devoted girlfriend, Melaniya, and mother, Lillia. May we never forget his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the freedom of Ukraine.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Little Union Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia on their 120th anniversary.

For 120 years, Little Union Baptist Church has served as a space for the community to gather, connect, and worship. Little Union Baptist Church has deep roots in Dumfries, Virginia that can be traced back to Mary Bates—fondly referred to by many as "Granny Mary." Mary was born into slavery, but she had the determination to learn to read and write. After the Emancipation Proclamation, Mary settled in the area with her husband where she proved to be a pillar in the community. She served as a midwife, wrote letters on behalf of those who could not, and helped administer medications. In 1901, Mary convinced her husband John to donate land to build a local church, so people would not have to travel to neighboring communities to attend services. The church built on that land flourished and eventually came to be known to the community as Little Union Baptist Church.

Today, Pastor Michael L. Sessoms continues Little Union Baptist Church's longstanding tradition of building community. Under his guidance, the church continues to grow and provides families in the Dumfries area with a space to gather and celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 120th anniversary of Little Union Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF RONALD GILSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the longtime treasurer of the Amherst Democratic Committee. Ronald Gilson. A resident of Amherst since 1962. Ron has been an indispensable member of the Committee since 1994.

He jumped in head-first, ensuring that technical operations like utilities, internal telephone banks, and essential supplies were always cared for at headquarters. His willingness to volunteer in this capacity was also incredibly valuable to Chairman Jeremy Zellner when the Erie County Democratic Committee moves its

headquarters to Larkintville. Ron was there to ensure a seamless transition with the proper technology setup. Naturally, he also became familiar with the Committee's practice of posting signs, gathering signatures, and distributing campaign literature. Just 5 years into his involvement with ADC, the Amherst Democratic Chairman approached Ron to become a temporary treasurer. Temporary, of course, is not an accurate description of Ron's time as treasurer—as he just handed the reins over after 22 years.

Ron also volunteers his time at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park as a docent and technical advisor. He volunteers his knowledge and time to countless citizens and visitors, alike, so they can appreciate the fearless bravery of our veterans and the richness of our local history. On the tours that he provides, Ron has the ability to capture the imagination of young Americans, so they understand the sacrifices that were made to ensure our collective freedom. The staff at the Naval Park is undoubtedly grateful for his continued dedication to their endeavors.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to mention Ron's consistent involvement at the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service for the blind with his wife, Corine. Throughout the week, this organization reads newspapers, magazines, and books for the visually impaired. Ron's involvement with Niagara Frontier Radio Service, Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, and the Amherst Democratic Committee prove him to be a worthy candidate of recognition. I am excited to honor Ron for his selfless efforts that have such a tangible impact on our community.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DON SUNDQUIST

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the memory of my good friend, former Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist, who also served alongside us, in this House chamber for 12 years, as the U.S. Representative for the 7th District of Tennessee. He was a trusted leader and treasured friend who will be deeply missed.

He accomplished a rare feat that every elected leader aspires to, winning every election in his path of public service, including 6 terms in Congress and 2 terms as the 47th Governor of Tennessee. Don was an original "Reaganaut," first elected to Congress in 1982 during President Ronald Reagan's Administration. As a successful business owner and entrepreneur, his expertise and personal insight were invaluable in his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee, where he stood firm on conservative American values.

His love and compassion for the people of Tennessee led him from Capitol Hill to the Governor's Mansion in 1994. Unwavering in his convictions, Gov. Sundquist took on monumental issues, including welfare reform that lifted 40,000 families out of poverty, a comprehensive crime bill focused on victim's rights, expanding broadband to every public school and library in Tennessee, and earning National accolades for the state's economic success on his watch.

In addition to his courageous public service, he was also a proud veteran of the United States Navy. Of all the honorable titles that have been etched into history beside his name, Don's most cherished were husband, father, grandfather and friend. Thanks to our longtime friendship in the U.S. House, Don later introduced me to my beautiful Tennessee bride, Cynthia. He and his First Lady Martha graciously hosted our wedding at the Governor's mansion in 1999, remaining constant friends all the while. It is for his dedicated friendship and partnership in public service that I shall be eternally grateful. My wife Cynthia and I offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the entire Sundquist family and the people of Tennessee.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing California's 19th Congressional District and on behalf of all the residents of the Central Coast, I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention to the 50th Anniversary of Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST) for providing mobility services to the residents of Monterey County.

The Monterey Peninsula Public Transit System Joint Powers Agency was formed by the cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, and Monterey County on October 1, 1972, and began providing service on September 26, 1973. As the predecessor of Monterey-Salinas Transit, it served the Monterey Peninsula area, and later expanded to provide service to the cities of Marina, Salinas, and Watsonville. With the formation of the Monterey-Salinas Transit District on July 1, 2010, MST has served as much as one-fifth of the coastline of California from San Jose in the north to Paso Robles in the south at 1,300 bus stops in 25 communities throughout Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Through the foresight of the MST board members and the ongoing support of the federal government, transit service in the Monterey Bay region is consistently at the forefront of technology and innovation, with annual ridership reaching as high as 5 million passengers on traditional fixed-route buses as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit minibus service for disabled customers, the popular MST Trolley system for visitors, "MST OnCall" demand response services in south Monterey County, and the JAZZ Bus Rapid Transit system. In 2014, with 73 percent voter support, MST became the first public agency in Monterey County to pass a countywide local funding initiative known as Measure Q to support the mobility needs of veterans, seniors, and persons with disabilities. MST was also the first transit operator in the country to finance and construct a bus operations and maintenance facility utilizing the federal Build America Bureau—Rural Initiative program, and the first transit operator to implement an open-loop, contactless payment sys-

tem that provides discounted fares to eligible customers.

Now for the second half of its first century of operation, MST is moving forward with a slate of new projects and initiatives to support their vision of connecting communities, creating opportunity and being kind to our planet. These include the implementation of the Better Bus Network, the outcome of a yearlong planning effort that will provide the residents of Monterey County with faster, more direct connections to work, school, shopping and medical appointments. The proposed MST SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit will extend the existing JAZZ BRT system 6.5 miles north from Sand City to Marina utilizing bus-only lanes and zero emission vehicles to improving access and opportunities for connections to jobs on the Monterey Peninsula, recreational activities and easy access to educational opportunities including nearby California State University, Monterey Bay. Finally, MST is putting rolling stock and infrastructure in place today that includes enroute inductive charging stations, designing micro-grid technologies, and procuring battery electric buses as it moves to transition to a fleet of 162 buses to planet-friendly 100 percent zero-emission buses powered from renewable sources.

In addition, MST is at the forefront of forging partnerships with local stakeholders to expand public transit options throughout the community. This past year, MST celebrated 30 years of partnership with the City of Monterey and Monterey Bay Aquarium in providing fast, fun, and free transit services to visitors and residents alike reducing visitor related traffic congestion, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing microplastics from vehicles traveling adjacent to the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. MST's partnerships also extend to local colleges, with a EcoSmart Pass program with California State University-Monterey Bay Hartnell Community College, and Monterey Peninsula Colleges, discount pass programs available to all Monterey County school districts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend the Monterey-Salinas Transit District for providing 50 years of exemplary public service to the Central Coast and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wish them well on the next 50 years.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in financial services.

SD-538

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine public investment.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, and Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

10:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, and Tobin John Bradley, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

S-116

2 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine child care since the pandemic, focusing on macroeconomic impacts of public policy measures.

SD-538

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Putin's personal prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza.

RHOB-2200

2:15 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine growing the economy of the future, focusing on job training for the clean energy transition.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine drought impacts on drinking water access and water availability.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine drinking water infrastructure and tribal communities.

SD-406

2:45 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights

To hold hearings to examine restoring transparency and accountability in the accommodation process.

SD-226

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine improving mental health and suicide prevention measures for our Nation's veterans.

SR-418

SEPTEMBER 21

9 a.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine ensuring accessible government technology for people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 384, to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 912, to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, S. 924, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the "Salem Maritime National Historic Park", S. 1015, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, S. 1059, to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, S. 1088, to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the

States of California and Arizona, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, S. 1405, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1657, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, S. 1760, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, S. 2020, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, S. 2042, to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, S. 2136, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, S. 2149, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and S. 2216, to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1573, to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, S. 2415, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, S. 1624, 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, an original bill entitled, "Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act", and other pending calendar business.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Jeffrey M. Bryan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

SH-216

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration, focusing on examining the Federal real estate portfolio.

SD-406

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek H. Chollet, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary for Policy, and Cara L. Abercrombie, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine solutions to address beverage container waste.

SD-406

CANCELLATIONS

SEPTEMBER 20

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4543–S4565

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2827–2835, and S. Res. 346–348. **Pages S4554–55**

Measures Reported:

S. 1648, to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, with amendments.

Page S4554

Measures Passed:

National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 347, designating the week beginning on September 11, 2023, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”. **Pages S4564–65**

Gold Star Families Remembrance Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 348, designating the week of September 24 through September 30, 2023, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”. **Page S4565**

National Day of Service and Remembrance: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 334, recognizing September 11, 2023, as a “National Day of Service and Remembrance”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4565**

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act: Senate resumed 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, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S4543–50**

Withdrawn:

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1207, to change the effective date. **Page S4543**

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4543**

Murray Amendment No. 1205 (to Amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date. **Page S4543**

Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 (listed above) to the bill. **Page S4545**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Murray motion to suspend the rules under Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 to the bill, 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 Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. **Page S4545**

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date. **Pages S4545–50**

Oliver Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. **Pages S4550–51**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 229), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4551**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 19, 2023; that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that upon disposition of the nomination of Rita F. Lin, Senate continue 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. **Page S4565**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jamel Semper, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Page S4565

Messages from the House: Page S4551

Measures Referred: Page S4552

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S4552

Executive Communications: Page S4552

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S4552–54

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S4555–56

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S4556–57

Additional Statements: Page S4551

Amendments Submitted: Pages S4557–64

Notices of Intent: Page S4564

Privileges of the Floor: Page S4564

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—229) Page S4551

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4378.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 5521–5554; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 90; and H. Res. 691–698, were introduced.

Pages H4379–81

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4382–84

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (H. Rept. 118–200).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hern to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H4353

Recess: The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H4355

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Stewart, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Second Congressional District of Utah, effective at the close of the day September 15, 2023. Page H4356

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Utah, Mr. Stewart, the whole number of the House is 433. Page H4356

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4:15 p.m. Page H4357

Recess: The House recessed at 5:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H4369

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act: H.R. 3981, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yealand-nay vote of 410 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 392; Pages H4369–70

Designating the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic: S. 475, to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yealand-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 393; and Pages H4362–64, H4370–71

Native American Child Protection Act: H.R. 663, amended, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yealand-nay vote of 378 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 394. Pages H4367–69, H4371

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023: H.R. 1530, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish

disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H4358–61**

Amending title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida: S. 112, to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida; **Pages H4361–62**

Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act: 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 **Pages H4364–66**

Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act: H.R. 2872, amended, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act. **Pages H4366–67**

Senate Referral: S. 2795 was held at the desk.

Page H4369

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H4369.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4369–70, H4370–71, and H4371.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2023; 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; THE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND BORDER SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT, 2024

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”; 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; and H.R. 5525, the “Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act, 2024”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”, H. Res. 684, Con-

demning 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, and H.R. 5525, the “Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act, 2024”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommend. The rule further provides for consideration of 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, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 684. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 5525, the “Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act, 2024”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman DeLauro, and Representatives Duncan, DeGette, Tiffany, Nadler, Joyce of Ohio, and Bice.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Federal Communications Commission, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine aging in place, focusing on the vital role of home health in access to care, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight, to hold hearings to examine advanced technology, focusing on threats to national security, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine corporate manipulation of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine advancing intelligence in the era of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on addressing the national security implications of AI, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Defense Cooperation with Taiwan”, 10:35 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Academic Freedom Under Attack: Loosening the CCP’s Grip on America’s Classrooms”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Policies to Improve Seniors’ Access to Innovative Drugs, Medical Devices, and Technology”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Protecting American Manufacturing: Examining EPA’s PM2.5 Proposed Rule”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Divi-

sion of Investment Management”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “A Holistic Review of Regulators: Regulatory Overreach and Economic Consequences”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Efforts to Address Ritual Abuse and Sacrifice in Africa”, 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Evaluating CISA’s Federal Civilian Executive Branch Cybersecurity Programs”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Oversight of United States Capitol Security: Assessing Security Failures on January 6, 2021”, 3 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled “Examining Proposed Constitutional Amendments”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Examining Barriers to Access in Federal Waters: A Closer Look at the Marine Sanctuary and Monument System”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Examining the Biden Administration’s Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program”, 10:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 1657, the “Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act of 2023”; H.R. 3107, the “Improving Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act”; H.R. 3200, the “Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act”; and H.R. 4984, the “D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act”, 2:15 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets Part II: Not What the Doctor Ordered”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Bidenomics: A Perfect Storm of Spending, Debt, and Inflation”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Chips on the Table: A One Year Review of the Chips and Science Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “FEMA: The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Use and Regulation of Autonomous and Experimental Maritime Technologies”, 2 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "VA's Federal Supremacy Initiative: Putting Veterans First?", 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Reduced Care for Patients: Fallout from Flawed Implementation of Surprise Medical Billing Protections", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Central Intelligence Agency, hearing entitled "CIA Investigation Update", 10 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 19 through
September 22, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: September 19, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Federal Communications Commission, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 20, to hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in financial services, 10 a.m., SD-538.

September 20, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine child care since the pandemic, focusing on macroeconomic impacts of public policy measures, 2 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: September 20, to hold hearings to examine public investment, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 20, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, and Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Douglas

Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 20, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine drought impacts on drinking water access and water availability, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

September 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 384, to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 912, to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, S. 924, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the "Salem Maritime National Historic Park", S. 1015, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, S. 1059, to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, S. 1088, to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, S. 1405, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1657, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, S. 1760, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access

service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, S. 2020, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, S. 2042, to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, S. 2136, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, S. 2149, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and S. 2216, to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 20, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine drinking water infrastructure and tribal communities, 2:30 p.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: September 19, Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine aging in place, focusing on the vital role of home health in access to care, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 20, business meeting to consider the nominations of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, and Tobin John Bradley, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10:45 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: September 21, business meeting to consider S. 1573, to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, S. 2415, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, S. 1624, 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, an original bill entitled, "Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act", and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 19, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight, to hold hearings to examine advanced technology, focusing on threats to national security, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

September 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commis-

sion, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 11 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 19, to hold hearings to examine corporate manipulation of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

September 20, Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights, to hold hearings to examine restoring transparency and accountability in the accommodation process, 2:45 p.m., SD-226.

September 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Jeffrey M. Bryan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 20, to hold hearings to examine improving mental health and suicide prevention measures for our Nation's veterans, 3:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 19, to hold hearings to examine advancing intelligence in the era of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on addressing the national security implications of AI, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

Special Committee on Aging: September 21, to hold hearings to examine ensuring accessible government technology for people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans, 9 a.m., SD-106.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: September 20, to hold hearings to examine Putin's personal prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza, 2 p.m., 2200, Rayburn Building.

Joint Economic Committee: September 20, to hold hearings to examine growing the economy of the future, focusing on job training for the clean energy transition, 2:15 p.m., SH-216.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 20, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled "Industry Perspectives on Defense Innovation and Deterrence", 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

September 20, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Meritocracy in the Military Services: Accession, Promotion, and Command Selection", 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 20, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, September 20, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for Jobseekers, Employers, and Taxpayers”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 20, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “American Hydropower: Unleashing Reliable, Renewable, Clean Power Across the U.S.”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 20, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “Mapping America’s Supply Chains: Solutions to Unleash Innovation, Boost Economic Resilience, and Beat China”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 20, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “At What Cost: Oversight of How the IRA’s Price Setting Scheme Means Fewer Cures for Patients”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 21, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Connecting Every American: The Future of Rural Broadband Funding”, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3378, the “Agricultural Security Risk Review Act”; H.R. 5409, the “Safeguarding American Farms from Foreign Influence Act”; H.R. 760, the “Chinese Military and Surveillance Company Sanctions Act”; H.R. 5472, the “FinCEN Oversight and Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 5485, the “Financial Privacy Act of 2023”; H.R. 5119, the “Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act”; legislation on the Combatting Foreign Surveillance Spyware Sanctions Act; legislation on the Financial Access Improvements Act; legislation on the Russia and Belarus Financial Sanctions Act of 2023; legislation on the Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act; H.R. 3402, the “Power of the Mint Act”; H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”; H.R. 3712, the “Digital Dollar Pilot Prevention Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, September 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Election Commission”, 10:15 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 20, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “IP and Strategic Competition with China: Part III—IP Theft, Cybersecurity, and AI”, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 929, the “Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023”; H.R. 934, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; H.R. 1786, the “GROW Act”; H.R. 3448, the “American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4051, the “SHARKED Act”; and H.R. 4596, the “Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2023”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, September 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4984, the “D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act”; H.R. 5040, the “Cannabis Users’ Restoration of Eligibility Act”; legislation on the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act; H.R. 4428, the “Guidance Clarity Act of 2023”; legislation on the Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act of 2023; and several postal naming measures, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, September 20, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “A Bar Too High: Concerns with CEQ’s Proposed Regulatory Hurdle for Federal Contracting”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Athletes and Innovators: Analyzing NIL’s Impact on Entrepreneurial Collegiate Athletes”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Transportation’s Policies and Programs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, September 20, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Less is More: The Impact of Bureaucratic Red Tape on Veterans Education Benefits”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

September 20, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “VA Procurement: Made in America”, 3 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 20, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Reforming the Generalized System of Preferences to Safeguard U.S. Supply Chains and Combat China”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

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Following disposition of the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rita F. Lin until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 19

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of 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. Begin consideration of H.R. 4365—Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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