House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, September 19, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Ben Cline to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN McCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from the First Congressional District (Mr. FLOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor manufacturers across the First District of Nebraska. Manufacturing is Nebraska’s largest industry. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, manufacturing accounts for 11.81 percent of our total output in Nebraska, employing 9.8 percent of our workforce.

Across the First District, these manufacturers are creating jobs. Nucor in Norfolk, Nebraska, produced 33.6 million tons of steel over the last 50 years. Plattsburg is home to the first creative manufacturer in the United States. Blazer Athletic fabricates sports equipment in Columbus. Kawasaki makes train cars in Lincoln that ship to Washington, D.C., and New York City. You should also know that Fremont is producing rotisserie chickens and other products for Costco stores across North America.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska’s First Congressional District, I extend our sincere thanks to all the manufacturers that are helping make our communities a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Keep up the great work.

CONGRATULATING NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Community College as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Our community college system plays a critical role in educating the next generation of Nebraska’s workforce, and Northeast Community College is leading the way.

The college started with six buildings on its main campus on the edge of Norfolk in 1973. Today, it boasts campuses in South Sioux City, West Point, Norfolk, and O’Neill.

Under the leadership of President Leah Barrett, the college has been making moves. A $22 million investment at the Acklie Family College Farm is setting the college up to become a leader in veterinary technology.

In the spring, Northeast announced the launch of a new agriculture-diesel mechanic apprenticeship program. This fall, the college broke ground on a new facility in South Sioux City to add welding booths and a CDL training building.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska’s First Congressional District, I extend our sincere congratulations to Northeast Community College on five great decades.

MARKING 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS SALES PAVILION

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Sales Pavilion as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

Founded by M.H. Vanburg in 1933, it is now owned by a fourth-generation family. In a day and age when people switch jobs frequently, the sales pavilion has a local and loyal workforce with some employees boasting over 30 years with their team.

Nebraska is the beef State, and sale barns like the Columbus Sales Pavilion are not only critical to our community, but they are also at the heart of our ag community.

I recently visited the Columbus Sales Pavilion during an auction. I can tell you that the sales pavilion is more than a market. It is a place of connection and community for producers across the area.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska’s First Congressional District, I extend our sincere congratulations to the Columbus Sales Pavilion on 90 great years.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MEMORIAL STADIUM

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Memorial Stadium, the iconic place in Nebraska: Memorial Stadium.

This fall, the Huskers are celebrating 100 years of the stadium. Through these gates pass the greatest fans in college football. That has been proven for the last century.

On game days, Memorial Stadium becomes the third largest city in Nebraska, with more than 90,000 fans gathering at every home game. Since 1962, we have sold out every single game. That is 390 consecutive sellouts.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 14:07 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.
ENCOURAGING MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH WATER TREATY

The love for Husker athletics was shown once again at Memorial Stadium just weeks ago when 92,003 fans attended a Husker volleyball match on Osborne Field, setting a world record for the most attended women's sporting event in the stadium last week.

Some of the greatest college football coaches of all time have called plays at Memorial Stadium, like former Congressman Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney. This season begins with the Matt Rhule era, and he got his first win in the stadium last week.

Congratulations to the university. Go Big Red.

RECOGNIZING BELLEVUE WOMEN'S CLUB

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the Bellevue Women's Club a happy anniversary as they approach 100 years in service.

In 1921, the Bellevue Women's Club began serving their community. By 1929, they were already taking on big projects like helping start the first Bellevue library and the city's first swimming pool.

Through their 100 years, this non-profit has contributed their time and money to some of Sarpy County's most significant organizations and events, like the Arrows to Aerospace Parade, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Their club members' support for a wide array of organizations in Sarpy County is unmatched as they give back through the senior community center, Book Mobile, and the Bellevue Food Pantry. The scope of their work through the years is very impressive.

On behalf of Nebraska's First Congressional District, congratulations to the Bellevue Women's Club on their first century, and here is to the next.

ENCOURAGING MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH WATER TREATY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to address a critical issue that is affecting the livelihoods of countless Americans across southern Texas. The drought conditions and water scarcity we are witnessing in the Rio Grande Valley are causing untold hardships for our farmers and our residents.

As stipulated in the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944, Mexico is obligated to provide the United States with an average of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually over a 5-year cycle. Unfortunately, Mexico has consistently delayed fulfilling this commitment, leaving American farmers in dire straits.

This year, south Texas farmers are poised to plant their crops, but they need water now. Without it, they face the prospect of harvesting only half of what they would yield in a typical year.

This has far-reaching consequences, impacting our national food supply, increasing food costs for families, and heightening our dependency on foreign agriculture.

Moreover, communities in southern Texas are now facing water restrictions, exacerbating the strain on families and businesses alike.

The Mexican government bears a responsibility to honor the terms of this treaty. American farmers and ranchers should not bear the burden of Mexico's failure to uphold its end of the bargain.

I implore the Biden administration to take immediate action and hold Mexico accountable. Failure to convene official meetings addressing this issue will result in catastrophic consequences for southern Texas farmers.

Just last week, I had the privilege of introducing a bipartisan House resolution aimed at bolstering diplomatic relations to encourage Mexico's compliance with the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944. This historic resolution underscores our support for negotiations that ensure more predictable water deliveries to the United States and it urges new commitments to guarantee at least 350,000 acre-feet of water are delivered annually.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored this crucial resolution.

I also thank all the local officials from my community who have been working closely with me on this matter.

Together, we are sending a powerful message: Clean water is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue.

Through collaboration and diplomatic engagement, we can forge a framework for responsible water management that benefits both of our great nations.

Let us stand united in ensuring that the promises of the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944 are not just ink on paper but a lifeline for the American farmers who feed our Nation.

CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENNETT COLLEGE

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Bennett College, which I have cosponsored this crucial resolution.

Today, Bennett continues to educate young minds and produce changemakers.

Bennett has been an influential institution in our Nation's history, as well as a pillar of outstanding education in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Congratulations to the Bennett Belles on 150 years of excellence.

HONORING BASIS ORO VALLEY SCHOOL

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of BASIS Oro Valley, a school in my district that has been included in U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best High Schools, securing the 21st position.

This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, educators, and the entire school community.

BASIS Oro Valley prides themselves on their award-winning STEM curriculum and liberal arts program to help children pursue their dreams.

From advanced AP courses to high-level music classes, this school has something for everyone.
CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHRIS BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to thank President Chris Bailey, who is retiring after dedicating 12 years to Lower Columbia College. Throughout his tenure, he diligently served students, staff, and the community, transforming Lower Community College into a vital educational hub in the region.

As a testament to Chris' leadership, Lower Columbia College developed the Lower Columbia Regional Center, enabling folks to work and access higher education pathways. Chris was pivotal in introducing the college's first two bachelor of applied science degrees, as well as a vocational skills center, reflecting his commitment to expanding career opportunities for those at the college.

We have been lucky to have a leader like Chris at Lower Columbia College. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chris for his dedication and wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MALLONEE FARMS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mallonee Farms, a family-owned dairy farm in my district. A few weeks ago, I was able to visit the farm in Curtis, Washington, where I met the farm's owner, Maynard Maloney. Maynard is a third-generation dairy farmer and a member of the Organic Valley co-op.

During my visit, I toured their farm, saw their new robotic milkers, and heard how Congress can support small, organic farms. Maynard is passionate about working for something bigger than himself. He works to be a good steward of his land, and he is already taking steps with his son, Jack, to ensure that the family farm continues for generations to come.

Everyone at Mallonee Farms is fighting hard for their farm, and I am grateful to be in this fight with them. My focus is to ensure that Federal policy supports small, family farms like theirs.

COWLITZ COMPLEX FIRES IN GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Cowlitz Complex fires in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Thirty fires might sound like a bad movie plot, but with 695 acres in flames and 342 hardworking folks trying to keep it all under control, it is the reality of our community.

To the fire forces—the California Incident Management Team 13 and Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team 2—patrolling and monitoring the fires, especially around Pothole, Jackpot, and the Adams Fork regions—your steadfastness does not go unnoticed.

We are thankful that potential threats, like the heat near Pothole, turned out to be benign. The task forces' preemptive actions are the backbone of our community's safety.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the folks working these fires. Their tireless efforts protect our homes, our forests, and our future. Their commitment to contain these forests showcases the resilience of our community.

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT, SERGEANT RICHARD KELLY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and cherished member of our community, Sergeant Richard Kelly. On August 10, Sergeant Kelly unexpectedly died due to a medical emergency while in the line of duty. He was only 54.

Sergeant Kelly's commitment to safeguarding our community was unwavering. He served the Battle Ground Police Department since 2005, where he ultimately rose to the rank of sergeant in 2019.

Not only was he an officer of the law, he was a husband, father, brother, and pillar of our community. He was respected and loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

I personally recall his attentive presence at my Battle Ground townhall, a testament to his deep sense of duty and compassion for the people that he served. His loss leaves a void in our community and in the hearts of all who knew him.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Sergeant Richard Kelly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his colleagues, and the entire Battle Ground community during this time.

May his dedication serve as a lasting inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL ZACHARY "ZAC" CLAYTON MERRILL

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Corporal Zachary "Zac" Clayton Merrill, who passed away on August 20.

After graduating from college, Zac joined the Armed Forces, distinguishing himself as captain of the 82nd airborne and leading an explosive ordnance team in Afghanistan.

His commitment and valor earned him the Bronze Star among other commendations. After the Army, Zac's call to service led him to the Vancouver Police Department, where he became an integral member of the crisis negotiation team and was eventually named unit leader. However, beyond the badges and commendations, Zac was a loving husband, son, brother, and uncle.

He also had a profound bond with his grandfather, Stanley Merrill, also a Korean war veteran, which speaks volumes about his deep roots in service and sacrifice.

Corporal Merrill's legacy of service, both on the battlefield and on our streets, will forever inspire and remind us of the sacrifices made by those who choose to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING DR. THOMAS J. WALTERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Dr. Thomas J. Walters, for his 44 years of service to the United States.

Director Walters oversaw the training and management program for new law enforcement officers across the country, including those at the Glynco, Georgia, campus in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude toward Director Walters for his dedication to law enforcement and his service to others. I welcome the new FLETC director, Benjamin "Carry" Huffman, and wish him the best of luck.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID LEONARD SHARPE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lieutenant Colonel David Leonard Sharpe. At the age of 81, he leaves behind a legacy of bravery, leadership, and selflessness. Mr. Sharpe graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School and became the first Army Ranger in the Georgia National Guard. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves in the Georgia National Guard for 41 years, from 1960 to 2001.

We remember him not only for his military accomplishments, but also for his dedication to his community. He excelled as a mechanical drawing teacher at Glynn Academy high school in Brunswick. In the summers, he worked on commercial and residential planning.

I know Mr. Sharpe's legacy will live on in the positive impact he had on his
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Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Georgia’s Presidency and Natural Resources. Dale Greene, for his decades of accomplishments before he retires at the end of the year.

Greene has consistently displayed his passion for his students and teaching throughout his time working at UGA, and he has been a key factor in the success of many young leaders. Greene joined the University of Georgia in 1986, and since then he has won several awards, including but not limited to, the Herrick Award for Superior Teaching, the Wise Owl Award, the Silver Beaver Award from the Georgia Boy Scouts of America, and the Billy Hudson Distinguished Citizen Award.

Greene was also inducted into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame in 2007 for his efforts in expanding research and funding to his university. I am proud to commemorate such a hard-working individual that has aided in so many Georgians’ postgraduate successes in agriculture.

The Crab Shack

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Crab Shack for being named one of the best seafood restaurants in the United States by the Food Network.

On the charming Tybee Island of Georgia sits The Crab Shack, known for its outstanding fresh seafood, river views on the marsh of Chimney Creek, and extensive choice of in-house events.

This unique restaurant is a perfect spot for vacationing families with a wide range of food options, activities, and incredible southern hospitality service. Savannah locals, Jack and Belinda Flanigan, developed The Crab Shack known for its outstanding fresh seafood, river views on the marsh of Chimney Creek, and extensive choice of in-house events.

An alligator enclosure on the property’s outer boundaries attracts numerous people who come to feed the young gators. I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of this local restaurant, which brings many visitors to the beautiful islands of Georgia.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS SINCE THE COUP IN CHILE

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the coup in Chile. It is important to note the role that the House played in declassifying documents related to the United States’ role in the coup of Allende and the Presidency of Pinochet.

I rise to pay tribute to our former colleague, Maurice Hinchey who in 1999 introduced legislation to declassify documents related to the coup in Chile. Following his leadership, I took his legislation to the House Intelligence Committee conference.

In our markup of the conference report, the Authorization for the Central Intelligence Act for fiscal year 2000, I was successful in getting an amendment passed in committee that mirrored the Hinchey legislation. This language was sustained on the floor and when the FY 2000 Intelligence bill was signed by President Clinton, we were able to pass the legislation.

The legislation stated that no longer than 270 days following enactment—wanted a shorter period of time, they wanted a longer period of time. This was the compromise—270 days following the enactment, the CIA had to submit a report on all of its activities in various events in Chile in three categories: the assassination of President Salvador Allende; the ascension of Pinochet to the Presidency; and the violation of human rights committed by the henchman of President Pinochet.

In 2001, therefore, the CIA prepared 16,000 documents for declassification. Since then, thousands more documents—maybe up around 23,000 documents—have been declassified.

During the debate on the FY 2000 legislation, it was argued that the search for documents related to human rights violations in Chile—again, I am keenly aware—was the most unethical and despicable that the American government has committed.

They said nothing further was needed for documents related to human rights violations in Chile. However, Maurice Hinchey argued, in these words: “It is time that the Central Intelligence Agency accounted for its role in the military coup that toppled the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and led to his death. The American people need to know how our government supported the rise of Augusto Pinochet, a ruthless dictator who systematically murdered and tortured his enemies.”

In May 2016, I had the privilege of leading a strongly bipartisan congressional delegation to Chile. When we visited the Museum of Memory and Human Rights—and I would recommend that if you get to Chile you certainly see that—it was emotional and gratifying for some of us to see the documents that we had declassified under Maurice Hinchey’s leadership helping bring the truth to light.

To this day in Chile there is still great sadness about the loss of life and other crimes against humanity perpetuated by Pinochet’s henchman. Last weekend, we had the observance—an event marking 50 years since the coup—President Gabriel Boric spoke eloquently about the importance of reconciliation and democracy. Democracy—he said it again and again. Thankfully, the President had also called for a plan to find the nearly 1,500 people who are still missing or unaccounted for, for their families.

It is my hope that this spirit will lead to more revelations and accountability.

As we mark 50 years since the coup, I salute the leadership of Maurice Hinchey. He was a champion of justice; not only in Chile but found in all other countries suffering under similar despotic regimes, including those affected by Operation Condor.

Operation Condor was how all these vicious dictators coordinated their activities. Maurice Hinchey saw the connection and coordination among the dictatorships in the death and violence in their countries, and in relentlessly speaking out against it, he made a difference.

I am currently still active in the civic life of New York State. He passed away on November 22, 2017, but his leadership in the fight for truth and justice continues to be an inspiration to us all.

RURAL HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field assisting those facing life-changing diseases and disabilities with therapists, rehabilitation service managers, and a licensed nursing home administrator.

I am acutely aware of the challenges many face when it comes to obtaining reasonably priced healthcare. It is especially critical for rural America, like many of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania that I am honored to serve.

As the Member of Congress representing nearly one-third of the land mass of Pennsylvania, one of the most rural districts east of the Mississippi, I am keenly aware of the problems that our constituents face when accessing medical services.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation’s rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable, quality care. Many remain uninsured. Most are underinsured. However, access to quality care remains the largest challenge.

Even when people gain access to health insurance, it doesn’t mean equal access to care. Rural hospitals across the country are closing, leaving patients without access to emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

In addition to hospital closures, a workforce shortage plagues rural America. The patient-to-primary care
physician ratio in rural areas is only 39.8 physicians per 100,000 people compared to 53.3 physicians per 100,000 in urban areas. Recruitment and retention of experienced professionals, including primary care physicians, is an ongoing challenge.

Furthermore, the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the nation has ravaged our rural communities, leaving even more of the population in need of crucial health services.

Advocates for young adults living in rural areas are more vulnerable to opioid abuse than their urban counterparts. The prevalence of fatal drug overdoses has skyrocketed in rural areas. High unemployment and a greater rate of types of injuries that result in prescriptions for opioid medications have contributed to this.

On March 5, 2010, Congress passed sweeping legislation—the Affordable Care Act—which fundamentally re-aligned our Nation’s healthcare system. Some of the goals of this bill, may worst nightmares have become a reality, as the law’s interpretation continues to drive up costs, saddle small businesses with burdensome regulations, and impose unfunded mandates on providers throughout the Commonwealth by shifting costs from the Federal Government to the States.

Unfortunately, what we have also seen since the passage of this law is the consolidation of providers in the healthcare industry. Small and independent providers were unable to bear the burden of the ACA’s various mandates, and many of them were forced to merge with larger health systems that have dramatically consolidated care over the last decade.

Luckily, Congress has been able to repeal key components of this bill since it was first enacted, including the individual mandate. Additionally, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are strengthening rural healthcare systems in Pennsylvania and across the country, we must always look for ways to stabilize and recover from what has been a turbulent few years. Moving forward, we must provide commonsense reforms that improve our Nation’s healthcare system and access across the country, including those in rural America.

One of the best ways to do this is by promoting access to telehealth. As part of the National Telehealth Awareness Week, this week I plan to reintroduce the HEALTH Act, which allows community health centers and rural health clinics to continue to provide telehealth services and receive fair reimbursements for doing so. It is the types of policies that promote access to care for all Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to fix our flawed healthcare system.

Currently, healthcare costs have gone up, premiums have increased by double digits, and choices have decreased. That is not right. It is not fair, and it is not feasible. There must be a better way, and I know that together we will work to find a stable transition to a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America, particularly those who live in rural regions where the need is great and services are scarce.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am taking a moment to recognize a cheerful, spirited, and vibrant community member residing in my district, Ms. Lisa Eck, for her 40 years of public service at the downtown Roseville library.

Ms. Eck embarked on her journey as a young teen, starting at the library as a quotidian shelver in 1983. In her tenure, she has become one of the most beloved librarians in our region.

She is well-known for her ability to captivate the magic of childhood through her lively readings. Dressing in full costume and performing books theatrically are just some of the ways that she captures the attention and admiration of Roseville children and residents.

Ms. Eck’s determination and dedication to bringing these stories to life knows no bounds, and her unique approach makes her a storytelling sensation. Her special touch reaches all generations, as she has marked the lives of tens of thousands of people over the years.

Ms. Eck has an unfaltering commitment to promoting literacy and educational opportunities for our local youth, and her efforts have made an indelible impact in our communities.

As a former English teacher, I understand the importance of developing a love for reading in students and value the efforts of those like Ms. Eck to foster that passion through her creative and innovative storytelling abilities.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to join the Roseville community in celebrating and recognizing Ms. Lisa Eck for her four decades of leadership as a librarian and her continued commitment to inspiring children and adults alike with a desire for knowledge and learning.

CELEBRATING VIRGINIA LAKES RESORT 100TH ANNIVERSARY
Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am taking a moment to recognize the centennial anniversary of a special business in my district, the Virginia Lakes Resort in the heart of the High Sierra, located in Mono County, California.

In 1923, Walter Foster and Charles Foster signed an agreement with the Forestry Department to build a fish camp at Virginia Lakes. After the first year of operation, Walter Foster and his wife, Anita, became the sole owners and operated the business for 50 years.

They quickly found success, as within the first 5 years of the business they built several cabins that housed guests such as Hollywood stars Fred MacMurray, Betty White, and Lon Cheney. They are also known for hosting the 1938 USC football team for training before the team went on to win a national championship.

The resort had a few different owners, such as the Coopers and Bill Newman, before the current owners, John and Carolyn Webb, began their journey in 1974. The Webbs will celebrate their 50-year anniversary as owners next year and are well known for their commitment to community engagement and dedication to providing an exceptional experience for their visitors.

Today, the Virginia Lakes Resort offers key amenities such as rental cabins, boat rentals, tackle shop, and a cafe. Visitors enjoy the stunning scenery of the Sierra Nevadas while participating in a variety of recreational activities at the resort, such as camping, fishing, and hiking.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize the Virginia Lakes Resort for their 100-year anniversary and contributions for their significant contributions throughout the years to their community and the local economy.

THANKING JAIME ROBLES
Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize an exemplary individual who interned in my district office this summer. Jaime Robles ensured that people’s voices were heard, by taking down their concerns and sharing them with me. He even helped people renew their passports and access the services and benefits they are entitled to receive from the Federal Government.

Jaime is a recent graduate of Sierra College in Rocklin and will be attending UC Berkeley in the spring to major in economics. He served as vice president and student senator of the Sierra College Student Senate, vice president of student engagement for the social science club, and is a Phi Theta Kappa honor society member. He is also bilingual, and I have repeatedly been impressed with his ability to utilize that skill and serve our Spanish-speaking constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Jaime has been a pleasure to have in my office and, like all our interns, has been a tremendous help to me and my team in serving the people of the Third Congressional District of California. I am incredibly grateful that he chose to invest his time and talents with us.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I thank Jaime for his commitment to public service.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR MICHELLE LujAN GRISHAM
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, once again, the members of the far left are disregarding this document, the United
States Constitution, in order to undermine Americans’ right to keep and bear arms. Just a few weeks ago, New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham issued an executive order suspending the right to carry firearms for a 30-day period across Albuquerque and Bernalillo Counties for at least 30 days and fining those who don’t comply. This political power grab is a blatant attack on the Second Amendment and should infuriate every American. It sets a dangerous precedent for the rights of law-abiding Americans and threatens the very freedoms we hold so dear. We cannot allow it to go ignored. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the resolution condemning the actions of Governor Lujan Grisham for attempting to deprive the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms.

The people of this great country understand that the House Republican majority will always fight for their Second Amendment rights and uphold the Constitution.

CONGRATULATING THE CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Clarke County High School women’s soccer team for winning the Class 2 State title, the program’s second State championship in 3 years.

After working hard all season, the Eagles left it all on the field and defeated the Central of Wise County Warriors by a score of 7-0.


Throughout the final game, the team overcame challenges, displayed superior skill, and dominated possession of the ball.

This was Coach Ray Hawkins’ first year as head coach; and under his leadership, the coaches, players, and staff built up their confidence to achieve their goals, and they did just that.

Congratulations, again, to the Clarke County High School women’s soccer team on this incredible achievement.

RECOGNIZING MARtha’S MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Martha’s Meals on Wheels in Staunton, Virginia, for 50 years of service, her leadership, the coaches, players, and staff built up their confidence to achieve their goals, and they did just that.

Congratulations, again, to the Clarke County High School women’s soccer team on this incredible achievement.

With the help of Armstrong’s Restaurant in Verona, which has been preparing the meals for 20 years.

In 2019, the program fed 4,900 people, and last year fed 7,700 people. With 60 to 80 dedicated volunteers today, the program is expected to feed 7,800 people this year.

Martha’s Meals on Wheels’ longevity stands as a testament to the civic spirit of the town and an example we should all follow: to always lend a helping hand to others.

I thank Martha’s Meals on Wheels and the volunteers for their selfless service and wish them many years of success to come.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Lord, on this day, grant us Your wisdom, for who is wise and understanding among us? But Your wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy.

Enable us to show that in living a good life, free of envy and ambition, boastfulness or falsehood, all that we do in the course of our day is born of Your wisdom.

And in our discourse with one another, teach us to show love. May we harbor no hate in our hearts. May we not reprove our neighbor, lest we ourselves be found wanting. May we not take vengeance or bear a grudge, but instead, love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

In fact, may the love we first received from You abound more and more. Remind us that You call us to offer this love to one another in knowledge and discernment so that we may perceive what is best in our service to You and to this country.

May You be glorified as we offer this day and our prayers to You. 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.

ELEVEN DAYS AWAY FROM A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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, sadly, the world is in a conflict we did not choose, between dictators with rule of gun opposing democracies with rule of law.

War criminal Putin began the current murderous conflict invading Ukraine in February 2022, shocked to find that the Ukrainians courageously resisted. President Donald Trump provided Javelin missiles and tried to deter Putin with troops in Poland.

Today, the West is united, with Sweden and Finland joining NATO, as the European Union surpasses American aid for Ukraine. Simultaneously, the Chinese Communist Party denies Taiwan’s existence and the regime in Tehran continues nuclear missile development to achieve death to Israel, death to America.

Fellow dictators clearly see the conflict as dictator or democracy as North Korea Kim Jong-un, Putin. Supporters of democracy must remain united as there is no third side to achieve peace through strength. The choice is clear: Dictators or democracy.

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’s open borders.
and it shows where Republican priorities are.

By imposing draconian cuts on domestic programs, their sham CR means massive cuts to programs for people living in poverty and everything from housing support to heating assistance to WIC benefits.

Make no mistake: If we don’t reject these cuts and if we don’t fully fund the Biden administration’s $1.4 billion supplemental WIC request, eligible low-income people, primarily toddlers, preschoolers, postpartum moms, and others could be turned away from food. I can’t for the life of me think of a more rotten thing to do.

Pregnant moms and their young families are counting on you, so let’s drop the theatrics, come together, fully fund WIC, and work toward ending hunger now.

RECOGNIZING KAREN L. KRISCH
(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen L. Krisch of Centre County for being named the 2023 National Distinguished Principal of the Year.

An educator for 29 years, Principal Krisch has served in her current role as principal at Marion-Walker Elementary School in the Bellefonte Area School District since 2017. Previously, she was principal at Bellefonte Area Elementary School, principal and vice principal at the Bellefonte Area Middle School, and an assistant administrator for the Bald Eagle Area School District. She also taught vocational education at the secondary level for 6 years, specifically to high-poverty students.

Principal Krisch encourages the staff and students at her school to expand opportunities for students resulting in excellent representation at the annual reading competition, participation in Bellefonte READS, and raising nearly $10,000 per year for the Four Diamond Fund through the school’s minithon.

Outside of the classroom, Karen participates in a polar plunge each year to raise funds for the YMCA antihunger program and she is a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist volunteering frequently for conservation and State park programs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Principal Krisch on this tremendous achievement.

FIGHTING FOR OUR VETERANS’ HEALTHCARE
(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today beyond frustrated by the crisis in veterans’ healthcare in my community. Right now, we have just four physicians and only two mental health clinicians trying to provide care for over 27,000 veterans in San Joaquin County.

Veterans are waiting up to 90 days to even speak to a doctor or get something as simple as a prescription refilled. This is unacceptable. That is the longest wait time in the State of California and, frankly, it is a disgrace. One of our veterans recently had to have his leg amputated because he couldn’t see a doctor to get his diabetes medication refilled. That is unacceptable.

I know our local VA staff are doing everything they can, but right now we need Secretary McDonough to step in and help. We need more doctors, and we need them now. I have petitions right here in my hand from veterans across our community begging for a response and an action plan from the Secretary and the VA. We need answers.

These brave men and women fought and sacrificed for our country, the last thing they need to do is fight for their healthcare right now. It is time to fix this.

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill to recognize today as National Stillbirth Prevention Day. There are 21,000 babies stillborn in the U.S. each year, and the way I see it, that is 21,000 too many.

One in four stillbirths are preventable. Every baby lost to stillbirth is a heartbreaking that we can prevent, but amidst this grief, there is hope. I am humbled to be joined today by women who have endured stillbirths. These women are some of the strongest people I have ever met. Out of this pain, they have found a purpose: preventing stillbirth and ensuring expecting moms have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies.

The stillbirth rate in the U.S. is unacceptable high. By leveraging Federal resources for evidence-based care, research, and education, we will save lives and save babies. We can and we must do more for moms and their babies, and together we can end the tragedy of stillbirth.

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Latina and the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, I rise in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. September 15 kicked off a month of recognition, celebration, and reflection. We recognize the struggles and contributions of our community. We celebrate our ancestry and rich cultures, and we reflect on the sacrifices Latinos have made throughout history.

Oregon’s Sixth District is home to a thriving Latino community. Each year, more Latinos are starting businesses, raising families, and putting down roots in our State, however, as our community grows, so does our need for representation. I am honored to be one of the first Latinas to represent Oregon in Congress, but that is just the start.

We must break down barriers and hold the doors of opportunity open for future generations of Latino leaders because we deserve to have our voices heard wherever decisions are made—not just today, not just this month, but every single day of the year.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

WE MUST END THE DISASTROUS BORDER POLICIES
(Mr. MOORE of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last weekend more than 20,000 illegal immigrants crossed the U.S. southern border. President Biden’s only solution to historically massive border numbers is to warn migrants not to come and to claim our border is secure. Meanwhile, the cities that migrants end up in are forced to figure out where to house them and how to care for them, and the American taxpayer is footing that bill.

So far this year, over $300 million of Chicago’s $500 million budget deficit has gone to migrant care costs.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, recently warned citizens that the cost of migrant care could mean cuts to city services due to a financial tsunami.

The Governor of Massachusetts has declared a state of emergency due to the onslaught.

Leaders in sanctuary cities might have asked for this crisis by offering themselves up, but the American people did not. The United States is nearly $33 trillion in debt. Bidenomics has caused a 17 percent inflation on the American people, and 70 percent of them are now saying they are feeling financially stressed, but Biden still seems to think that taxpayers have millions to spend.

Let me say this to the administration: You can either close our border or we will close the government.
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, today I rise to honor an extraordinary individual whose legacy has left an unforgettable mark on eastern North Carolina and the Nation—Dr. Nicholas F. Roberts, Sr.

Recently, we unveiled a historical marker, a testament to the remarkable life of Dr. Roberts, a man of significant influence. Dr. Roberts, a Shaw University alumnus, pastor, editor, and public servant, hailed from the town of Sea board in Northampton County, North Carolina.

His dedication to education, faith, and community service set a standard and community service set a standard and influence. Dr. Roberts, a Shaw University alumnus, pastor, editor, and public servant, hailed from the town of Sea board in Northampton County, North Carolina.

As we commemorate Dr. Roberts, let us reflect on the tremendous impact one individual can have on the community and a nation. His contributions are a guiding light, reminding us that our country is only as strong as its people and our future is shaped by those who came before us.

ILLINOIS HISTORY MADE AS IT ELIMINATES CASH BAIL

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud Representative of a courageous state in Illinois, a State committed to progress, justice, safety, and human rights.

Yesterday, Illinois made history as the first State in the Nation to eliminate cash bail, a standard used to punish poverty instead of upholding justice. A standard that kept those without means, especially Black and Brown Illinoisans, in jail for months as they waited trial, while letting slip those who could afford bail independent of the crime that they were accused of.

Some may say we are reforming our criminal justice system, but we are doing more than that. I especially thank Representative Peters, who led the effort in the Illinois General Assembly. We, unlike other States, are creating a justice system that protects the victims, ensures equal due process for everyone independent of their means. The Pretrial Fairness Act is a historic win for civil rights advocates across our Nation, and it is time Congress followed Illinois' lead toward progress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE PRAMILA JAYAPAL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

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

Dear Mr. Speaker: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, the Honorable Pramila Jayapal, U.S. Representative for the 7th Congressional District of Washington, have been served with a third-party subpoena to produce documents in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that only partial compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal,
Member of Congress.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1435, PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4365, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 680 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 680

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; (2) one motion to recommit. The Speaker may, pursuant to a previous order, reserve all time for the consideration of the bill in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 680.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentilman from Oklahoma?

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, last week the Rules Committee met and reported out a
rule. House Resolution 680, consideration of H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, under a structured rule.

It provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees. It also makes in order 184 amendments; more than 75 percent of those eligible for consideration. Finally, it provides for a motion to recommit.

I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, our democracy remains a beacon of hope to the entire world. Billions of people across the globe look to the United States as a leader in freedom and liberty and as a protector of peace. From the very moment our Nation was conceived, a strong national defense has been a differentiator of democracy. Essential to protecting the homeland, international order, and the American way of life, those who seek to do us harm, we must never lose sight of the need to maintain a strong defense.

Yet, America’s Armed Forces remain at the beginning of their military careers.

Although our men and women in uniform give of themselves every day, they cannot do their jobs unless Congress does its job. Only Congress can provide the funding our military needs to fulfill its duties. That is our responsibility. Today we move forward with that commitment as we take up H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024. We must do our duty and make sure that our brave military members can move forward with theirs.

With evolving threats, we continue to face a struggle seen throughout time. The contest between freedom and tyranny is not far from us. From Vladimir Putin’s unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine, to China’s posturing in the South China Sea, to continued threats posed by extremists and terrorists, hostile actors are looking for weakness. Yet, America’s Armed Forces remain ready to meet any challenge wherever it may arise. Continuing to meet those threats requires an appropriate investment of national resources. With today’s measure, we fulfill that commitment and ensure that our Armed Forces will have the resources they need to meet any foe anywhere in the world at any time.

The bill before us provides full funding for the national defense. It appropriates $826 billion in new discretionary spending, which is a modest increase of $300 million over the President’s budget request and nearly $29 billion, or 3.6 percent, over the fiscal year 2023 enacted level.

H.R. 4365 makes targeted investments that support critical priorities. Perhaps the most important of these priorities is to reinvest in our service members. For junior enlisted service members, we provide an historic pay increase of an average of 30 percent, ensuring that we not only offset the effects of President Biden’s inflationary crisis for these younger and most junior servicemembers, but also ensuring that we can retain servicemembers who are at the beginning of their military careers.

I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, not to give credit to the gentleman from California (Mr. Mike Garcia), my good friend and fellow defense appropriator, for this particular measure, both in the appropriations bill and, frankly, in the NDAA. As a result, on behalf of younger servicepeople has been exemplary, relentless, and effective.

The bill also makes continued and necessary investments to ensure that we will continue to have the best-equipped and best-trained fighting force now and into the future. We fund continued expansion of the Navy, making sure that we will be able to continue to protect freedom of the seas around the globe and fund development and adoption of next-generation weapons systems.

However, it doesn’t stop there. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4365 also ensures that the Biden administration cannot continue to put politics ahead of national security. It lifts and longstanding bipartisan bans on taxpayer funding for abortions. It also ensures that Federal dollars cannot be used to indoctrinate our troops with progressive ideology like critical race theory training and instead ensures that the Pentagon's focus is where it should be: on military readiness and preparedness so that our warfighters can defeat aggression and defend freedom anywhere in the world.

All in all, there is much to like in today's bill. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to advancing this measure through a robust amendment process on the floor and onward to final passage. I urge Members to support both the rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. Leger Fernandez, Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair Cole for the dignity and respect that he shows each of his colleagues on the Rules Committee. It is a great honor to be debating this rule with him this afternoon. I must, however, rise in opposition to the rule because we only have six legislative days left to fund the government, and we are considering only one of the eleven bills that we must pass to avert a partial shutdown of government.

I completely agree with our chair that our country is a beacon of hope and that we must, indeed, fund our military in the way that they need in order to continue to provide that beacon of hope and the strength that we must communicate both to our allies and those who would do us harm.

Indeed, America is facing significant security threats from a rampaging Russia, the Chinese Communist Party, and those who seek to do us harm. Instead of uniting us, however, against those very real threats, extreme MAGA Republicans are weakening our military readiness. In the Senate, Republicans are refusing to allow votes on flag officers, so we don’t have the generals, admirals, and top military officers we need to lead our troops. Here in the House, instead of passing what should be and has historically been a bipartisan Defense appropriations bill, extreme Republicans are inserting the kitchen sink of culture war issues that we have seen too often.

Indeed, when we talk about women, this bill is another step in their march toward a national abortion ban. If this bill is enacted, a servicewoman in a State with a total abortion ban that doesn’t have exceptions for rape would not be able to take leave and get help to travel to a place like New Mexico where a woman’s right to receive the full access to reproductive healthcare is honored. Fourteen States have a total ban on abortion. In each of those 14 States, we will find servicewomen who are honorably serving our Nation.

In addition, this bill sets up minoritarian structures and our servicemembers who are gay, lesbian, and all individuals of the LGBTQ community to harassment.

At a moment when we know that some of our bases are under threat from climate change, this bill cuts $7 million from climate resiliency programs. I have been to our bases in the Pacific islands, and I recognize that we must have climate resilience if we don’t want our bases to be under water. By giving up on preparing for climate resiliency, we are giving up a strategic military advantage that we should take advantage of.

Instead of focusing on how we can improve recruitment from our diverse communities in America when we are failing to meet our recruitment goals, this appropriation prohibits funding for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

We know that people of color answer the call to service at disproportionately higher rates, and those numbers are not reflected in military leadership. This bill tells my Latino and Native American communities they are not valued.

Congressman Nzeugge asked the Defense Subcommittee chair why he would cut funding for the chief diversity officer, a position he had voted to create. The chair responded that it was the best way to get attention.

That is how we legislate now, to get attention?

Last week, in the Rules Committee, we tried to remedy some of these awful and unnecessary riders. Republicans voted our amendments down.

All of these divisive riders harm our military readiness and hurt our servicemembers, servicemembers who put their lives on the line to protect us. It is never enough to just thank our servicemembers for their service. We need
Mr. Speaker, I begin by returning my appreciation to my friends, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to my good friend, who I hold in high regard. To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have found a lot of common ground working on Native American issues, where, frankly, she is an acknowledged national expert. I look forward to a long and good relationship with my friend.

We should be unified in making sure our servicemen have the resources they need and the respect they deserve. Instead, this bill attacks access to reproductive healthcare for our service-women and their families. It devalues the minorities, the Latinos, Black Americans, Native Americans, who serve and are looking for us to help them find theROC that still exists, unfortunately.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional hour and a half.

Mr. Speaker, I begin by returning my deep respect, my deep regards, to my good friend from New Mexico. It has been a delight to have her on the Rules Committee, and we have found a lot of common ground working on Native American issues, where, frankly, she is an acknowledged national expert. I look forward to a long and good relationship with my friend.

When it comes to this rule and bill, obviously, there are disagreements. Let me talk first about the point my friend makes about timing and how many bills have gotten done and where we are in the process. There is actually a great deal that I agree with her on.

Sadly, we ought to also remember the Democratic Congress of last year didn’t finish the appropriations process until December. If you looked at it the year before, it didn’t finish until March the next year, after the end of the fiscal year. That late around here is not new for either party, but our friends set the standard last time, I think. We will see how we end up.

My friend made a comment that we had only done one bill. I will say that is one more than the Democratic United States Senators managed to do.

The reality is the Senate didn’t produce, under Democratic control, any bills for the last 2 years—none out of subcommittee, none out of full committee, none across the floor.

We are dealing with a very difficult body on the other side of the rotunda. These timing issues, hopefully, we can all get better at this and work together. I actually think we have something this year in the debt ceiling agreement that will be helpful in that regard.

The reality is if we don’t get our work done by January 1, which is about two months from now, we won’t get anything done last year, we will have a yearlong CR with a 1 percent across-the-board cut.

I don’t know any appropriator on either side of the aisle who wants to see that happen. I don’t think most people who care deeply about the defense of the United States do. We have some forcing mechanisms in place. Hopefully, we will continue to make some better progress there.

In terms of my friend’s point about divisive social policy, I will point out where this started. It is the executive branch that made decisions to do things much differently than we have done before, and usually with no consultation with the Congress of the United States.

Most of the things my friend disagrees with we consider corrective of executive overreach, including violation of the Hyde amendment, which is essentially, in my view, what the Department of Defense has decided on its own to do without discussion or consultation with the Congress of the United States. That is unfortunate. That is something, hopefully, we can work through and resolve in the months ahead.

I will also say that we are just very different in terms of where we think the focus ought to be. This bill focuses on weapons acquisition, training, and readiness. We live in a very dangerous world. We think there is a big difference, for instance, between climate resilience and actively pushing climate change legislation, which we believe the original administration budget does.

We want to refocus on the things that we think matter. We are not going to beat our adversaries if, God forbid, we find ourselves in a contest with any of them and our forces aren’t well trained, aren’t well armed, and aren’t well prepared for the challenges they are going to face. That should be the main focus of the Department of Defense. We think the administration has lost its focus. We see this bill as a useful corrective.

Finally, I want to point out to my friends on both sides of the aisle that, quite frankly, whatever we pass, we are going to sit down and negotiate with the United States Senate and with the President of the United States. As my friends know, the Democrats control the United States Senate, and we have a Democrat as the President of the United States. Wherever we end up, it is going to be a process of give-and-take and discussion, but it is important that the House have an opening position.

The last point to make on this is if we get this bill across the floor—and I do say “if” because there is some controversy about whether or not we will make it, even on our own side. Even though nobody disagrees with the rule or disagrees with the bill, they have other points sometimes they want to make. Sadly, it shouldn’t be with this bill. However, my friends know that the Defense bill across the floor by themselves when they were in the majority. There were too many divisions and splits within their Caucus to even bring it to the floor.

I hope we can, as we take and discussion, but it is important that we continue the dialogue and the motion that makes about timing and how many bills have gotten done and where we are in the process. Being late around here is not new for either party, but our friends know, the Democrats control the United States Senate and with the Republicans controlling the House, who care deeply about the defense of the United States.

The reality is we are doing a complex bill, over half of the discretionary spending of the United States. There are lots of barriers and flash points where we disagree, but it is important that we continue the dialogue and the motion that makes about timing and how many bills have gotten done and where we are in the process. Being late around here is not new for either party, but our friends know, the Democrats control the United States Senate, and we have found a lot of common ground working on Native American issues, where, frankly, she is an acknowledged national expert. I look forward to a long and good relationship with my friend.

If we manage to get this bill across the floor, we will actually, in that single action, have moved across the floor a larger percentage of the discretionary budget of the United States than my friends were ever able to do when they were in the majority.

It is a complex bill, over half of the discretionary spending of the United States. There are lots of barriers and flash points where we disagree, but it is important that we continue the dialogue and the motion that makes about timing and how many bills have gotten done and where we are in the process. Being late around here is not new for either party, but our friends know, the Democrats control the United States Senate, and we have found a lot of common ground working on Native American issues, where, frankly, she is an acknowledged national expert. I look forward to a long and good relationship with my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote accordingly.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am also thinking about last week’s committee hearing and this discussion about the history of where were with regard to the appropriations process. I think there is a very different mood this year than we had in the last cycle, and that is the fact that Democrats have never called to shut it down. That is exactly what we are hearing from Republicans on the other side of the aisle.

We never took that position. We were always trying to work it out, not shut it down. Even though we might not have passed all the bills by September 30, we were working across the aisle with our colleagues, working with the Senate on the other side when we never had a shutdown. What we had was constant movement toward an agreement.

Indeed, the passed appropriations bills passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, both in the Senate and the House. We had hundreds of Republicans voting with the Democrats to pass the last appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern), the ranking member of the Committee on Rules and my good friend, who I hold in high regard.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bipartisan amendment that is made in order and will be offered by Representatives Gaetz and Jacobs to prohibit the transfer of cluster munitions.

Since 2009, the United States has refused to use, produce, transfer, or sell cluster munitions. As a Nation, we could take pride in this decision.

Cluster munitions are indiscriminate weapons. They explode when touched...
by a soldier, a farmer, or a child. They contaminate an entire field of combat, and they remain a deadly threat long past the end of a conflict. Rain and other events can move them from where they first landed to who knows where.

Yet, the Biden administration recently chose to send cluster munitions to Ukraine. I condemn Russia's use of cluster munitions on Ukraine, but two evils do not add up to a greater good. The United States should not have provided cluster munitions to Ukraine, and this amendment is necessary to ensure such a transfer does not happen again.

I also support this amendment because it is not specific to Ukraine. Now that the United States has opened the door to using cluster munitions, we have no idea where else the U.S. might decide to send them.

An international treaty exists to ban cluster munitions. Mr. Speaker, 112 countries signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions since May 2008, and 12 more have signed. Nigeria ratified the convention on February 28, and South Sudan did so on August 3.

The United States and Russia are not party to the treaty, and now each of us has brought these terrible weapons into play inside Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, the only thing that can undermine the ban on cluster munitions is the willingness of governments to use these terrible, indiscriminate weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Gaetz-Jacobs amendment and prohibit the United States from any further transfers of cluster munitions.

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

Mr. Speaker, I both agree and disagree with my friend from New Mexico about shutting down the government. I personally agree my friend. I think it is a dumb thing to do. I think it is a dangerous thing to do.

I have never favored shutting down the government, and I have argued against it. The tactic doesn't work. I think it won't work this time.

The American people expect us to keep the essential services of government going while we negotiate and get to a final solution.

I will correct my friend on one thing. The Democrats have shut down the government. Frankly, they shut it down over DACA in 2017.

Now, I always hand the Democrats this: When they shut it down or do something stupid, they are pretty quick to realize it, and they back off. I think they will do it this time, and I agree with you, it is a stupid thing to do. No, I am sorry, I think you said it is a dumb thing to do, and it is because it causes so much pain for the people back home. They expect us to do our job, and the primary thing we are going to do is fund our government because it is not just the really hard-working employees who keep our airplanes flying in the air, who make sure that our food is inspected so we don't get sick, it is also the teachers in our schools who receive Title I funding in New Mexico.

So many of my schools receive Title I funding. Those are the schools that have the fewest resources, so the Federal Government helps them out to make sure all our children, wherever they live, can get a good education.

Those are the things that will be lost if we shut down the Federal Government.

I point out that in contrast to the 72 hours, in 1995 under Republican leadership, we were shut down for 21 days. In 2013 the government was shut down for 16 days; and then in 2018 they shut it down for 35 days. This is a refrain we hear over and over again. It happens under House Republican leadership so often as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS), a wonderful Member of our freshman class this year.

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from New Mexico for her leadership and for yielding me some time.

Mr. Speaker, each year, hundreds of Oregonians die after overdosing on fentanyl. This drug has torn communities apart, from Salem to Sheridan and everywhere in between. It is not just our State. It is all across the U.S.

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids account for more than 85 percent of all opioid-involved deaths in the U.S. This is an issue that harms all of us, and I think Members of both parties can agree that stemming the flow of these drugs into our communities is a bipartisan imperative.

The appropriations process is one of our opportunities to provide critical funding to the organizations and agencies on the front lines of this fentanyl fight.

Yet sadly, this process has been needlessly politicized by far-right politicians who would rather notch political victories than policy ones—and this shameful Defense appropriations bill is a prime example of that.

By attaching anti-LGBTQ2SIA+ and anti-choice riders to this bill, extremists in this body have turned what should be a straightforward funding package into a political wedge issue.

That needless politicization is especially concerning, given that this piece
of legislation contains critical funding to stop the flow of fentanyl into our country. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to let politics stand in the way of our fight against the fentanyl epidemic. As a new Member of this esteemed body, I did not come here for political gamesmanship. We should all be prioritizing people over partisanship.

This is an all-hands-on-deck emergency. I have talked to my colleagues to dispense with their partisan antics and focus on passing government funding legislation that meets the moment and delivers for all of our communities.

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

Again, there are some areas where I agree with my good friends and some areas where I disagree. Nobody disagrees on the importance of the fentanyl crisis and the importance of dealing in any way we can through whatever means we have with those who engage in trafficking that illegal drug that has killed tens of thousands of Americans.

Quite frankly, I suspect later this week or next week we will give our friends the opportunity to work with us on homeland security measures that will deal with just that.

I would point to, frankly, the abject failure of the Biden administration to defend the southern border. The green light that has been put out there is a huge cost for this massive influx of drugs into our own country.

We are on this floor, Mr. Speaker, to try and deal with that, and we are going to provide our friends with some opportunities where maybe we can find some common ground. You can be pro-immigration and pro-border security at the same time. I think this administration has had a hard time doing that, and quite frankly, most of the policies that it reversed—whether it was building the wall or remain in Mexico—from the last administration were far more protective of the American citizen. It is the reason we have high record numbers of illegal entries we have, the record amount of trafficking we have in drugs, and sadly, in human beings across the border to know that the Biden border policy, which my friends have supported, has been a disaster. It is one that, again, we hope they not only recognize that disaster, but will work with us to correct some of those measures.

Again, I am going to agree with my friend from New Mexico. I don’t believe in shutting down the government. I know we occasionally have some people who believe that, although it is a very small number, it can be a very influential number in a House that is very narrowly divided.

We are going to provide some opportunities both to our own Members and to our colleagues on the other side to avoid that and to negotiate in good faith, but again, I just reiterate a point where I think you and I agree: It is not an appropriate tool. It does not work. I would hope that we can avoid that.

We also need to sit down and work together where we can, and there are a lot of areas in this bill that we can work on.

The last point I will make—my friends talk about the conflicts that we have. In another, Mr. Speaker, I had a conflict in the last Congress when my friends in the House tried to unilaterally overturn the Hyde language, a bipartisan agreement that goes all the way back to 1975 or 1976, as I recall, Mr. Speaker, and when that provision was struck down and I talked to my Republican colleagues in the House, so it was genuinely bipartisan. It wasn’t just something we crammed down.

My friends have changed their mind over the issue of using Federal dollars for abortion over the years. We have not changed our position, and we were able to beat that back even when we were in the minority because, at the end of the day, they couldn’t pass the bills without Republican support.

I think the administration has tried to go around Congress in this case and use Federal dollars without congressional consent to facilitate abortion, other than in cases where we are talking about rape, incest, or the life of the mother. We have no debate over the appropriate use of Federal dollars in those cases. We do in others. It doesn’t mean people can’t travel; we just shouldn’t be using Federal dollars in this area. That is a longstanding principle that the Biden administration is trying to subvert.

By the way, it is a principle that President Biden, until 2019 when he was running for President, accepted throughout his entire career. He was a champion of that until 2019 when his own party moved so far left he had to change his longstanding position in pursuit of the nomination.

Again, this is politics, people are allowed to do what they want, but please don’t cast your objections consistent with a position we assumed in 1975 and have not changed. It is our friends who have changed their mind on this issue, and frankly, it is the administration that tried to subvert the will and the authority of Congress by moving around it.

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

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

The concern that we have with the bill with regards to a woman’s right to be able to determine for herself in conversation with her own faith, her own family, and her own doctors what kind of reproductive healthcare she wants access to is this fact that this bill would prevent servicewomen and their families from taking paid leave or traveling to obtain an abortion or related services if those services are not provided where she is assigned.

Remember, servicewomen don’t get to choose where they live and where they work. There have already been multiple legal opinions that using paid leave and traveling and getting assistance to get to a State where you can get medical care does not violate the Hyde amendment.

Indeed, the Hyde amendment would allow you to get that kind of care if you need it. Well, guess what? In 14 States if you were not able to get that care. That would violate the Hyde amendment in a sense when you cannot get access to it.

Last week in the Rules Committee, Representative McCollum told the story of a woman in Texas who was told by her doctor that she would not perform a surgical procedure to remove a dead fetus because of the State’s abortion ban. That servicewoman did not have the options she was entitled to.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD the 2023 New York Times article: “As Abortion Laws Drive Obstetricians From Red States, Maternity Care Suffers.”

One by one, doctors who handle high-risk pregnancies are disappearing from Idaho—part of a wave of obstetricians fleeing restrictive abortion laws and a hostile state legislature. Dr. Caitlin Gustafson, a family doctor who also delivers babies in the tiny mountain town of McCall, is among those left behind, facing a lonely and uncertain future.

When caring for patients with pregnancy complications, Dr. Gustafson seeks counsel from maternal-fetal medicine specialists in Boise, the state capital two hours away. But two of the experts she relied on as backup have packed up their young families and moved away, one to Minnesota and the other to Colorado.

All told, more than a dozen labor and delivery doctors—including five of Idaho’s nine local specialists—will have either left or retired by the end of this year. Dr. Gustafson says the departures have made a bad situation worse, depriving both patients and doctors of moral support and medical advice.

“I wanted to work in a small family town and deliver babies,” she said. “I was living my dream—until all of this.”

Idaho’s obstetrics exodus is not happening in isolation. Across the country, in red states like Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee, physicians—incorporating doctors who specialize in handling complex and risky pregnancies—are leaving their practices. Some newly minted doctors are avoiding states like Idaho.

The departures may result in new maternity care deserts, or areas that lack any maternity care, and they are placing strains on physicians like Dr. Gustafson who are left behind. The effects are particularly pronounced in rural areas, where many hospitals are shuttering obstetrics units for economic reasons. Restrictive abortion laws, experts say, are making that problem much worse.

“This is an issue about abortion,” said Dr. Stella Duquesant, the executive director of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. “This is an issue about access to
comprehensive obstetric and gynecologic care. When you restrict access to care that is based in science, that everybody should have access to—that has a ripple effect.

Idaho lags under a web of abortion laws, including a 2020 “trigger law” that went into effect after the Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion in Roe v. Wade. Together, they create one of the strictest abortion bans in the nation. Doctors who primarily provide abortion care are not the only ones affected: the laws are also impinging on doctors whose primary work is to care for expectant mothers and babies, and who may be called upon to terminate a pregnancy for complications or other reasons.

Idaho bars abortion at any point in a pregnancy with just two exceptions: when it is necessary to save the life of the mother and in certain cases of rape or incest, though the victim must provide a police report. A temporary order issued by a federal judge also permits abortion in some circumstances when a woman’s health is at risk. Doctors convicted of violating the ban face two to five years in prison.

Dr. Gustafson, 51, has so far decided to stick it out in Idaho. She has been practicing in the state for 20 years, 17 of them in McCall, a stunning lakeside town of about 3,700 people.

She sees patients at the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic, a low-slung building that evokes the feeling of a mountain lodge, tucked into a grove of tall spruces and pines. It is affiliated with St. Luke’s Health System, the largest health system in the state. On one recent morning, she entered her blue scrubs and her pink Crocs and rushed to the hospital to arrange for a helicopter to take the woman to Boise. She called the maternal-fetal specialty practice at St. Luke’s Boise Medical Center, the group she has worked with for years. She did not know the doctor who was to receive the patient. He had only one week ago been in Idaho for only one week.

“Welcome to Idaho,” she told him.

In rural states, strong medical networks are critical to patients’ well-being. Doctors are not to be confused with widgets; they are the experience and a comfort level in working with one another and within their healthcare systems. Ordinarily, Dr. Gustafson might have found herself talking to Dr. Kylie Cooper or Dr. Lauren Miller on that day.

But Dr. Cooper left St. Luke’s in April for Minnesota. After “many agonizing months of discussion,” she said, she concluded that “the risk was too big for me and my family.”

Dr. Miller, who had founded the Idaho Coalition for Reproductive Health, an advocacy group, moved to Colorado. It is one thing to pay for medical malpractice insurance, she said, but quite another to worry about criminal prosecution.

“I was always one of those people who had been super calm in emergencies,” Dr. Miller said. “But I was finding that I feel very anxious being on the labor unit, just not knowing if somebody else was going to second-guess my decision. That’s not how you want to go into a delivery.”

The vacancies have been tough to fill. Dr. James Souza, the chief physician executive for St. Luke’s Health System, said the state’s obstetrician-gynecologists “are a precious commodity, short on supply,” and “are critical to patients’ well-being. Doctors when a woman’s health is at risk. Doctors voted that the departure of “highly respected, talented physicians” as factors that contributed to its decision.

Other states are seeing obstetricians leave. In Oklahoma, where more than half of the state’s counties are considered maternity care deserts, three-quarters of obstetricians decided to leave, leaving the state. “I don’t see any doctor ever getting prosecuted,” he said, adding, “Show me the doctors that have left.”

During its 2023 session, the Legislature clarified that terminating an ectopic pregnancy or a molar pregnancy, a rare complication, would not be defined as abortion—much for Dr. Gustafson. She loves living in Idaho, she said. But when asked if she had thought about leaving, her answer was quick: “Every day.”

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Because what has changed is that now we have 14 States that have total bans on abortion, so we must do more to honor our commitment to our servicewomen.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is a question, Mr. Speaker, of readiness. That is what we believe in. That is what a Defense appropriations bill is. It is grounded in the readiness of the most powerful Armed Forces in the world. It is to ensure that they are ready.

Unfortunately for the Defense appropriations, we are being forced to put this bill on the floor today by the majority. It is unbelievable that they would cut vital civilian positions when the department is struggling to meet its readiness goals.

Civilians are a crucial part of ensuring that our men and women, our combat soldiers, are ready to serve around the world.

These are hateful policies. They want to undermine and attack the LGBTQ community, who are served in valor. We know them well. They have served without question. They have worn the uniform without question.
It is to stop a logistical provision that has nothing to do with abortion. It is to allow for that military personnel to receive reproductive medical services, which may come to be in many different facets; to ensure that someone on- or off-base may have access to their reproductive life that they may desire to have.

How ludicrous is it in this emerging, wonderful, diverse Nation that many look to as a place and a bastion of freedom, that we would eliminate funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion; that we eliminate climate change to ensure that our vehicles are well equipped for the new generation; that we would not ensure, again, that our personnel, our families get the medical care that they desire?

Mr. Speaker, what have we done in years past? We have provided Defense appropriations to be able to support our military. We now have a bill on the floor that is undermining our military. I am saddened by this. I am grateful for the Triple-Negative amendment that has been allowed to be in providing for breast cancer and I look forward to that amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule governing House consideration of H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2024.

I oppose the rule, and the underlying legislation, for the following reasons:

1. The bill, which should be earnestly attempting to best support the Department of Defense by being used by Republicans to sneak partisan and damaging policies under our noses.

2. The underlying bill does not reflect the input of nearly half the Members of this body and is strongly opposed by the ranking members who sit on the very committee this bill originated from.

Mr. Speaker, in order to further promote a culture war, the Members who oversaw this bill are going to put many Americans at risk.

First, they are targeting the many brave servicewomen currently employed by the Department of Defense by directly going against the Secretary of Defense’s promises for them to have access to reproductive healthcare regardless of their station.

Women currently make up one in five members of our military.

Demolishing them from the previously promised ability to check their reproductive health is not only dangerous, but also grossly irresponsible. The loss of these rights also increases the risk for low retention amongst female servicemembers who need these benefits this bill would strip away.

Second, the bill targets the LGBTQ+ community, who are increasingly victimized by Republican agendas around the country.

Regardless of your beliefs, it is important to treat everyone with respect and equality, which this bill does not do.

This bill would prohibit hormone therapy or surgical treatment for gender affirming care, directly affecting those who experience gender dysphoria.

Individuals who feel they do not belong in their own body is a serious issue and has led to one in five transgender and nonbinary young people attempting suicide in the past year.

Our priority as the legislative body of this country is to protect the wellbeing of all citizens, regardless of personal beliefs and ideologies. The language in this legislation would further embolden those who wish to commit harm and violence against a minority group already facing so much hardship, both socially and legally. This is unacceptable.

The lives and wellbeing of those who live across the country should not be put at risk simply to push a regressive agenda that does not promote the diversity of our Nation but rather seeks to suppress it.

This brings me to my third point, which is the underhanded way the sponsors of the bill sought to eliminate Critical Race Theory. Let me be clear: Republicans have a warped understanding of what this term means, and they are using it as a means to remove any diversity in education.

Critical Race Theory is not an attack on white people for their history, just as it does not victimize Black people based on ours. Based on an incorrect definition, Republican leaders at all levels of government have worked to eliminate all diverse viewpoints providing a comprehensive understanding of this country, and instead wash over the negative to present a false narrative.

At the same time, legislation aimed at elementary schools against Critical Race Theory—which again, is only geared at the collegiate level—deprives diverse students of hearing their voice reflected accurately in the history of this multicultural Nation.

Another issue with this bill is the cut of $714 million to adapt military equipment to be more climate friendly.

Climate change is a crisis that requires global attention and efforts.

The refusal to even allow for updating our military alternative source of energy is regressive and promoted under a false message. It was not Biden who indicated that he wanted an “all electric” fleet of tanks as is commonly stated, but rather the United States Army.

This part of the bill stands directly in the way of innovation as well as keeping us from doing our part in the world to strive towards a net zero future.

In 2020 alone, the United States military was responsible for 51 million tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere; more than most countries. But now, when the U.S. Army decides for themselves that they want to scale back on their emissions, certain Members in Congress want to limit their choice.

One bright spot of this bill—though it is a choice by the administration—is the Jackson Lee amendment #233 that was made in order by the committee.

The Jackson Lee amendment #233 seeks to allocate $10 million to fund triple negative breast cancer research.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20–40% more likely to develop breast cancer.

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

This amendment would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty service-men and -women along with veterans, such as ensuring accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates, focusing on improving health screening for physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for triple negative breast cancer as well as post-traumatic stress disorder.

I am very proud of the work that Congress and I have done to address the health concerns of active-duty and veteran service-men and -women, but there are still improvements to be made.

The men and women who are on the front lines or have already completed their valiant service—tying one of the issues and challenges they already must face; breast cancer should not be one of them.

While this amendment is important, the negatives of this bill vastly outweigh the positives. I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

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

Nobody is arguing against diversity in the military. The American military has actually usually been the leader in this area, whether it was desegregation or certainly addressing the inequities between men and women, and we haven’t gotten it right, but I think broadly it has worked in the right direction and quite often ahead of the rest of society.

The real problem here is we want to focus on training and weapons, not on culture wars. We think the administration has gone around Congress in some cases—the Hyde amendment being one of them. My friends have their lawyers, we have our lawyers. I guess they will go to court and sort that out.

There wasn’t any consultation with the Congress, any discussion on this. There was a decision made unilaterally by the administration. I think Congress has every right to be consulted. They don’t have money by their own right in the executive branch. They have what we give them for the purposes that are specified by the Congress of the United States. They don’t get to just make it up on their own.

I know there was at least some discussion back and forth where people were—Mr. Speaker, the Hyde amendment is a good example of that. My friends have their lawyers, we have our lawyers. I guess they will go to court and sort that out.

Now, over the course of reaching a bill, I suspect we will find some sort of solution or work it through one way or the other. I hope we do, because I don’t think anything is more important, in what I think is a very dangerous world, than equipping, training, and preparing the men and women who protect us all.

On that, we have a lot more common ground than division. Again, I think this was a choice by the administration. It provoked a response by Congress. We will try to work it through
by normal legislative means and see where we end up.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN).

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the negative impact that the restrictions on funding for abortion will have on our servicemembers and their families, women of childbearing years.

Unfortunately, in the South, between New Mexico and Virginia, you have a ban on abortion, and in some cases total, and in some cases there are exceptions for rape or the life of the mother, but the mother’s life has to be on the verge of death. Unfortunately, in these States, they make no distinction between miscarriages; they can not, in some cases, lifesaving care. In addition, we have seen that these abortion bans have led to fewer OB/GYNs in those States.

How are we going to recruit women of childbearing years when we say to them: If you get the worst news ever in your life, that you have suffered a miscarriage or you have to choose between your life or continuing a pregnancy, when you are already willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to keep this country safe, you are on your own. That is what this bill with that amendment will do.

Our servicemen and -women deserve better; we can’t have a country that already has an atrocious maternal mortality rate, this will lead to even more maternal deaths. I don’t know how we are going to recruit the women that we need.

I don’t have enough time to talk about our service members, we have to make it harder to recruit a service force that is as fully diverse as the country they serve, but this amendment, in particular, will be dangerous for our military servicewomen or families, women of childbearing years.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern), our ranking member on the Rules Committee.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding so I can vent a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, I just saw a Roll Call story that is reporting that Republicans are pulling their continuing resolution cuts. As far as I mean, are you kidding me? Their crummy CR contained an 8 percent across-the-board cut in almost every program that helps people, everything from medical research, WIC, Head Start, housing. Even border security is cut by 8 percent. The only thing that is exempt is the military budget, the biggest bureaucracy in our government.

They are okay with cutting fuel assistance for poor people by 65 percent. A spinal cord injury patient is able to heat their homes in the winter, they are okay with cutting that, but they believe you can’t find one penny of savings in a missile system in the Pentagon with huge cost overruns. I mean, is this pathetic? As the Republican whip said: The patients are running the hospital around here.

The gentleman from Oklahoma said this is about a negotiation. My Republican friends can’t even negotiate with themselves, and we have 11 days to go before there is a shutdown, and they are going in the wrong direction. It has become more and more difficult to get to an agreement.

Enough. I yield, enough. The Republican leadership of this House is incompetent. They are so incompetent; it takes my breath away. They are letting the clowns run the circus. It is time the Speaker of the House develop some backbone, as they all are just spineless spineless and stand up to the most extreme elements on the Republican side and actually sit down and negotiate an agreement that deals with the reality of our government.

The Republicans only control barely just one branch of our government, the House. The Senate is under Democratic control. The White House is run by a Democrat. You are going to have to negotiate, and you are moving in the wrong direction. Time is running out. Stop this nonsense. Get serious. Get to the negotiating table. Enough of this.

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

I have great affection and respect for my friend the ranking member and formerly the chairman of the full Rules Committee.

I will start where I began this debate. Remember, my friends, Democrats didn’t finish the appropriations process last year, and Democrats controlled all three parts of government. They had the Senate, the House, and the Presidency, and they didn’t get done until December. The year before that, they didn’t get done until March of the year after.

I wish the process went easier and smoother as well, but I don’t think it goes much differently, regardless of who happens to be in control. I do think that we are trying to make some progress here.

Now, my friends are worried about what is cut. They ought to be worried about what is added. Last year was a $1.7 trillion deficit. That deficit is bigger than the entire discretionary budget of the United States of America. It is not just bigger than the defense budget; it is bigger than everything.

It got a lot worse when my friends controlled the executive branch and both houses of Congress. You did over $3 trillion worth of spending outside the normal appropriations process. $1.9 trillion for an unneeded American Rescue Plan when we were coming out of COVID, roughly $700 billion for the much-disnamed Inflation Reduction Act, which even the President now says we have got to, on top of that, pay to themselves either through gasoline taxes or ticket fees, what have you.

Now, we have got a trillion dollars here, but it is not enough. We will just throw another several hundred billion dollars on in debt. We are paying for the mistakes.

I am not going to be critical of my party for trying to push down some of the spending; $1.7 trillion this year. You guys can’t find anywhere to cut.

Now you want to talk about defense? I am happy to talk about that as well. My dad was a career noncommissioned officer at the height of the Cold War. You know what we spent on defense then? Fifty percent of the Federal budget, 9 percent of the GDP. You know what we spent during the great recession? Six percent of the GDP, about a third of the Federal budget. You know what we spend today? About 3 percent of the GDP and 15 percent of the budget.

Believe me, there has been an explosion of domestic spending over the decades, largely driven by my friends, and it is unsustainable. We cannot stay on the path we are on.

On every cut that is reported that the President was against, I would argue about this or that. I have a bill I would invite my friend to look at, try and go back and do with Social Security what we did in 1983 on a bipartisan basis. We need to start getting the spending under control. Democrats have been willing. The President actually voted for a Social Security commission that reformed and stabilized it when he was a Senator. Now,
the White House rules these things out. No, we can’t talk about it, can’t do it. By the way, his predecessor was exactly the same, so Republican and Democrat alike.

I would love to be more restrained in the spending, and I think that is what my constituents want me to try to do, even when I don’t always agree with the tactics they use. They are motivated in the right direction, which is to deal with a $1.7 trillion deficit.

We are making some appropriate decisions. Again, we work in the legislative process. I remind my friends, they control two-thirds of it. By the way, the Defense bill last year, which was passed almost exclusively with Democratic votes, the omni, to be fair, actually had a larger increase in the defense budget than my friends pushed, $45 billion—I actually agree with that, by the way—that this year, where we are basically at the President’s number.

We need to play this game with numbers and what have you. Let’s try to work toward a deal. I think we can get there, but I don’t have any illusions it will be easy along the way. I certainly have seen both sides make mistakes, in my view, in handling these situations over the years. I hope we don’t do that again.

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

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

I think what Americans know is that for too long, Republicans have been protecting the rich and the corporations who do not pay their taxes. When we start talking about spending, we need to talk about what we are spending that money for.

Democrats are investing in rural America. They are investing in our children. They are investing in our infrastructure. What are Republicans doing? Yes, they are adding to that deficit. Republicans put $2 trillion on that credit card in tax cuts for the rich.

The leader they worship, Donald Trump, put $7.5 trillion onto that deficit. The very first bill they brought to the floor of this Congress, what did it add? $114 billion to that cut.

That is what we need to talk about, not just how they want to cut investments and important things like heating for families who need it, our seniors, and our veterans. What are they doing? They are trying to make sure that they don’t have to tax the rich and wealthy corporations. Many, as we heard last night, don’t pay anything in taxes.

Yes, we do want to talk about Social Security. I am so glad the chair brought this up because, Mr. Speaker, Republicans often swear that they are not going to cut Social Security and Medicare. Last night, when we met on the continuing resolution, there is an 8 percent cut across the board for everything but defense and veterans. Their continuing resolution has a 66 percent cut to heating assistance. They have said border security is their top priority, but the very CR we are scheduled to consider cuts funding for DHS by over 8 percent.

While they claim they won’t cut Social Security and Medicare, their own accompanying language in the bill itself, demonstrates that nothing is sacred to them.

I am going to offer my friends, my dear friends, a chance to show the American people that they are serious about preserving Social Security and Medicare.

I urge you all to join us in defeating the previous question. If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which plainly states that the people’s House won’t cut a single cent from these crucial programs that so many of my constituents, so many of your constituents, rely on.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we cannot take this opportunity to talk about this. The bill that they have brought forward would fund world development programs, right? Nope. That is going to get cut. It would also cut nutrition to women, infants, and children. It would cut funding we need for our ranchers and farmers.

Indeed, the cuts that they are proposing would be $8 billion in cuts, in the Agriculture appropriations bill. This would bring the funding level for the Agriculture appropriations bill to a level not seen since 2007.

The bill would cut broadband programs by 23 percent. It would hurt something that is incredibly important to my district, which are rural electric co-ops that serve 268,403 residents. Well, those rural electric co-ops, they serve people throughout our districts, and they serve our military bases. We must fight these kinds of threats.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we cannot take this opportunity to talk about what we need to do in this country to support our military if we don’t talk about our servicemembers and what we must do to protect them and respect them, because they are protecting us.

So when we are talking about our servicewomen, we must remember the number of servicewomen who are serving. It is about 20 percent right now, and the number of women who are serving in those 14 States which have a total ban on abortion is significant. It is 80,000 women—80,000 women, who, if something happens to them like what Representative McCollum discussed, they could die of sepsis.

For those of us who have given birth, for those of us who have had to make really difficult decisions about our health and how we are going to deal with the complications of pregnancy, we feel it viscerally, because we know that it is such a wonderful thing to give birth, but it is such a dangerous thing to be pregnant.

And what they would do to our servicewomen is deny them the ability to give birth, but it is such a dangerous thing to be pregnant.
go to a State like New Mexico when they want reproductive healthcare services.

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

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

I urge all my colleagues to support the resolution.

Today’s rule will make in order the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2024. It will provide full and complete funding for our national defense needs, ensuring that our servicemembers are fairly paid, and supporting the well-being of military families.

It also makes certain that our troops will never face a fair fight by giving them every advantage possible. We make appropriate investments in the development and acquisition of weapons systems and training that will enable our military to swiftly and effectively defend freedom around the globe and restrict the Biden administration from forcing progressive ideology on the Armed Forces and circumventing the authority of Congress when it does so.

Bottom line, the bill targets resources to its new core mission, protecting our homeland and security interests and making sure that our forces are the best trained, the best equipped, and the best prepared in the world.

To my friends, it has been an interesting debate, as always. I enjoy exchanging observations with my good friend from New Mexico, and we strayed sometimes off this bill and off this rule.

It do want to mention a couple of things. The rule, I think even my friends would agree, is a pretty robust rule. We are going to have 184 amendments, a very thorough debate, so I look forward to that.

Second, it is lost sometmes, but we actually basically fund the military at the level that the President requested, so those people who think it is over the top probably should have their argument in the White House as opposed to us. Personally, I would have liked to have done more, but we are going to go with the President’s number, essentially.

Finally, we do disagree about the manner in which the administration is using the military. We think they are advancing progressive ideology when they ought to be focused on weapons acquisition, training, and warfighting, and we think that ultimately weakens the country.

We live in a very dangerous world right now. I actually would argue we are not spending enough on defense when we look at what is happening in the Western Pacific with China; when we look at what the Russians are doing, the acts they are engaged in, in Ukraine. I want a robust budget, and I want one that we come together on.

In the end, I think we will be able to achieve that, and I look forward to working with my friends to accomplish that objective.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 680 OFFERED BY MS. LÉGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

Sec. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives’ commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or debate for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

Sec. 8. Clause 1 (c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Yeas and Nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 27, not voting 13, as follows:

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

The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

A motion to close portions of the conference pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXI, if offered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 680, if ordered.

Adoption of House Resolution 680, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 27, not voting 13, as follows:

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

The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1425

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER) at 2 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII, and by direction of the Committee on Armed Services, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Alabama moves to take from the Speaker’s table the bill H.R. 2670, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree with the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time,
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollocp. No. 395.

NOT VOTING—13

Salazar

NAY'S—27

Balint
Bowman
Bush
Casar
Clarke (NY)
DeSaulnier
Espaillat
Evens
Frelinghuysen

NAY'S—19

Balint
Bowman
Bush
Clarke (NY)
Davis (SC)
DeSaulnier
Espaillat
Frelinghuysen
Garcia (IL)

NOT VOTING—13

Crenshaw
Kaptur
Kuster
LaMalfa
McGovern
Mills

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 19, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilera
Allen
Almon
Armstrong
Arrington
Aschichinos
Bahns
Barr
Barraza
Berg
Berman
Berman
Beck
Belanger
Bennett
Berkeley
Bishop
Bizzarro
Blackmun
Burgess
Burris
Cammarota
Caravas
Casto
Carter (TX)
Carter (TX)

NAYS—19

Balint
Bowman
Bush
Clarke (NY)
Davis (SC)
DeSaulnier
Espaillat
Frelinghuysen
Garcia (IL)

NOT VOTING—13

Crenshaw
Kaptur
Kuster
LaMalfa
Milissa

The SPEAKER pro tempore.

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. FROST, CLARKE OF NEW YORK and KAMLARGER-DOVE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion was agreed to.
PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1435, PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4365, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 680) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 209, not voting 7, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Not Voting</th>
<th>Nays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Roll No. 397]

YEAS—217

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Not Voting</th>
<th>Nays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
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</table>

[Roll No. 398]

AYES—212

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Not Voting</th>
<th>Nays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Speaker pro tempore. The question was taken.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yees 422, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

NOT VOTING—-7

Crenshaw Luna Magaziner Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

☐ 1526

So the resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BEFITS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN OTHER VETERANS

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

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. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yews and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. This is a 5-minute vote.
PAID SICK LEAVE FOR RAILROAD WORKERS

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

Mr. PAYNE, Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the need for the Railroad Workers’ Health and Safety Act.

I introduced this bill to give our critical railroad workers 7 days of paid sick leave. It would allow them to care for their health and the health of family members without using their vacation time. It is a benefit enjoyed by millions of American workers every single day. Yet, for some reason, railroad companies have refused to provide it to railroad workers, but they do provide it to railroad management.

Our railroad workers should have the right to paid sick leave. They risked their health and safety to keep food and medicine on store shelves during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill would allow them to care for their health without worrying about losing their jobs or being penalized. It would also protect them from the consequences of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Issa, Ms. Lee of Florida, and Mr. Grijalva.

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 the table.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to, accordingly (at 3 o’clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 696. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1130) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas; providing for consideration of the resolutions (H.Res. 844) 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 providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5525)
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and subsequently referred, as follows:

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. JEFFREYS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CHU, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOBRELL, Mr. VASSEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CORTEZ of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GILLESPIE of New York, Ms. WATTERS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MILER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TONG, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BIERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYDE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BUSZENSKI, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CUFFE of Massachusetts, Mr. CLEAVES, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CHAUD, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. CROW, Mrs. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. DAVIS of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Texas, Mr. DAVIES, Ms. DAVID of Kansas, Ms. DAVIS of Mississippi, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. DEBENDE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESaulnier, Mr. DOUGHERT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESCHOO, Mr. ESPELAILL, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FORD FRANKE of Delaware, Ms. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOLDEN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GROTHMANN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HENRY of Ohio, Mr. HOSFORD, Mr. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMENY, Mr. KAPTER, Mr. KRAKTING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LANZEROTTE, Ms. LEGATT, Ms. LEVINE, Ms. LOFPOREH, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINE, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McGAVREY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENQ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MORGAN of New York, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. NOCRROSS, Mr. OMA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. PETLIO, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. PETERS, Ms. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINNOKE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RAPP, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARRANES, Ms. SCALON, Ms. SCHARKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHERZELL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SPANGBERGER, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. SYKES, Mr. TEUMUN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. TSUNDERE, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. WEXTON, Mr. WILD, Ms. HIMES, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TRANGARD, and Ms. KASSO-CORTEZ)

H.R. 14. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. TOID, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5555. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for certain adjustments to Medicare payment for items of durable medical equipment that were formerly included in round 2021 of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program; to the Committees 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. CURTIS:

H.R. 5556. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIME:

H.R. 5557. A bill to impose sanctions against certain persons involved in the proliferation or use of foreign commercial spyware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5558. A bill to establish the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial National Historical Park in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. QUIKLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SAAL, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. OMAR, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. FROST, Mr. NADLER, Mr. VARGO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. BALINT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 5560. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote family unity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. WOmach, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. OLLERTH, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LESKO, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FERENSTRA, Ms. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMANN, Ms. HINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. STEL):

H.R. 5561. A bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring a national emergency or disaster for the purpose of imposing gun control; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):
H.R. 5564. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on plastics; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and 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. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. HERN, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 5565. A bill to direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs to end American over-dependence on Chinese pharmaceuticals by encouraging the growth of domestic medicines, by empowering the Food and Drug Administration to issue boxed warnings in the case of critical combination products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, 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. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. LAMALFIA):

H.R. 5574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the dollar threshold applicable to information reporting with respect to payments for qualified film infrastructure expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5575. A bill to provide that certain changes to the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. HOGINS of New York, Mr. LAWLEH, and Mr. RYAN):

H.R. 5580. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain discharges of indebtedness secured by real property from income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. WATERS, Mr. CURTIS, and Ms. BALDWIN of New York):

H.R. 5561. A bill to provide that certain changes to the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5567. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Civilian Climate Corps to help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CASE, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DODGERT, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CARRY, Mrs. HINSON, and Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLON):

H.R. 5568. A bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality and to improve the collection of data; to the Committee on Education and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself, Ms. BENAMICHI, Mr. CUILLAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 5569. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act with respect to reimbursements under the child and adult care food programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MILLS (for himself and Ms. RIVERS):

H.R. 5570. A bill to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, 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 Mr. NORMAN (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5571. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for fair-value credit estimates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ (for herself, Mr. CASAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TUKUDA, Ms. NAIJER, Mr. SCHWAB, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILKINSON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FROST, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ALÉQUIZ, Mr. DELAUNAY, Ms. LEW of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. GUIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. ROCOSA, Mr. LOCAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MENO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. JACOB, Mr. BUSH, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5572. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Civilian Climate Corps to help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GIBSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of Wisconsin, Ms. RAMIREZ, Ms. LEE of New York, Ms. JACOB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. TRONE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of Minnesota, Ms. NUNN, Mrs. McCLAIN, Ms. CARRY, Mrs. HINSON, and Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLON):

H.R. 5573. A bill to provide that certain changes to the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BABA, Mr. ROGOS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. DAVISON, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BREYEREN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SELF, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 5577. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to repeal prohibitions relating to freedom of access to clinic entrances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MCGOVIN, Mr. NORTON, Mrs. LEE of Massachusetts, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSEFORD, Mr. ORTEGA, Ms. CRANE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. EVANS, Ms. HAYES, Mr. FROST, Mr. WATERS, Mr. MCCLELLAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MFUME, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FOURNIER, Mr. MEKES, Mr. NEUMA, Mr. IVEY, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Maine, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BACON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. LAMALFA, Mr. BABA, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. DAVISON, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BREYEREN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SELF, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. TIMMONS):
York, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GHJALVA, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. LIEU, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MENDENHALL, Mr. VALADARO, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H. Res. 700. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. TRONE):

H. Res. 701. A resolution encouraging further development and broadening of the Graham Accords on occasion of the third anniversary of their signing to continue building bridges towards a lasting peace; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA-ELIZABETH of New York, Ms. BUSH, OCAÑO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GHJALVA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE):

H. Res. 702. A resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to protect the rights of restaurant workers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Oversight and Accountability, Armed Services, Veterans’ Affairs, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. CURE of Arizona, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MENG, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SCHOWDEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. SIEWELL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WILLOW of California, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GHJALVA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. TUCKER of Georgia, Mr. T. CULBERTSON of Florida, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MILLIEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H. Res. 703. A resolution supporting the designations of September 2023 as “National Voting Rights Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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; (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 14.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 2 of the Fifteenth Amendment, and Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The right of restaurant workers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 5555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing payment rate updates for durable medical equipment under Medicare.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 5556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Regulates and standardizes the labeling of “Made in America” and Made in the U.S.A. products.

By Mr. Himes:

H.R. 5557.

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, who facilitate spurious activities, that could enable the targeting of United States Government officials or personnel of the intelligence community.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establishing Prairie du Rocher French Colonial National Park in Illinois.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states “[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The rights of veterans and survivors to pursue claims for VA benefits and to submit evidence in support of their claims.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Security Act to promote family unity by recapitulating unused visas, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 5561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent gun control through public health emergencies.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5563.

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:

This bill will provide stability and predictability for working people and their families, remedi ing many of the problems facing workers by promoting employee input into work schedules.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reducing single-use plastic waste.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 5565.

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 requires a report on the Chinese Communist Party’s use of the Belt and Road Initiative to undermine U.S.-led international order.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit elementary and secondary schools from accepting funds from or entering into contracts with the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit elementary and secondary schools from accepting funds from or entering into contracts with the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Maternal health legislation.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 5569.

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:

This bill increases reimbursements for meals under the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 5570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to mitigate the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for fair-value credit estimates, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5574.

H.R. 5576.

The single subject of this legislation is:

By Ms. OMAR:

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Civilian Climate Corps to help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5577.

H.R. 5578.

By Ms. PETTERSEN:

By Ms. OMAR:

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, in addition to the sponsors listed above, the following individuals added their names to the bill:

Mr. SCHUTZ.

Mr. HASTUDD.

Mr. STEHOUSE.

Ms. BASS.

Mr. ROESCH.

Mr. STEPHENS.

Ms. BUCKSHE.

Ms. SCOTT.

Mr. SMITH.

Mr. BERNSTEIN.

Ms. REED.

Mr. STEMPSELL.

Mr. HICKS.

Mr. LAHODD.

Ms. HART.

Mr. CAMPBELL.

Mr. FALANGER.

Ms. VANDERHILL.

Mr. BOREN.

Mr. KREITZER.

Mr. NORMAN.

Mr. HARRIS.

Mr. NUNN.

Mr. TAKANO.

Mr. FREY.

Mr. WILSON.

Ms. SCHULZ.

Mr. HICKS.

Mr. KEECH.

Mr. GREEN.

Mr. SCHULZ.

Mr. MILLER.

Ms. SHIRLEY.

Mr. BOHRN.

Mr. SHAY.

Mr. HUNKINS.

Ms. SCOTT.

Mr. ROEDER.

Mr. HARRIS.

Mr. WILSON.

Mr. WILSON.

Mr. MILLS.

Mr. MILLER.

Mr. SHAY.

Mr. ROEDER.

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H.R. 5110: Mr. Van Orden and Mr. Rutherford.
H.R. 5163: Mr. Norcross.
H.R. 5239: Mr. Bilirakis.
H.R. 5249: Ms. Moore of Wisconsin and Mr. Norcross.
H.R. 5259: Mr. Lawler.
H.R. 5260: Mr. Lawler.
H.R. 5261: Mr. Lawler.
H.R. 5262: Mr. Lawler.
H.R. 5263: Mr. Lawler.
H.R. 5262: Mr. Neguse.
H.R. 5249: Mrs. Houchin.
H.R. 5538: Mr. Tezno, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Deluzio, and Mr. Cleaver.
H.R. 5561: Ms. Bonamici.
H.R. 5590: Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Bera, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Ms. Tokuda, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Ross, and Ms. Jayapal.
H.R. 5402: Mr. Norcross.
H.R. 5403: Mrs. Chavez-Deremer, Mr. Williams of Texas, and Mr. Ferguson.
H.R. 5406: Mr. Green of Tennessee and Mr. Bahl.
H.R. 5409: Mr. Sherman and Mr. Barr.
H.R. 5420: Mr. Adams and Mr. Schiff.
H.R. 5433: Ms. DelBene, Ms. Meng, and Mr. Neguse.
H.R. 5448: Mr. Harris.
H.R. 5554: Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 5527: Mr. Khanna.
H.R. 5550: Mr. Zinke, Mr. Tiffany, and Ms. Mace.
H.J. Res. 66: Mr. Guest and Mr. Yakym.
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. Loudermilk.
H.J. Res. 89: Mr. Landsman.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. Green of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. Keating and Mr. Phillips.
H. Res. 149: Ms. Pentersten.
H. Res. 259: Mr. Garamendi.
H. Res. 651: Mr. Hudson.
H. Res. 674: Mr. Harder of California, Ms. De La Cruz, Ms. Davids of Kansas, and Mr. Yakym.
H. Res. 675: Mr. Bilirakis.
H. Res. 679: Ms. Tokuda.
H. Res. 683: Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Houchin, and Mr. Allred.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God of all we, who is above all yet in us all, make us ever sensitive to all of the expressions of Your Grace. Lord, thank You for the glory of a sunrise and sunset, for the refreshment of the breezes that invigorate, and for the technicolor in trees, shrubs, sky, and sea. May the challenges of these times never blind us to life’s wonders.

Prepare our lawmakers for today’s journey. May they strive to stay within the circle of Your will as You guide their steps. Lord, help them to be ready to solve problems, receiving inspiration from the creative power of Your love. Let business be done on Capitol Hill that will address itself to the real issues and not to games. May the work of our Senators become an expression of Your truth, righteousness, and justice. We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. Murray).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are days away from another MAGA government shutdown. Avoiding one will require the House majority to quickly accept a bipartisan solution. Yet, this week, House Republicans are trying everything but bipartisanship.

Everyone knows that the GOP’s proposed CR is a nonstarter here in the Senate. Let me say that again. Everyone knows that the House GOP’s proposed CR will not pass the Senate because, instead of even pretending to aim for bipartisanship, this bill had zero—zero—Democratic input. It calls for a crushing 8-percent cut to virtually all nondefense spending—8 percent. The House Republican proposal, drafted and put together by the MAGA hard-right wing is slapdash, reckless, and cruel.

It includes cutting investments to the Social Security Administration, to law enforcement, to nutrition assistance, to K–12 education, to small businesses, to rural communities, to protections for drinking water, to lifesaving medical research—cancer and other research—and much more.

The American people need to know just how bad this MAGA Republican CR truly is. This slapdash CR would decimate investments in lifesaving research, hollowing out the National Institutes of Health.

This reckless CR would lower public safety, cutting back on drug and food inspection; weakening wildfire prevention; and eliminating law enforcement officers in the Federal Government, weakening our battle against violent crime and the scourge of fentanyl.

And this cruel CR would gut investments in K–12 education, slash resources for suicide support services, upend Tribal investments, and cut loans to small businesses and rural communities.

Slapdash, reckless, cruel—that is the hallmark of this MAGA Republican proposal in the House.

Then there is Ukraine, which the House GOP bill completely abandons. At the very same time that President Zelenskyy comes to the United States to make the case for standing firm
against Putin, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives is essentially telling him: You are on your own.

Nothing would make Putin happier right now than to see the United States wave our support for the Ukrainian people. Nothing would make Putin happier. Providing aid is not just a matter of Ukrainian security but of American security, too, because a victorious Putin would be an emboldened Putin. We must make the world less safe for democracy and for America. For MAGA House Republicans to oppose Ukrainian aid is a terrible, dangerous mistake that could come back to haunt U.S. security.

Ukrainian aid could have been an opportunity for bipartisanship, but the hard right—against what, I imagine, is the majority of Republicans in the House—has prevented that from happening.

So let me say it again: The House package is slapdash, reckless, and careless. If we choose to work with Democrats, we can work with them to control so much of the Republican Party. Each time, they have chosen dysfunction and chaos. They have chosen to ignore bipartisanship.

But what was true months ago remains true today: There is no scenario where we avoid a shutdown without bipartisanship. If Democrats tried to do it only our way, there would be no bill. But now Republicans are trying to do it their way; Democrats are not. And there are no guarantees on both sides of the aisle who, despite our disagreements, would like to give bipartisanship a chance, and that is what the American people would want us to do as well.

We only have a few days left for House Republicans to come to their senses and choose the more fruitful way. I urge them to reject chaos and choose to work with Democrats. There are real people with real lives at stake here. Hundreds of thousands of Federal workers all across the country could be furloughed. Services that millions of Americans count on could be disrupted. Our communities will be less safe and our fellow Americans suffering from disasters will be less prepared for. Those are a few of the tragic and unnecessary outcomes if the Republicans in the House let the MAGA extreme control their agenda.

The matter is simple: If both sides embrace bipartisanship, a shutdown will be avoided. If House Republicans reject bipartisanship, if the hard right is given license to run the show, a MAGA shutdown will be almost inevitable.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, now on the minibus, while chaos seems to define everything the Republican-controlled House does, here in the Senate we have shown that bipartisanship is key to getting things done, and, tomorrow, Democrats and Republicans will get a chance to make sure that that bipartisanship continues.

Unfortunately, last Thursday, a lone Senator, representing a very small group in this Chamber, tried to undermine the bipartisan appropriations process with procedural hurdles. Yesterday, my colleague Senator MURRAY, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, moved to get things back on track with a motion to suspend rule XVI and filed cloture on that motion. We will vote on that motion tomorrow. I believe that a clear majority of Senators want to see us continue on the appropriations process. I hope they vote to keep the appropriations process going.

Our colleagues on the other side have asked for regular order, and we have worked with them to make sure that that happens, just as it did on the NDAA bill. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for amendments, and we have worked with them to consider amendments. In fact, Senators COLLINS and MURRAY had a list of amendments that was going to go forward with the OK. I believe, of both the minority and majority leaders, that Majority Leader JOEKSON threw the log in the tracks.

Our Republican and Democratic leaders of the Appropriations Committee have asked to consider appropriations bills on the floor, and it is with their cooperation that these three bills—MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD—have been brought to the floor for consideration.

The more time House Republicans waste trying to pass this MAGA wish list, while ignoring chances for real bipartisanship, the greater the odds they will push us into a costly government shutdown.

For MAGA House Republicans to oppose the PRC's request to deliver $8 billion in Ukrainian aid is a terrible, dangerous mistake that could come back to haunt U.S. security. It is only capable of chaos, and this year, sadly, chaos has reigned in the House. It doesn't have to be that way. It doesn't have to be a MAGA Republican-only bill. It doesn't have to be the MAGA way or a shutdown. House Republicans have a choice in the matter, between pursuing real chances for bipartisanship and catering to the hard right. They have chosen to ignore bipartisanship. They have chosen dysfunction and chaos. They have chosen to ignore bipartisanship.

For the American people, the MAGA shutdown will be almost inevitable unless Senate Majority Leader CHINA and Vice Chair RYAN have the opportunity to see their excellent work and hope we can see strong support tomorrow to continue the appropriations process here on the floor.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, now on the minibus, while chaos seems to define everything the Republican-controlled House does, here in the Senate we have shown that bipartisanship is key to getting things done, and, tomorrow, Democrats and Republicans will get a chance to make sure that that bipartisanship continues.

Unfortunately, last Thursday, a lone Senator, representing a very small group in this Chamber, tried to undermine the bipartisan appropriations process with procedural hurdles. Yesterday, my colleague Senator MURRAY, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, moved to get things back on track with a motion to suspend rule XVI and filed cloture on that motion. We will vote on that motion tomorrow. I believe that a clear majority of Senators want to see us continue on the appropriations process. I hope they vote to keep the appropriations process going.

Our colleagues on the other side have asked for regular order, and we have worked with them to make sure that that happens, just as it did on the NDAA bill. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for amendments, and we have worked with them to consider amendments. In fact, Senators COLLINS and MURRAY had a list of amendments that was going to go forward with the OK. I believe, of both the minority and majority leaders, that Majority Leader JOEKSON threw the log in the tracks.

Our Republican and Democratic leaders of the Appropriations Committee
States does due to our global interests and power projection requirements.

Beijing’s decades-long modernization campaign has paid dividends for the PRC. Just last week, the Wall Street Journal detailed the significant gains China has made in fielding hypersonic weapons and how such efforts have outpaced those of our own country. America also lags in shipbuilding. The infrastructure constraints that keep us from building more ships, testing more hypersonic vehicles, and training more pilots are well known. But the cold truth is that China, which has a shipbuilding capacity more than 200 times that of the United States, is set to reach 400 ships in 2 years, while the U.S. Navy is aiming for 350 ships—listen to this—by 2045.

This is precisely why Senate Republicans, led by Senator Shelby and Senator WICKER, pushed for an amendment to the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework to create a Defense Infrastructure Fund and expand our capacity for testing, training, and production. Unfortunately, the Democratic leader did not allow this amendment to receive a vote.

For what it is worth, I appreciate the Pentagon’s recent efforts to catch up. For example, the Deputy Secretary of Defense recently announced an initiative to dramatically accelerate production of autonomous systems at tip level with China, using the PLA. Her remarks were titled “The Urgency to Innovate.” But closing the gap with China and outcompeting our biggest strategic adversary will require more than innovation theater or speeches about revolutions in military affairs. Real progress will require real investments in long-range strike capabilities, real expansion of our defense production capacity, and real defense technology cooperation with our closest allies that increase our share of our concerns about the PLA.

The conflict in Ukraine has finally motivated efforts in America, Europe, and Asia to invest in our defense industrial bases, but if we truly take competition with the PRC seriously, there is a lot more that needs to be done. AUKUS, our technology-sharing partnership with Australia and the United Kingdom, is a step in the right direction. In fact, it will hopefully serve as a model for our defense cooperation with other allies. But these efforts cannot come at the expense of properly funding America’s own requirements for crucial systems like attack submarines.

The Department’s interest in autonomous systems, hypersonic weapons, and long-range fire is welcome, but the Pentagon needs to move at the speed of relevance to field these capabilities as soon as possible, and the Biden administration needs to stop sending Congress defense budget requests that cut funding after inflation and start prioritizing serious investments in the weapons that we actually need.

BIDENOMICS

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, in a speech last month, President Biden claimed that American wages were growing faster than inflation, saying, “That’s Bidenomics.” Unfortunately for working families, the truth of Bidenomics is quite the opposite.

Even as nominal wages continue to rise, inflation is actually rising faster. For the third straight year, the median household income is declining. According to the Census Bureau, inflation-adjusted income declined last year alone—listen to this—by $1,750. In other words, Washington Democrats’ historic inflation has swallowed the gains of a tight labor market and stuck workers across the country with a massive pay cut.

Worst of all, this Bidenomics tax is hitting low-income workers the hardest. The wealthiest 5 percent of households are earning 4.1 percent less than they were 4 years ago, but—listen to this—the poorest 10 percent are earning 6.3 percent less, and wage gains for manufacturing workers are lagging even further behind those of other industries.

One contract worker in Michigan said of his job at a hardware store: “Every time my wage goes up, the price of everything else goes up, and it does me no good” and that the price for some construction materials are only beginning to come down by “cents when they went up dollars.”

So that is Bidenomics, and working Americans have every reason to be sick of it.

The Acting President pro tempore. The Republican whip.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is nothing like summertime in South Dakota.

While I am in Sioux Falls almost every weekend, August gives me the opportunity to travel to South Dakota’s wide-open spaces to meet with constituents and have important conversations that shape a lot of what I work on here in the Senate. It is a busy month. We covered a lot of ground this August, both figuratively and literally.

To begin with, August is fair season in South Dakota. So this year, I made it to the Turner County Fair, the Brown County Fair, where I got my usual Tubby burger in Elk Point, Dimock Cheese in Dimock, Dady Drug in Mobridge, and I met with startup leaders in Sioux Falls. We had some important conversations. It was clear that business owners are facing some headwinds at the moment.

Business leaders in Yankton, for example, discussed challenges arising from the workforce shortages in South Dakota. With unemployment at 1.8 percent in South Dakota, there are workforce challenges in just about every sector. At the Midwest Agricultural Export Summit, we talked about the importance of trade and how the Biden administration has put expanding market access on the back burner, unfortunately. Business owners across the State expressed frustration with high interest rates and higher costs. Of course, we learned last week that inflation has ticked back up. Gas prices are on the rise as well.

And a majority of Americans say the Biden administration has made the economy worse. Bidenomics is making life harder for families and businesses around the country. If the President really wanted to help working families, he would abandon the tax-and-spend agenda that has been the hallmark of his administration for the last 2 1/2 years.

As I travel around South Dakota, I know I can depend on South Dakotans to keep me informed and South Dakota restaurants to keep me fueled. Often, I have to become a bit of a tour guide. A bit of, I should say, “taste of South Dakota” tour. Sometimes I describe it as eating my way across South Dakota—Chislic from Waddy’s in Hudson, SD; a milkshake from Mr. Bob’s Drive-In in Selby; coffee from Black Hills Bagels in Rapid City. That’s just like South Dakota hospitality and a good meal to keep you going during long days.
As much as I love summer in South Dakota, I always get particularly excited when summer turns to fall because there are few things I enjoy more than cheering on South Dakota’s athletes. Kids go back to school; and high schools, college teams start competing. My grandson’s spring sports seasons have begun in earnest. I made it to football games in Brookings for South Dakota State University and Vermillion for the University of South Dakota to support the Jackrabbits and Coyotes in a couple of big wins as their seasons get underway.

And, of course, it is not long until pheasant season comes around next month.

Winter, spring, summer, or fall, there is always something to look forward to in South Dakota. I am lucky to be a son of our State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the adjournment be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, this is my third year serving on the Senate Ag Committee. This is my first time getting to work on a farm bill. The farm bill comes around every 5 years. It sets national policy on agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry.

In less than 2 weeks, at the end of this fiscal year, the current farm bill will expire.

In 2018, this bill had a pricetag of $867 billion, right—$867 billion 5 years ago. In 2018, we said that was too much money, but the upcoming farm bill is almost double that amount at roughly $1.5 trillion. This is the first trillion-dollar farm bill in our Nation’s history.

The enormous pricetag of the bill is driven by an 84-percent increase in SNAP, or Federal nutrition assistance, and a 58-percent increase in conservation programs—in other words, a huge increase in welfare and climate spending. Most of this new spending does not offer support for farmers.

The $559 billion increase in SNAP funding was done directly by the Department of Agriculture through updates to the Thrifty Food Plan. In other words, nobody in Congress voted for this. The $35 billion in conservation funding was done through the Inflation Reduction Act of last year. Democrats are pushing through priorities that cater to climate activists and lead Americans to become dependent on welfare benefits. Approximately 82 percent of the funding in the farm bill goes to SNAP, commonly known as food stamps. Four percent goes to conservation.

Just yesterday, we hit $33 trillion in debt for this country—yes, I said that—$33 trillion. That will be picked up—this tab—by our grandkids and their kids.

This graph here, developed by the Farm Bureau, showcases the enormous increase in nutrition spending and the steady decline of farm spending over the last 50 years. As you can see, SNAP spending has almost doubled what it was 5 years ago. How is this even possible? Has poverty doubled over the last 5 years? Of course, it hasn’t.

The poverty rate has been between 10 and 20 percent during my lifetime—10 to 20 percent. We spent $20 trillion in the war on poverty, and we have not even moved the needle. What does that mean? That means we are not doing our job. All we are doing is we are paying for somebody else to do it. So it doesn’t work.

Yet I now hear my Democratic colleagues consider how we fight poverty. We just give out money. If my colleagues on the left cared about poverty, then they would want better results. But nobody wants better results here. They want votes. Welfare spending—if it is in our heads—welfare spending does not lift people out of poverty. Are we ever going to realize that? It simply makes people more comfortable remaining in poverty, and that makes it wrong. It makes it wrong for this body that we continue down this path of poverty and not helping poverty.

Food stamps are supposed to help people stay afloat while they work to become self-sufficient, help them get through tough times—not a free walk in society. It should not be an incentive to stay home other than to train and want to get a job, but that is exactly what it has done. Making someone dependent on government is not helping them; it is hurting them.

The whole purpose of the farm bill is supposed to be to help farmers. What an idea. Yet $7 out of $8—$7 out of $8 in the farm bill is for something else. Our farmers depend on crop insurance; commodity programs such as the Agricultural Risk Program—ARC, as we call it—and price-loss coverage, which is the PLC program; and disaster programs to help them deal with difficult crop yields, markets, and rising input costs.

Farmers can’t control the weather or the price, and that is the reason they need help. We have to remember farmers put food on the table. But there is a lot of people who don’t understand that.

These are some of the hardest working people in America, and they have too little to show for it. Back home in my State of Alabama, I have heard the struggles facing our row crops and our specialty crop producers. They need help to deal with inflation and rising input costs. Farm production costs have increased—have increased 28 percent since Joe Biden took office less than 3 years ago. That is embarrassing. How in the world can we increase prices 28 percent in this country in 2½ years and expect the people in this country to survive, the hard-working people? Farmers included.

Crop inputs like fertilizers and pesticides have increased 100 percent to 130 percent higher than they were in 2021. Folks, we can’t survive with that; but my colleagues on the left are not even concerned about it—not one bit. We are just going to cut back on digging oil and gas and buy it from other countries and be completely out of taxpayers in the United States of America for oil and gas that we can produce here.

Other farm expenses like land, cash rents, labor, and equipment are all adding up. As a result, net farm income is projected to decrease by roughly 23 percent this year. Costs are up, incomes are down, and farmers are struggling to survive.

The $559 billion increase in SNAP spending has almost doubled what it was 5 years ago. How is this even possible? Has poverty doubled over the last 5 years?

We have lost our minds. If we don’t raise those reference prices—and right now, my colleagues on the left don’t want to raise our reference prices for farmers—we are going to be buying all of our food and everything we eat from other countries. It is 100 percent certain. We have got to raise our reference prices.

We have got to help our farmers. These programs and these reference prices allow farmers to continue clothing, feeding, and fueling every citizen in this country and a lot of other countries.

Now, we don’t need to idly sit by while our hard-working producers work tirelessly and barely survive under this Joe Biden economy. I ask my colleagues—I beg my colleagues on the left to wake up, open your eyes, and support our farmers and fight for this farm bill. Raise the reference prices. Help them out. Because if we don’t,
there won’t be a need for another farm bill. Our Nation’s food security is going to depend on it, and the lives of all American citizens are going to depend on it. I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Vernon Oliver to the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Judge Oliver’s long career on the bench and in public service make him an outstanding nominee to the Federal bench.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Judge Oliver received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Connecticut. After spending approximately 3 years in private practice, Judge Oliver devoted the rest of his legal career to public service, serving as an Assistant State’s Attorney in the division of criminal justice and as an Assistant Attorney General in the child protection unit of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General.

In 2009, Judge Oliver was appointed to be a judge on the Connecticut Superior Court, presiding over criminal, civil, habeas corpus, and housing matters. On the bench, he has presided over more than 320 trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. He has also sat by designation on the Connecticut Appellate Court in three matters.

Judge Oliver has strong support from his home State Senators, Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mr. MURPHY. In addition, he was unanimously rated “well qualified” by the American Bar Association. Judge Oliver’s deep ties to Connecticut and significant courtroom experience, as a longtime litigator and on the bench, make him well-positioned to serve the District of Connecticut with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Oliver’s nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Rita Lin to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Lin attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School before clerking for Judge Sandra Lynch on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. During her 10 years in private practice, she focused on complex civil litigation and worked on a variety of matters, including copyright, trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, breach of contract, and real estate.

She then joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California and served as a Federal prosecutor for 4 years. In this role, Judge Lin investigated and prosecuted Federal criminal cases involving public corruption, organized crime, illegal firearms, child pornography, and violent crime. She also led teams of agents in dismantling drug trafficking networks and developed the Northern District of California’s program for investigating doctors who had illegally prescribed opioids. In 2018, she was appointed to serve as a judge on the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. In her time on the bench, Judge Lin has presided over hundreds of felony criminal cases and several jury trials.

Judge Lin has strong support from Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA and was unanimously rated “well qualified” by the American Bar Association. Her evenhanded approach to judicial decisionmaking and significant experience litigating both civil and criminal matters in Federal court will serve the Northern District of California well. I look forward to supporting Judge Lin’s nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON OLIVER NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Oliver nomination?

Mr. REED. I ask for the yeas and nays, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senate from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Gramacho
Hassan

Rosen
Benner
Blumenthal
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Manchin
Markley
Menendez
Merkley
Mukwokki
Murphy
Ossoff
Papalia
Peters
Reed

Sanders
Schacht
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tillis
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Britt
Brooks
Capito
Cassidy
Cory Booker
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Crus

Daines
Ernest
Foley
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoven
Hyde-Smith
Justice
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis

Rosen
Benner
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Manchin
Markley
Menendez
Ricketts
Romanoff
Rounds
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)

Sullivan
Thune
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Gramacho
Hassan

Rosen
Benner
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Manchin
Markley
Menendez
Ricketts
Romanoff
Rounds
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)

Sullivan
Thune
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 37, Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Mary Jo Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Mato, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Gramacho
Hassan

Rosen
Benner
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Manchin
Markley
Menendez
Ricketts
Romanoff
Rounds
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)

Sullivan
Thune
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

S4571
NAYS—45

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NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein
Kelly
Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Pending:
Schumer (for Murray-Collins) amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute.

The argument against mandating COVID boosters on young, healthy people is not just that they are unnecessary but that the COVID boosters may actually harm young individuals. Reports of heart inflammation or myocarditis after COVID vaccination, particularly after the second dose, are consistent and worldwide.

Voter’s Right to Vote Request—S. Res. 236

Mr. PAUL. President, the Senate still mandates a COVID booster vaccine for pages. The Senate COVID vaccine mandate for pages continues despite the fact that the Senate voted 83 to 11 to repeal the military COVID vaccine mandate. So why in the world would we continue a mandate on pages that we have repealed for our soldiers? Is there any science to support continuing this mandate? The answer is an emphatic no.

The science has been clear since the early spring of 2020. Healthy children are not seriously or critically infected by COVID. In fact, several large studies show that healthy children are rarely hospitalized and that deaths from COVID in healthy children are virtually nonexistent.

Dr. Martin Makary of Johns Hopkins describes a large, nationwide study in Israel that found that the risk of COVID death in people under 30 with two vaccines was essentially zero. A nationwide study from Germany showed zero COVID deaths among children over 5 who had no comorbidities. Even the head of the WHO, Soumya Swaminathan, concluded that there is no evidence right now that suggests healthy children and adolescents need boosters. Yet here we are, with Democrats desperately clinging to COVID vaccine mandates for young people who have essentially zero risk of dying from COVID.

Common sense should prevail, and the Senate should repeal this mandate, just as we did for our young soldiers.

We shouldn’t allow politics to infect and infect our health-care system. The vaccine committees that make recommendations for vaccines actually don’t recommend COVID boosters for young, healthy individuals. The FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted to limit COVID vaccines to adults over 65. They wanted, because of the risk profile of the COVID vaccine, to limit it to people who were at risk for dying from COVID. A CDC vaccine panel also voted against recommending boosters for young, healthy individuals. But these committees that have lifelong scientists on them voted not to advise the booster vaccine for adolescents overruled by a political appointee, Biden appointee Rochelle Walensky.

Dr. Paul Offit, who is director of the Vaccine Education Center and professor of pediatrics and infectious disease at Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia, wrote that ‘‘a healthy young person with [two COVID vaccines] is extremely unlikely to be hospitalized with covid, so the case for risking any side effects—such as myocarditis—diminishes substantially.’’ Dr. Offit, a lifelong proponent of vaccines, even advised his own son not to get the COVID booster.

The argument against mandating COVID boosters on young, healthy people is not just that they are unnecessary but that the COVID boosters may actually harm young individuals. Reports of heart inflammation or myocarditis after COVID vaccines have been consistent and worldwide.

A study in the Journal of the American Medical Association Cardiology examined 23 million people across Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden and found that the risk of myocarditis increased with COVID vaccination, particularly after the second dose. This is exactly why several European countries, including Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, restrict the use of COVID vaccine among young, healthy people. Some countries, such as South Africa and England, recommend only one COVID vaccine to avoid the risk of myocarditis.
A study in the Journal of Medical Ethics similarly found about 1.5 cases of myocarditis per 10,000 COVID vaccines but with 80 percent of the kids who suffer from a heart inflammation still having symptoms 3 months later. Drs. Prasad and Knudsen looked at 29 studies across 3 continents and also found an increase in myocarditis after COVID vaccines. The studies reviewed by Prasad and Knudsen showed a little more than 2 cases of myocarditis per 15,000 vaccines.

Even the CDC admits that myocarditis occurs about once per 15,000 vaccines.

Dr. Tracey Beth Hoeg looked at the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and found 1.62 adverse cardiac events per 10,000 vaccines. Now, that doesn’t sound like a high number, but we are talking about a perfectly healthy kid. How would you feel if your perfectly healthy kid, even our government,ador or band member is given the vaccine and comes home with a heart inflammation? It is actually diagnosed with rising heart enzymes the same way that a heart attack is diagnosed. Hoeg found that myocarditis was five times greater than the risk of hospitalization from COVID.

So you are asking yourself, well, could my kid go to the hospital or could my kid get a heart inflammation? Both are rare, but the chance of your kid getting a heart inflammation from the vaccine is five times greater than your kid being hospitalized from COVID.

The Vaccine Safety Datalink similarly found a little over 2 cases of myocarditis per 15,000 vaccines.

This is across the scientific literature, across all the continents, across the world, and is a consistent finding that even our government admits to. But the Democrats want submission. They don’t want you to have the choice to keep your kid safe and make a decision whether or not your kid will have the vaccine. You may well have already had COVID, not another vaccine.

Why are we forcing these kids to do something that I would say is against the CDC’s guidance for healthy kids? How would you feel if your perfectly healthy kid, even our government, admitted to giving your child a vaccine and comes home with a heart inflammation? It is actually diagnosed with rising heart enzymes the same way that a heart attack is diagnosed. Hoeg found that myocarditis was five times greater than the risk of hospitalization from COVID.

Dr. Prasad and Knudsen looked at 29 studies across 3 continents and also found an increase in myocarditis after COVID vaccines. The studies reviewed by Drs. Prasad and Knudsen showed a little over 2 cases of myocarditis per 15,000 vaccines.

A study from January 2022 of over 1.2 million children in New York shows that the vaccine effectiveness was 10 percent. The virus had mutated, and the vaccine had not been changed.

Serious scientist now argues that COVID vaccines stop transmission—no one. Yet here we are, with Democrats saying: You are not smart enough to make your own decisions. We will make these medical choices for you. When we look at the effectiveness of the COVID booster, we ask, what is the vaccine effectiveness? Is it an effective booster? Isn’t this booster now formulated against the newer variants? Yes, the booster is directed against newer variants, but about every 3 months or so, the virus changes enough that the latest vaccine is no longer effective.

In fact, the CDC has largely given up testing the boosters and the new vaccines for effectiveness. Instead, in pushing for all children to get COVID booster vaccines, does the CDC argue that the booster stops transmission? It doesn’t argue that it prevents hospitalization or death. So what argument does the CDC have for continuing to promote boosters on our children? The CDC readily admits the vaccines don’t stop transmission in any group.

As to hospitalization and death, the CDC can’t show any evidence that the booster lessens hospitalization or death among young people. Why? Because the rate is already virtually zero. It is hard to prove that the booster is helping anything when no healthy kids are dying from COVID.

The CDC can’t prove that the booster helps because it is impossible to improve upon the already low incidence of severe disease among young people. In fact, when the CDC approved the COVID booster for children, they didn’t even argue that it was effective or that it prevented myocarditis. What they argued is that the kids will make antibodies if you give them a vaccine, which means absolutely nothing.

I have challenged Anthony Fauci on this, on the lack of effectiveness. An honest response simply means that the vaccine generates an immune response but tells you nothing about disease prevention. It tells you nothing about preventing hospitalization. It tells you nothing about infectiousness. It tells you nothing about death rate.

In fact, you could give every kid in the country 100 different COVID boosters, and they will make antibodies each time. That doesn’t mean they need 100 boosters.

What they have done is they have given up on trying to prove that the booster has any effect on their health, and they just want you to shut your eyes, be quiet, and do as you are told. This is the Democrat policy. This is the inane Democrat voting policy for you: Shut up and do as you are told. Take the injection. We don’t care if your kid might get sick. We don’t care if you might have a choice. We don’t care if you have any say in your kid’s medical care.

In a free society, no one should be forced to undergo a medical procedure against their will. In a free society, no one should be forced to receive an injection into their body that they do not wish to have.

The Democratic Party’s support for medical choice seems selective and inconsistent. What ever happened to my body, my choice?

Vaccine mandates for children, who are at virtually no risk for COVID death, create vaccine hesitancy among the public. The public is well aware that healthy children do not die from COVID, and they rightly have resisted COVID vaccines on their children. But the vast overreach of vaccine mandates actually creates among the public a tendency to doubt and disbelieve the government’s overall vaccine message. Because of the dishonest, over-the-top mandates on children, the public wonders if the government messengers are doing anything other than giving kids vaccines.

It is, however, true that the vast majority of people at risk for serious COVID have indeed already been vaccinated. Over 97 percent of people over 65 watched the news, learned of their friends, watched their neighbors, found out who is dying, and they took the vaccine voluntarily.

If vaccine advocates want the public to continue to listen to public health pronouncements, then they need to end the nonsensical vaccine mandates on our kids. A good start would be ending the ill-advised COVID booster mandate for our Senate pages.
So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 336; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider and modify be considered laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY objected, reserving the right to object. I heard a very similar speech last week when Senator PAUL came to the floor to offer this exact same resolution, and I came to the floor to offer the exact same objection. I guess we are going to be here next week and the week after having this same back-and-forth on the Senate floor.

I don’t know that this is the most important problem facing the country today, but I do know that pages are not just pages. They are students. They are the future of the Senate. I think Senator PAUL’s obsession with permitting people to object to anything that might happen in the Senate, even as a child, is perfectly consistent with the general policy we have in this country of requiring students to get vaccines to require the same of the page population—who, by the way, are students. The second thing to say about this resolution is this: Even if Senator PAUL is correct—and I broadly would submit that he is—that this vaccine is more efficacious and, yes, more efficacious in preventing transmission, this resolution is permanent. This says that under no circumstances should a Senate page be required to have a vaccination.

That is bad policy. I would rather have this question be up to the Attend- ing Physician, to the adults who run the Page Program, to have mandates from the cleaning staff to ensure that we are following the recommendations of the healthcare policy of our pages.

I think this is really bad policy, but I also think it is super dangerous because, really, the question of whether a handful of pages in the Senate have a vaccination is not worthy of a half an hour of back and forth between two U.S. Senators. What this ends up being is another wedge to try to drive apart the American public from a belief in science and vaccines.

This is a longstanding effort by Senator PAUL and others to question the validity of vaccines. The stories of the development of vaccines. The stories of the development of the smallpox vaccine and the polio vaccine were all tremendously scientific successes, and there continue to be. My argument is simply for medical freedom. Now, there has been a disingenuous argument made by the other side. They say that I am proposing a mandate, that this will be a legal mandate and that there is no mandate. If you take your third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth vaccine? Release the data. But, in a free country, we make these decisions.

The other side argued that, well, what if one of the pages has health conditions. No part of our resolution says anything about them not getting a vaccine. Anybody in this country can freely get a vaccine. If their parents and they desire to get a vaccine, by all means, they do it. Nothing in our resolution would prevent pages or anyone else from getting a vaccine. What I am arguing for is freedom.
As far as the idea that this will be permanent and unwavering and won’t be able to recognize what new diseases come upon us, every new disease requires reevaluation—every new disease. It doesn’t mean the concept of freedom changes. What would happen is everyone would hear this.

The evaluation of this vaccine when it first came out at the end of 2020, early 2021, was different than it is now, frankly. It is also different if you have had it. People should just be honest with you.

I am not saying don’t take a booster or that you can’t take a booster. Go take all you want. I am saying the government’s job should be to give you information, and I am saying the opposite of what he actually made a point of.

Vaccine hesitancy or people under-mining the belief that vaccines work comes from people who tell you things that are dishonest and untrue. There is no science behind any of what I am saying here. There is no science that the booster for your children reduces the transmission of the disease. There is no reduction in your child’s ability to get COVID if they take a COVID-19 vaccine. The other side accepts this. Rochelle Walensky, Biden’s nominee, accepts this—no change in transmission with the vaccine.

How about hospitalization and death? There is still some data that people at risk for this can have reduced hospitalization, not transmission. They can still catch it, but maybe reduced hospitalization and death.

Most of this data came in the previous iterations, when we had the wild variety in 2020. Then we got Delta. Then we got Omicron. But we have now advanced two or three iterations out. And the one thing we are lucky about that the government should be honest with you is that with each successive iteration, with each successive mutation and variant, the good news is this: It has become less deadly. It has become less deadly because the virus is now less deadly but also because the community has more immunity. So immunity has developed; the virus has evolved to become less deadly, and we are in a much better situation.

But government medicine and government health policy shouldn’t be about telling Americans what to do. It should be about providing information.

The government should never be in the business of mandating, whether it is masks or vaccines or any of this other stuff. You wear it. You do it if you want—or your body, take this one.

But there is a lot of conflicting data here, and you really need to be informed to make an informed choice. There is some data the government is still preventing from being released so you can’t tell.

With regard to the masks, we now know that there was a meta-analysis of 78 different randomized controlled studies called the Cochrane analysis, and they found that masks did not prevent the transmission in public. In fact, what they found was there was no evidence that more significant mandates or more significant use changed the transmission at all.

This had been an accepted conclusion by all of the medical world before 2020. We had never advised masks in public for influenza because with influenza, the size of the virus—the same as the size of COVID—is much smaller than the particles that make up the mask. We found that people really cannot wear the masks without touching them. We found that air goes around the mask. But, ultimately, we looked at public, large populations, and we found that they just didn’t prevent the disease.

Does that mean you can’t wear a mask? No. Wear a mask if you think it makes you more healthy. In the hospital, they said: Well, doctors wear them.

Of course we do. If you go into a COVID patient’s room—and I volunteered in the hospital after I got COVID. I got it very early, and I felt comfortable going in there because I had already been wearing a mask made sense to go into the room of someone with COVID. We wore the N95 mask because it actually, if worn properly, will protect from the particles. We also washed our hands, wore gloves, and wore gowns. And as we came out, we took off the gloves, the gowns, and the masks and threw them away immediately. And we did it again into the next patient’s room.

Done properly, it seems—it still doesn’t work completely because, still, a lot of doctors and nurses got COVID, but it is probably worth a try.

In the public setting, it just doesn’t work. Frankly, Nobody can do that. A lot of people don’t know this, but the N95 mask—in which, actually, the pores are small enough—works with something called an electrostatic charge. And after you breathe into it for about 4 hours, the moisture from your breath actually changes the electrostatic charge, and it is not as effective in preventing the ingress or egress of the COVID virus.

But, really, what we are arguing here—there can be two sides to every argument. What we are arguing about, what we are discussing is who should make the choice. The Democratic majority believes that they should make the choices for your healthcare and that kids belong to them.

This is the same argument we had in education in Virginia, when you had the parents in Northern Virginia saying, “We want to be involved in our children’s education.” And you had the Democratic governor in Virginia come out in a debate and say that kids don’t belong to their parents; the school will make these decisions; it is none of your business; stay out of it.

That is what they are telling the pages and their parents—that it is none of their business, their healthcare.

And it could be different for any of them. If a page had a kidney transplant or has leukemia and their parents want them to have the vaccine, it is probably a reasonable thing to do. But if they are young and healthy and have no medical problems, it turns out, if you look objectively at the data, that they have five times greater risk of getting COVID and virtually no chance of being hospitalized for COVID. These are the statistics. People should just be aware of that.

And, in agreement, people could still disagree on this. But what happens in a free country is you make your decision. You make your decision of which doctor you take them to. If you don’t appreciate the opinion of that doctor and you don’t trust that doctor, you go to another. And sometimes, it is complicated. Sometimes, mothers and fathers don’t agree.

But who wants to give a political party the power to make these decisions for your children? How would you feel if your young, healthy football player on your team or your child member or club member got the COVID vaccine and then has a heart problem that permanently impairs them for the rest of their life, when they had zero chance of dying from COVID and virtually no chance of being hospitalized?

Wouldn’t you want your government to release the data on what it means if your kid has already had COVID? Let’s say your kid has already had one or two vaccines and they have already had COVID. What does that mean? Don’t you think having COVID might replace the need for more vaccines?

Your immunity is also broader. The vaccine gives immunity to one protein on the surface, the S protein on the surface of the cell. When you actually get infected, your body destroys the cells that have the virus in, and, as the virus empties out its inner contents, nucleic capsids and nuclear proteins, you actually get a broader immunity.

I speak because we are the left. The left: You want everybody to get sick, and people are going to die. I don’t want anybody to get sick. All I am telling you is people should be given the information. Most of us have had COVID. What does it mean? What does it mean if you have had two vaccines and COVID? What does that mean toward your future? What does it mean toward your need for more vaccines?

But, ultimately, we are talking about whether there is freedom. We are talking about is who should make the medical choices: the government, the Democratic Party, or whether or not we should leave this to parents and their kids. And, for one, say that we ought to have medical freedom. In a free country, every individual should be free to make those decisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, right after workers for Stellantis—the old name of Stellantis was Chrysler, DaimlerChrysler. Their plant is in Toledo. They make the Jeep Cherokee. It
is made by union workers in Toledo, OH, my State. My wife and I each drive Jeep Cherokees. One of those cars once saved my life when a young high school kid, at 40 miles an hour in the middle of the day, ran a stop sign and hit the side where I was sitting. There were essentially no injuries because these are well-made American cars by union labor.

I was over to the picket line Friday morning. I talked with a lot of workers. I know many of them. There are 6,000 workers in Toledo and 1,100 actually. Those 1,100 workers at the Jeep plant are at what is called a tiered wage system where they make fewer than $19-and-something an hour. They have been at this Jeep plant, some of them for 1 year, some of them 3 years, some of them 5 or 6 years, yet they make less than $40,000 a year as union workers.

The reason for that is some years ago, when Chrysler—then Chrysler—and GM were in real serious economic trouble, the union—the government helped, but the union, in order to save these plants, in order to save, essentially the American automobile industry—they did major givebacks of their wages and their benefits.

They set up—management insisted and the workers went along because they wanted to save these companies—they took major pay cuts and set up a tiered wage system. So new workers, hundreds and hundreds—over 1,000 from this plant of 6,000 union workers—were making substandard wages. That is troubling enough that those workers, years later, are still making those substandard wages. In some cases, you can’t support a family on these wages. Yet that is when Chrysler and GM were in such economic trouble.

Since then, we know how well Chrysler—and GM is this now—and GM is doing. We know how well they are doing by a number of measurements. No. 1, Chrysler—sorry, Stellantis; I always think of them as Chrysler and Jeep in my State. Stellantis made $12 billion just in this calendar alone. This company made $12 billion. When they were in trouble, the workers, by giving up a lot and making sacrifices, saved them. Now these companies are so profitable—$12 billion just this year alone. Stellantis—they have essentially given nothing back to the workers who they are unwilling to provide the workers a decent benefit—benefits, wages, all of those things.

At the same time, I met an entry-level worker there. She just started. The CEO of Stellantis makes 560 times what the average worker—make 560 times what this worker makes. The CEO of Stellantis makes 365 times what the average worker in Chrysler—the average worker in Stellantis makes in that plant and other plants around the country.

The fact is, these workers—clearly, we come down on the side of these workers. The industry has done very well because of America’s economic system. The industry has done very well because they have had the opportunity to do well in this country because the workers sacrifice so much. That is why I will go back to the picket line. There may be picket lines and shutdowns in other parts of the auto industry. The public clearly sides with these workers. The public understands that these CEOs are making between $22- and $29 million a year. The thing is, their recent, 40 percent increases since the industry did so well.

Again, a decade ago, workers were willing to give up a lot to keep these companies going. Now, they are immensely profitable—$12 billion in profits this year alone with the CEO making $22–$23 million. The auto industry is simply not willing to come to the table and negotiate in good faith so these workers can share in the prosperity they create.

We know it not only hurts those workers when they are making $16 an hour; it hurts the community. It hurts Toledo, Lucas County, Wood County—those communities that don’t have the tax revenues from these workers were making decent wages. And they don’t have the economic prosperity they would if workers were making decent wages and buying—spending a little more at the grocery store, on movies, on clothes. In turn, all the other things that help create a prosperous economy.

No question, I will continue to stand with workers. I think most of the Senate stands with workers. I know most of the American people stand with these workers.

I implore GM and Stellantis and Ford to come to the table and make a good faith, decent offer and get these workers back to work. They don’t want to strike. Their backs are to the wall. They have no other choice. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARK-KEY). The Senator from Nebraska.

BIDENOMICS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, when it comes to the economy, we hear a lot of statistics. Since President Biden took office and put his Bidenomics plan into action, prices have risen by 17.37 percent. Rent is up by 17 percent, grocery prices by 25 percent, and energy costs by 43 percent. Gas prices have risen by an unbelievable 30 percent.

As alarming as those percentages are, I am most concerned about the individuals who are hurting because of these increases. That is why I was struck by new numbers I saw last week from the Census Bureau. Bidenomics is making life harder for children in Nebraska.

The number of children living in poverty in my home State increased by almost 5,000 from 2021 to 2022—5,000 more kids living in poverty. That is thousands more families who are living below the poverty line, thousands of families who are struggling to pay bills, to buy food, to afford a place to sleep. Some of these 5,000 children are from families who cannot afford any of these things. They are going hungry. They are coughing—or worse. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Bidenomics is making life harder for the more rural parts of Nebraska. Soaring prices caused by inflation are especially affecting those areas in my State. They are especially affecting kids in more rural areas. According to an analysis by an Omaha nonprofit, from 2021 to 2022, there was a 25 percent increase in the number of kids below the poverty line who are located in nonmetro areas of Nebraska. A quarter more kids living outside urban areas come from families that are barely getting by.

Some of these children live in sparsely populated areas where it can really take hours to get to the grocery store, the pharmacy, or to a hospital. When gas is 65 percent more expensive and families will barely break the bank, families are going to struggle with those long trips. They are in dire need of resources. But inflation is ripping away their ability to access those resources. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Bidenomics is making life harder for anyone who pays rent, mortgage, or utilities in Nebraska. The most basic of necessities—affording a place to live—is now a huge financial strain. Close to half of the renters in Nebraska are now more than one and a half times their income on housing. Almost 20,000 more renting households are considered “financially burdened.” That is 20,000 more in just 1 year. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Bidenomics is making life harder for businesses and their employees. As rent encroaches on a larger percentage of people’s incomes, the incomes themselves are getting smaller. Nebraska’s median income declined by 3.6 percent in the last 10 years. Businesses and their employees as much as when all of their money is being spent on rising utility and rent prices. Rising inflation means higher costs, lower salaries, and a harder time earning a living. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Mr. President, I am thankful that my home State of Nebraska has many nonprofits that are ready to help those who are struggling from inflation. These organizations make a real difference in people’s lives. They are part of a rich tradition of charity in my State. Charities can do good work to minimize damage, but they cannot do surgery on an injured economy. The only way to stitch our economy back up is to get rid of this administration’s suffocating regulations—open and free and for all. The Biden administration must hear. It is time for a new approach to the economy.

So how do we heal the economy? We roll back the regulations that are still poisoning it, including those of the ironically named Inflation Reduction Act. We unleash American energy, which will lower the gas prices that...
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have climbed by 65 percent. We can heal our economy by turning the page on Bidenomics and adopting a new economic strategy, one focused on getting rid of wasteful policies and bringing down costs for everyday Americans.

We are now experiencing Bidenomics. The American people are experiencing Bidenomics. Bidenomics is an economic plan that inflates prices, hurts real families, real children, real businesses, and real employees. The people don’t want to experience Bidenomics anymore. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I remember when title 42 went away—the COVID public health order that the Border Patrol used to expel people from the border region in the interest of public health. It was a very practical way to deal with a phenomenon that had popped up along the entire U.S.-Mexico border.

You will remember it well, the Senator from Arizona. It’s obviously not the case.

Mr. CORNYN. It’s not the case.

And for a while it looked like maybe—just maybe—that surge would not happen. But despite the administration’s best efforts to downplay or distract from the situation at the southern border, we now see the Biden border crisis in full flower.

Preliminary data secured by the Washington Post shows that last month—last month—a record number of migrant families illegally crossed the southern border.

In August, the Border Patrol arrested more than 91,000 migrants—in August—people who entered the United States as part of a family unit, the highest number we have seen in any one month. But it is not just the families; apprehension numbers have increased dramatically over the past couple of months in all categories.

We have gone from just under 100,000 detentions in June to 132,000 in July, to over 177,000 in August. I would point out that much of the migration we have seen into Texas has been seasonal because it has been very hot, and it is dangerous for migrants to make the dangerous trip from their home to our border. But that hasn’t happened this year. It got worse and worse the hotter the summer months got.

So when you include migrants processed at ports of entry, the Washington Post is estimating roughly 230,000 migrant encounters in August—230,000.

This would make it the busiest month for border crossings this calendar year. As the New York Times reported, in August alone, nearly 82,000 migrants passed through the Darien Gap, the sole land route to the United States from South America—"far and away the largest single-month total on record."

And the border crisis isn’t getting any better. If anything, it is getting worse, and communities in Texas and those across the country are beginning to feel the strain. El Paso, for example, right across the border from Juarez, in West Texas, is in the midst of a surge in border crossings. It is seeing an average of 1,200 encounters per day.

The Border Patrol Mission El Paso, which provides migrants with food, clothing, and shelter, said: ‘‘We’ve lost track of what capacity means. We are beyond full.’’

Further down the Texas-Mexico border is more than 200 languages.

Senator KELLY, the Senator from Arizona, the Border Patrol Chief, who said: Welcome to the Border Patrol Chief, who said: Welcome to the Yuma Sector. Last year, we encountered people from 174 countries, speaking many more languages.

Senator KELLY, the Senator from Arizona, was there and noted that Mexicali is a city in Northern Mexico with an airport. And so it was explained to us that what likely was happening is that human smugglers were facilitating the travel of migrants to Mexicali, where they could simply Uber over to the Border Patrol and claim asylum, and the Biden administration would make sure they were successfully deposited in the United States of America, perhaps to avoid an asylum hearing that may never occur.

Well, given the spike in border crossings, the Border Patrol—it is no surprise that Human Smuggling Deterrence Agency doesn’t have the facilities, the resources, or the personnel to manage an influx this large, and, actually, that is part of the plan.

If you are a transnational criminal organization and you want profits from smuggling migrants and drugs across the border, what a tremendous idea: Let’s flood the zone with migrants, and then when the Border Patrol is distracted or diverted elsewhere, then here come the drugs. And we saw last year alone 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses, 71,000 from synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

We know where it is coming from. The precursors come from China. It goes to Mexico. It is manufactured there, largely, to look like traditional pharmaceuticals, but they are contaminated with fentanyl. I was in Houston just last week, meeting with law enforcement agents who were confronted with fentanyl poisoning. I wear on my wrist—"I typically don’t wear things like this, but I have for the last 9 months. A father in Carrollton-Farmers Branch asked me to wear this band because of their daughter who lost her life to fentanyl poisoning. It says, among other things, ‘‘One pill can kill.’’

Now, the children who die of fentanyl poisoning, they don’t know they are taking fentanyl. They think it is maybe something more innocuous, and that is part of the insidiousness of what the cartels are doing. They are using industrial-sized pill presses to make it look like things that certainly wouldn’t kill you. Maybe it is not the most dangerous things, like Xanox or Percocet or some other pharmaceutical drug, but, in fact, it is counterfeit and contaminated with fentanyl. And as I said, 71,000 Americans died last year alone as a result of synthetic opioid poisoning.

So the Border Patrol can’t keep up with the flooding of the zone, and here come the drugs, only to be distributed across the country in each of our communities by various criminal gangs. We usually are the ones who can’t keep up with the influx of people, they simply are now releasing them. That is right. Instead of returning them across the border, they are releasing them onto U.S. streets every day.

And it is unclear, really, who these individuals are or how they are being released. How many of these migrants are asylum seekers who have completed a credible fear screening? How many are simply being paroled into the communities with flimsy plans and told to appear at an ICE office, Immigration and Customs office, in the interior at their destination.

How many are given a date to appear before an immigration judge, and how far away is that court date? I read recently in New York, an immigration court date could be as far as 10 years off. We don’t have answers to these questions because the Biden administration has not been candid about exactly what is happening.

And basically, I have hoped nobody is noticing what is going on, but we are noticing. And, oh, by the way, people like the Governor in Massachusetts, the mayors of New York City, of Chicago, and Washington, DC, they are noticing because these migrants, once they pass the border region, they go somewhere, and what we are seeing is the impact on cities very far away from the southern border.

Well, the Biden administration keeps sweeping the problem under the rug and expecting us not to ask questions and conduct appropriate oversight. Last week alone, agents released 100 to 130 migrants to the Western States. The Senator from Arizona, the Senator from Texas, and the Senator from New Mexico, what are you going to tell the people of your state who are being overwhelmed by the load of migrants who are now coming into their state, or, at the very least, will be coming in the near future? How will you assure the people in your state that the Biden administration is not going to leave you out in the cold? How will you assure them that the Biden administration is not going to leave you out in the cold?
200 migrants a day near Nogales, AZ. The Tucson Sector is not alone. San Diego is also seeing a spike in border crossings. Last week, Customs and Border Protection closed one of two pedestrian crossings at the San Ysidro Port of Entry so personnel could help with the migration surge.

Again, the Border Patrol doesn’t have the space or the personnel to accommodate the flood of humanity coming across. Videos show hundreds of migrants are being released into the streets and sidewalks of San Diego, including migrants from as far away as Pakistan and China.

Now, one of the things that amazes me, when President Biden appointed Vice President Kamala Harris as the border czar, she claimed that all of the flow of illegal immigration was as a result of local circumstances in Mexico or South America and as if we couldn’t fix our border problems without basically nation building in one of those states. But either she does not understand or is unwilling to acknowledge that this is a global phenomenon. And who can blame some of these people coming across? If you think, Well, for a few thousand bucks, maybe I can make my way into the United States and stay there—well, maybe it is a good bet.

But it is a disaster when our immigration system is basically handed over to transnational criminal organizations that care nothing about the people and that care nothing about the drugs that are coming across; all they care about is the money. And they are getting richer by the day as a result of Biden border policies.

Well, if there was any question about whether the Biden administration understands what is going on, recently, a migrant asked an agent if he could travel to Chicago, and the agent replied:

You can do whatever you want. You’re free.

That is the Biden administration’s border enforcement policies.

You can do whatever you want. You’re free.

If there was any confusion about the Biden administration’s catch-and-release policies, well, that statement cleared it up.

You can do whatever you want. You’re free.

This interaction happened to be captured on video, and it has made the rounds on social media and national news. And it has been viewed by people around the world. And, you know, when other people see that, do you think they are discouraged or deterred from coming to the United States through this illegal route? No. They are encouraged. It is like a magnet, which is why we are seeing the huge numbers that we continue to see.

Again, it makes me think the Biden administration simply does not understand the dynamics at the border or, which is more likely the case, they simply don’t care. You have to imagine there are people out there who are debating whether or not to make this dangerous journey. If they had any doubts about whether or not their journey would be successful, well, this video statement pretty much cleared that up. The secret is out.

You know, it is ironic when I hear Secretary Mayorkas of the Department of Homeland Security or the President or the Vice President say: “Don’t come. Don’t come.” When almost every other message that people around the world are receiving is “Come. You can make it. Just pay the money; take the dangerous journey; take the risk; pay these criminal organizations the cash they demand; and you can make it into the United States.”

And, boy, have they come. People around the world see that America’s borders are open. They see videos of migrants from all over the world being released in the United States and told “you’re free.”

The Biden administration continues to create new incentives for migrants to make the dangerous journey to the border. President Biden has proven he is not only unprepared for this crisis, he is completely uninterested. He doesn’t care. He apparently has no desire to enforce the law and secure the border. And the reason I conclude that is because if he did care, if he were willing to work to solve that problem, we are here ready to meet him halfway, but all we hear are crickets.

He would rather appease the open borders base in his political party than take the steps needed to protect the American people.

Border communities have endured the Biden border crisis for more than 2½ years now, and they are bracing for yet another migration surge. Given the administration’s complete and utter failure to address the crisis, it is time for Congress to step up. I am proud to co-sponsor the Secure the Border Act, which was introduced by my friend and fellow Texan, Senator Cruz. This legislation would give the Border Patrol the tools they need in order to secure the border and safeguard the American people. It includes more agents to enforce the law to stop anyone or anything that doesn’t legally enter the United States.

It restricts the Biden administration’s ability to release thousands of migrants into the United States under the weak guise of parole. This is not parole in the criminal law sense where somebody is released from jail. This is a mechanism under immigration laws where people are simply released and told: You have 2 years in the United States, and come back and check with us later on about staying longer. There is no such thing as a temporary program. All of this becomes permanent.

But this legislation tightens asylum standards that prevent migrants with frivolous asylum claims from gaming the system. This legislation implements a range of reforms that address the humanitarian and security crisis at the border. It passed the House in May and has been cosponsored by more than half of the Republican conference in the Senate.

My hope was that this would serve as a starting point for the Senate to begin discussing ways to secure the border and protect the American people. It would also be nice—and I have had this conversation with the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, the Senator from Illinois, who so far has declined to consider a mark-up of any immigration bills or border security bills. In the Senate, that is the committee of jurisdiction on which I sit, and I happen to be the ranking member of the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee.

Well, it is clear that President Biden’s approach to the border is not sustainable. His administration has rolled out one incentive after another to encourage—not to deter, but to encourage—people from around the world to come to our borders and enter our country.

That is the reason we are experiencing a humanitarian and security crisis. The record migration levels of the last year have tested law enforcement, tested our cities and nonprofits in ways that I have never seen before—a record number of migrants, soaring demands for resources, dwindling budgets, overworked personnel—and we haven’t even talked about the impact of this uncontrolled migration on our local hospitals and our education systems and the like. All of them have been operating under incredible strain for more than 2 years. So it is past time to adopt policies that impose consequences. That is what the Border Patrol said we need, is we need consequences to illegal immigration.

Look, I think that legal immigration—orderly, humane legal immigration—has been one of the greatest things that America has ever embraced. It has made us the country we are today, the most prosperous in the world, the most diverse. But surrendering our legal immigration system to drug cartels and human smuggling organizations is a recipe for disaster—what we are seeing right now.

Well, any time the Biden administration would like to engage on this topic, I am standing ready, willing, and able to do that, but so far, even when we have bipartisan legislation like the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act that Senator Sinema and I and Congressman Cuellar and Congressman Tony Gonzales introduced a couple of years ago, there has been zero interest by the Biden administration and no markups by the Judiciary Committee to consider that and come up with some consensus on how to deal with this disaster.

I yield the floor.
Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues, and I want to speak on an administration for which I have the highest admiration, for the response to the devastating flood that we experienced in Vermont this August.

I am here to make a report and also to make a plea that we replenish the Disaster Relief Fund in the FEMA budget so that the work that needs to be done in Vermont to help our farms, our families, our communities recover will continue to be done.

I had a telephone conversation that was set up by Senator SANDERS. Our Governor was on the phone, and my colleague Congresswoman BALINT was on the phone with the FEMA Administrator. And she has been doing a tremendous job. She has been extremely responsive. We are all grateful to her for that work. But what she did make very clear is that it is absolutely essential to the well-being of FEMA’s capacity to continue to provide the response that this budget be supplemented and the FEMA supplemental be passed.

So I urge my colleagues—and, again, I want to thank them—from both sides of the aisle who have approached me and said, Peter, your folks have been hammered by the natural disaster, and we will be here to help you. But there is a long way from where we are with the precarious activities going on in the House.

First of all, we are pretty proud of the response. President Coolidge, who was our President in 1927 and was a Vermonter from Plymouth, VT, toured the flood damage when we had a catastrophic flood in 1927. And he nick-named State “a brave little State.” And that is who we are in Vermont. And his appellation of that term was his recognition of the indomitable spirit that our people in Vermont have to pick themselves up, to pull together, and to rebuild.

Nearly a century later, of course, this August we experienced another devastating flood. What we experienced in July and August was nothing short of catastrophic. Towns across the State were devastated, with homes and businesses and farms completely destroyed.

You can see here, this is our capital, Montpelier. And that was right after the rains that were parked over Montpelier and just could not leave. It is dry now, but these businesses along Main Street have not reopened. Some have; many haven’t. To some extent, their decision is, will the FEMA aid be there so that they have a chance to open those doors and make up for the lost income and, hopefully, revive that downtown.

Damage estimates are still coming in; but, currently, it is totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars for our very, very small State.

The impact on Vermont’s farmland is stunning. This is Paul Mazzola’s farm.

That farm, with vegetables, row crops, that was under tremendous amounts of water. When the water receded—the crops, the berries, the pick-your-own crops are not only important to families and nutrition, but it was a revered activity by families in Vermont to come out to pick their berries with their kids. He is not going to be able to harvest any berries this year.

By the way, in terms of the damage that was done, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates anywhere between 145,000 and 686,000 acres of agricultural land in the State was impacted by flooding.

The Conant’s Riverside Farm, which I visited along with the Governor and Senator SANDERS, half their hay and corn was impacted by the flooding—silk from the flood-covered corn that was used to feed their cows. There is real question about how they are going to make it through the winter because, that corn is grown low and makes it to feed to their animals over the winter.

The Foote Brook Farm, which is owned by Joie and Tony Lehoullier in Johnson, VT, is one of the main services of food security in Johnson. The grocery store in that town was totally flooded out but will be reopening. Their farm was flooded, too. They had over $100,000 in losses. And what was really bad this time, they also lost a lot of their equipment. I do thank the Administrator, President BIDEN, and FEMA. I acknowledge the tremendous work that Governor Scott and his team have been doing staying on top of this. And there has been a tremendous effort on the part of Senator SANDERS, who has been the leader of our delegation of three here in the U.S. Congress, but we have got to get that FEMA supplemental passed.

While $16 billion in FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund is available, the Vermont delegation, as I mentioned, is pushing for more because, with what has happened, regrettably, to our colleagues in Hawaii and the hurricane in Florida has added to the challenge and of the need. We need to increase FEMA’s cap for hazard mitigation. We need to make small business loans forgivable.

So my request to my colleagues is that we do all of us have done for each other when the people we represent have been on the receiving end of a catastrophic natural disaster, and that is to make certain that we come to the aid of our fellow citizens. And the way we can do that is by the passage of the FEMA supplemental request.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of business be suspended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior assistant legislative clerk will now call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I will call this my ‘let’s say’ speech. Lawyers know what a hypothetical is. We will talk about some hypotheticals related to the scheme to capture the Court.

Let’s say, Mr. President, that you are a creepy billionaire and it is your plan to capture and control the Supreme Court. That means the Court.

Wet’s say you sent millions of dollars—secret dollars—to the Federalist Society for it to funnel money to its employee and your operative, Leonard Leo.

Let’s say that Leonard Leo got his cred with you and your rightwing billionaire pals when he helped you kill the nomination to the Supreme Court of President George W. Bush’s friend and White House Counsel Harriet
Miers—a political hit job from the far right against a Republican President’s nominee, which produced none other than Sam Alito.

Let’s say you also sent millions of dollars to Leonard Leo’s Judicial Crisis Network secret millions of dollars—checks as big as $15 million, checks as big as $17 million—to run ads against Merrick Garland to help Mitch McConnell block his confirmation by the Senate.

Let’s say you sent the Judicial Crisis Network secret millions of dollars—checks as big as $15 million, checks as big as $17 million—to run ads against Merrick Garland to help Mitch McConnell block his confirmation by the Senate. Let’s say that for that Trump promise to follow. Let’s say that for your millions of dollars to the Federalist Society, the Federalist Society allowed you to use its name on a list of Supreme Court nominees that you and your fellow billionaire pals andLeonard Leo cooked up—a list that the Federalist Society never considered or approved, never an agenda item, never a vote, but a list from some back room of the Federalist Society, pulled together by Leo and the billionaires that Candidate Trump promised to follow.

Let’s say that for that Trump promise to let you pick Supreme Court Justices, you agreed to hold your nose and let him pick Supreme Court Justice of the Federalist Society, pulled together by Leo and the billionaires that Candidate Trump promised to follow. Let’s say that for your millions of dollars to the Federalist Society, the Federalist Society allowed you to use its name on a list of Supreme Court nominees that you and your fellow billionaire pals and Leo cooked up—a list that the Federalist Society never considered or approved, never an agenda item, never a vote, but a list from some back room of the Federalist Society, pulled together by Leo and the billionaires that Candidate Trump promised to follow.

Let’s say that worked. Let’s say that for your millions of dollars to the Federalist Society, the Federalist Society allowed you to use its name on a list of Supreme Court nominees that you and your fellow billionaire pals and Leo cooked up—a list that the Federalist Society never considered or approved, never an agenda item, never a vote, but a list from some back room of the Federalist Society, pulled together by Leo and the billionaires that Candidate Trump promised to follow. Let’s say that for your millions of dollars to the Federalist Society, the Federalist Society allowed you to use its name on a list of Supreme Court nominees that you and your fellow billionaire pals and Leo cooked up—a list that the Federalist Society never considered or approved, never an agenda item, never a vote, but a list from some back room of the Federalist Society, pulled together by Leo and the billionaires that Candidate Trump promised to follow.

Let’s say that to keep your chosen ones loyal and happy and entertained, you secretly paid for their personal lives. You paid for family tuitions. You bought family houses and let family members live rent-free. You paid for “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous”-level vacations, including free travel to resorts on private jets, travel on private planes, private yachts, expensive gifts, and you directed money to their spouses, and of course, you hung out with them.

Let’s say that last part—keeping them loyal and happy and entertained with all those gifts—was illegal. Illegal.

Let’s say that your loyalty gifts program required the chosen ones to file false Federal disclosure forms and perhaps even false tax returns. Let’s say that your loyalty gifts program might put you in trouble with the tax man for claiming false business expenses. How could that be?

Let’s say you sent millions of dollars to calling the bonanza of freebies “personal hospitality,” “Personal hospitality”—a term of art allowing non-disclosure under the disclosure laws.

Let’s say that they were all calling it “personal hospitality,” but you were calling the bonanza “deductible business expenses of corporate yachts and jets.” Then it wouldn’t all add up.

That is a lot of “let’s say,” I know, but that is what we are looking at with the Supreme Court right now. We know it is not one rightwing billionaire but a little bunch of them. We don’t know all the freebies yet. Maybe we only know 10 percent of the freebies. We know that there has been no meaningful investigation of this, so there is lots left to learn. That is our job in Congress, to investigate malfeasance in government and expose abuse so the citizens can see what has been going on and laws can be changed to better protect against that kind of abuse.

So let’s say Congress starts doing its job and starts asking nosy questions. What is a creepy billionaire to do? That is easy. You lawyer up. You refuse to cooperate. You are a billionaire, remember, so you can pay lawyers a thousand dollars an hour until the cows come home and not even notice it. A thousand hours of thousand-dollar lawyers wouldn’t cost you thousandth of your wealth. You live above the law, sheltered by your billions. You actually direct the law through your chosen ones on the Supreme Court.

The impertinence of being investigated is insufferable, so this is what you send.

Here are two actual lawyer letters. One was sent by the lawyer for the billionaire Harlan Crow. The other was sent by the lawyer for the billionaire’s operative and his painting mate, Leonard Leo.

When I say “painting mate,” I mean this painting that Harlan Crow, the billionaire, has of his time with Clarence Thomas, one of the chosen ones, and Leonard Leo, the operative. Couldn’t be more cozy.

So you send these letters. Leo, by the way, has himself joined your billionaire boys’ club. He did so when one of your billionaires, Barre Seid, set him up with his own $1.6 billion slush fund, held through a Utah 501(c)(4) front group confected for that transaction.

Let’s walk through what these letters say because the arguments are so preposterous, it is hard to imagine they could be made in good faith.

As you can imagine, when letters come from lawyers for billionaires in the billionaire Court-packing boys’ club, the letters are pretty alike.

The first one for Crow says:

Congress does not have the constitutional power to impose ethics rules and standards on the Supreme Court.

The second one for Mr. Leo says:

Your inquiry exceeds the limits placed on the Constitution on the Committee’s investigatory authority.

Then there is a third one for another billionaire whom they just did one paragraph. Basically, it just says:

Yeah, what Leonard Leo’s lawyer says.

This inquiry exceeds the limits placed on the legislature by the Constitution.

Let’s look at these other letters. I ask unanimous consent that the first page of the letter of lawyer Bopp for billionaire Crow and the first page of the letter of lawyer Rivkin for billionaire operative Leo—as exhibits at the end of my remarks—with the short, one-paragraph letter, the tagalong letter from attorney Clarke, be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Lawyers Bopp and Rivkin both tell me that investigating their clients’ activities is unconstitutional under the separation of powers. We can’t legislate about Supreme Court ethics, so we can’t investigate Supreme Court ethics.

First, remember that alongside separation of powers is its twin, checks and balances, which requires branches, like the legislative branch, to check and balance the behavior of other branches, like, in this case, the judicial branch.

That is what we are doing here—checks and balances. Let’s dive into the specifics a little bit more. There are primarily three topics. One, did the billionaire or the operative take improper advantage of the Tax Code in their dealings with the Justice Department? That is what they are looking into. The Finance Committee has its own investigation, along with the Judiciary Committee, to focus on the tax side of this.
Well, I have to say it is hard to see how abuse of the Tax Code by a private citizen in his tax filings could raise any separation of powers concern. That is between the tax filer, the government, and the law. The Justices are simply not a party to that. Even if we were looking at the Justices’ own tax filings, I were it to come to that, they would be investigated in their roles not as Justices but as taxpayers. Being a Justice doesn’t allow you to violate the tax laws or immunize you from tax investigation or permit you to make actions negligently in the context, and tax returns any more than being a Justice would allow you to commit any other offense. So there is tax abuse, issue 1—no visible separation-of-powers angle to it.

Issue 2, did the Justices receiving gifts and emoluments from the billionaire or the operative properly report them, or did the judicial gifts reporting system fail here? The billionaires’ lawyers say that is not our business. Well, that is Congress’s business for two pretty obvious reasons. First, the reportings are a law passed by Congress whose implementation we can absolutely oversee like any other law passed by Congress, and this law includes Justices. Second, the implementing body of that law is the Judicial Conference, a body created by Congress; all the activities we can absolutely oversee—we created it. The notion that Congress cannot investigate to see if an Agency it created is properly implementing laws Congress passed is ludicrous on its face.

Peripherally, it is worth noting that the Supreme Court has never objected on constitutional grounds to that body or to those laws. The Chief Justice actually chairs the Judicial Conference without objection to its congressional nature.

When questions about Justice Thomas’s first round of free yacht and jet travel—from Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo—a decade ago, those concerns went, under the law, to the Financial Disclosure Committee of the Judicial Conference for review, without objection to the power of review by Justice Thomas.

And when Thomas’s recent round of billionaire-funded free yacht and jet travel—Crow-Thomas 2.0, you might call it—raised questions anew, again, those questions went to the Financial Disclosure Committee of the Judicial Conference for review, where those questions pend now, again, without objection. Nobody said The Judicial Conference is unconstitutional. The reporting laws are unconstitutional. You can’t look at this Congress could never pass those laws. Congress could not create judicial conflict.

Nobody said that.

Additionally, Justice Scalia’s trick came to light of obtaining dozens of free hunting vacations and not disclosing them because it was supposedly a “personal invitation,” which supposedly made it “personal hospitality” that didn’t have to be disclosed, the question of that trip’s propriety went to the Financial Disclosure Committee of the Judicial Conference for review. The conference shut that trick down firmly, and Justice Thomas conceded he would abide by the Judicial Conference’s determination—again, with no assertion that there was anything unconstitutional about it. So the separation-of-powers argument, in addition to making no sense, founders on the decades-long real life by Supreme Court Justices of our congressional role through these laws and through the Judicial Conference.

Here is another argument they make. This is an interesting one. We have been too mean. We have been too mean looking into these facts. They tart that argument up in constitutional terminology, but that is it in a nutshell. I have used the analogy, describing Leonard Leo’s role, in the billionaires’ Court-capture scheme, of a spider in a web. They then mean.

The problem with that “too mean” argument is that it assumes the result. If, in fact, there is a secret operation to capture and control the Supreme Court for the benefit of special interests, and if, in fact, Leo is its key operative, it is not actually all that mean to make an analogy to a spider and a web. It is actually pretty mild and quite descriptive.

The accusation that we are doing this just to be mean and it is unfair to ask questions presupposes that there is nothing secret and sordid and wrong that would be revealed by our investigation. It is a little like saying the police can’t investigate me because it would be unconstitutionally unfair because I am so innocent. Well, that is what the police investigation would reveal, just as this congressional investigation, unless successfully obstructed by the billionaires, might very well reveal a dark episode of secret corruption at our highest Court, perhaps, even the most covert, most persistent effort at judicial corruption in our country’s history.

To be continued. I will be back with more of this story.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**GIBSON DUNN, Confidential, May 22, 2023.**
Re Response to May 8, 2023, Letters to Harlan R. Crow, CH Asset Company, Carey Commercial Ltd., and Topridge Holdings, LLC.

Hon. DICK DURBIN, Chairman, U.S. Senate, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN: We write on behalf of Leonard Leo in response to your letter of July 11, 2023, which requested information concerning Mr. Leo’s interactions with Supreme Court Justices. We understand this inquiry is part of an investigation certain members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have undertaken regarding ethics standards and the Supreme Court. Your Committee’s oversight role, after reviewing your July 11 Letter, the nature of this investigation, and the circumstances surrounding your interest in Mr. Leo, we believe that your inquiry exceeds the limits placed by the Constitution on the Committee’s investigative authority.

Your investigation of Mr. Leo infringes two provisions of the Bill of Rights. By selectively targeting Mr. Leo for investigation on a politically charged basis, while ignoring other potential sources of information on the asserted topic of interest who are similarly situated to Mr. Leo but have different political views, your Committee breaches the First Amendment. For similar reasons, your inquiry cannot be reconciled with the Equal Protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. And regardless of its other constitutional infirmities, it appears that your investigation lacks a valid legislative purpose, because the legislation the Committee is considering would be unconstitutional if enacted.
HONORING LAVERNE PARRISH

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and one of Montana’s five World War II Medal of Honor recipients, Technician Fourth Grade Laverne Parrish.

Laverne and his family moved to the Mission Valley of Montana in 1934, and he graduated from Ronan High School in 1937. Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, Laverne joined the Washington Army National Guard in the March of 1941, just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served as a medical aidman in Company C of the 161st Infantry Regiment where he achieved the rank of technician fourth grade, the noncommissioned officer equivalent of sergeant.

In August of 1942, his Army National Guard unit was activated and deployed to Hawaii for training. Soon after, his unit was mobilized and deployed to the Pacific Theater with the 25th Infantry Division. Known as “Tropic Lightning” for specializing in jungle warfare, his division saw combat in five different military campaigns, moving from Guadalcanal, to the Northern Solomon Islands, and eventually joining General MacArthur’s campaign to recapture the Philippines.

In January of 1945, his division landed on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. During heavy fighting in Binalonan, Laverne risked his life rushing onto the battlefield to bring in his wounded brother in arms to safety. While treating casualties, he noticed two wounded soldiers from his company still in the field. Without hesitation, he crawled back onto the battlefield amidst intense enemy fire to successfully rescue both men.

Six days later, under withering enemy fire, Laverne’s unit was ordered to withdraw to the cover of a ditch. Seeing two wounded soldiers unable to move, Laverne quickly left his position and pulled them to safety. In that same field, he also delivered aid to 12 casualties, crossing and recrossing an open area under enemy fire. Laverne was mortally wounded by mortar fire and died on the battlefield, just 6 months before the war ended. He was 28 years old, and his body was returned to Montana, where he was laid to rest at the Mountain View Cemetery in Ronan. While Laverne passed, the story of the heroic “Montana Medic” quickly spread through the 25th Infantry Division as they bravely carried on facing more continuous combat through the Infantry Division in the 6th Army.

Laverne pitted heroism and bravery against great odds, saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers at the cost of his own. In honor of his incredible bravery and sacrifice, Laverne was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman, our Nation’s highest military awarded to the men and women in uniform who have gone above and beyond protecting our freedom and the freedoms of our allies.

In the fall of 1948, the town of Ronan came together to honor Laverne by naming the athletic field the Sergeant Laverne Parrish Memorial Field. Naming this field in Laverne’s honor was a small token of our appreciation for his heroic service and sacrifice, but it ensured he will be remembered generation after generation in Ronan—and all across the Treasure State.

Seventy-five years later, Laverne’s memory lives on in each of us—in the freedom of our children, our children’s children, and right here with us on this football field.

On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I commend Mr. Laverne Parrish and extend our appreciation to him. He is a true patriot who made Montana proud, and we will never forget him.

Today and every day, let us remember that we are standing here today, in a free country, because of Laverne, the sacrifices he made, and the sacrifices of our military men and women have made every generation since.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS DUANE B. PEARSON

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Navy Petty Officer First Class Duane B. Pearson. HM1 Duane Pearson originally hailed from the Bronx, NY, and as an Army family, he moved throughout the Nation; in Lawton, OK, he decided to enlist in the U.S. Navy and follow his family history of military service.

His initial oath was in November 2001 in Oklahoma City, OK; he completed Navy boot camp and Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, IL, and went on to Hospital Corpsman Basic Training, Cherry Point, NC, and Physi- cal Therapy Technician School, San Antonio, TX, where he was also promoted to third class petty officer.

His enlisted assignments include Naval Hospital Cherry Point, NC; Na- tional Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD, where he was deployed to Camp Lemmonier to Djibouti, Africa; Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan; and the Office of Attending Physician, Wash- ington, DC.

While at the Office of Attending Phys- ician, he continued providing expert physical therapy services, but also managed an emergency response medical call center, and provided advanced cardiac life support response to multiple Nation special security events, in- cluding three Presidential inaugura- tions, nine State of the Union Address- es, seven Peace Officers Memorials, and scores of gold medal ceremonies and summer concerts. Additionally, he was instrumental in administering over 30,000 Covid vaccines in direct support of both the Supreme Court of the United States, and U.S. Congress.

His military decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and various other personal and unit awards.

His military career has been successful because of the support and confidence of Jasmine, his wife and best friend of 18 years. He also has two support- ing children, who are both talented athletes—Micah and Imani.

In May 2019, he received his bachelor of arts Degree, with honors, from Southern Illinois University in healthcare management and will complete his master’s in healthcare administration from the University of Balti- more this December.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the centennial celebration of the Historic Westside School in Las Vegas, NV, This
school holds a special place in the history of Las Vegas and is a symbol of resilience, education, and strength in this community.

The Historic Westside School’s story began in 1923 when it opened its doors as the Grammar School No. 1, consisting of just two rooms. Over the years, this unassuming structure played a significant role in the history of Las Vegas, particularly in the city’s Black community.

Initially established to serve local Paiute children, the school’s purpose evolved as the Black American population in Las Vegas grew substantially. With the opening of the Gunnery Range, known today as Nellis Air Force Base, and the construction of the Hoover Dam, the population of Las Vegas expanded dramatically. During this period, the school primarily educated Black children, reflecting the changing demographics of the city.

It is important to acknowledge the discrimination and persecution the Black community suffered during this era. In a stark reminder of the racial prejudice that stained our Nation, the city of Las Vegas forced Black families to move to the Westside and refused to allow Black children to obtain business licenses unless they relocated. Despite this, the Westside School became a symbol of hope and perseverance for the Black community as it provided education and opportunity.

As Las Vegas eventually moved towards desegregation, the school was closed. However, in 1979, the significance of the Historic Westside School was formally recognized when it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation highlighted the school’s historical importance and its role in shaping the local community and preserving the heritage of the Westside of Las Vegas.

In 2015, the city of Las Vegas, with the assistance of federal funds, embarked on a commendable effort to restore this historic landmark. Today, the Historic Westside School has been transformed into a vibrant community center, home to KCEP-FM and the Economic Opportunity Board, and a hub for various charitable foundations. It is a testament to the resilience of our community and the commitment to preserving our history.

As we celebrate the centennial of the Historic Westside School, let us reflect on the enduring legacy of this institution and its importance in shaping the history of Las Vegas. It serves as a reminder of the progress we have made in the fight for equality and the importance of preserving our history, no matter how challenging the chapters may be.

I commend the city of Las Vegas and the Historic Westside School Alumni Association for their dedication to preserving the memory of this historic school and for organizing the centennial celebration. It truly is an opportunity for our community to come together, learn from our past, and work toward a brighter future where equality and opportunity are accessible to all.

RECOGNIZING KPI CONCEPTS

- Ms. ERNST, Mr. 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 KPI Concepts of West Burlington, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

KPI Concepts was founded by Craig Upton in 1984 out of his garage in Burlington, IA, building cabinetry for local businesses. Two years later, KPI Concepts moved to a 4,200-square-foot building with a workshop. The original building was expanded to 42,000 square feet between 1990 and 2006, and in 2007, they purchased an additional 65,000-square-foot location. The second location expanded a few years later. After starting as a commercial cabinetry business, they evolved to manufacture wind turbine blade components in 2008 with the KPI Composites division. In 2013, they located a second location in Hurricane, UT, while maintaining their West Burlington headquarters. Over the years, KPI Concepts has grown to include the KPI Metals division as well. Today, KPI Concepts is focused on producing products for the wind energy industry. Throughout this history of business growth, the company’s employees have been instrumental to its success.

As with many founders, Craig’s journey to founding KPI Concepts had many chapters. After graduating from Burlington High School in 1973, he went on to attend Southeastern Community College, where he earned an associate’s degree in mechanical technology. He later worked as a design draftsman, welder, and in the data processing department. When he lost his job, his father, who had a passion for woodworking, urged Craig to pursue his dream and start KPI Concepts. In addition to being the founder of KPI Concepts, Craig Upton has given back to the community. In 2014, he was recognized by Southeastern Community College with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The KPI Concepts’ team has been awarded for their contributions to the industrial services industry. The KPI Metals team was awarded the Manufacturer of the Year Award by the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2017. Due to the hard work and dedication of the KPI Concepts employees, they celebrated their 30th business anniversary in 2023.

KPI Concepts’ commitment to providing high-quality wind turbine parts, commercial cabinetry, and metal manufacturing services to customers throughout the United States while maintaining their Iowa roots is clear. I want to congratulate the entire team at KPI Concepts for their continued dedication to providing industrial services to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Mr. PETERS, Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mott Community College located in Flint, MI. Over the past 100 years, MCC has become a steadfast partner for local industry, providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable education opportunities. It is a privilege and honor to recognize the centennial milestone of the college on September 23, 2023.

Founded in 1923 by the Flint Board of Education, the institution was originally known as Flint Junior College. Tuition for the first year was a mere $15, and few students were interested in studying general literacy, pre-engineering, pre-dental, pre-medicine, pre-law, or business administration, as the college was initially designed to prepare students to transfer to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In 1950, Charles Stewart Mott donated $1 million to develop Flint Junior College into a 4-year institution in collaboration with the University of Michigan, a move that created the college and cultural center. C.S. Mott endowed the college with 32 acres of land and additional money for the establishment of an entirely new campus. In 1951, William Ballenger, Sr., left a trust of several million dollars, allowing the college to hire well-qualified instructors and elevate Flint Junior College into a true community college. Ballenger also gifted the college $200,000 for the construction of an athletic and hotel house. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The college has a rich athletic history as well. Coach Steven Schmidt has led the men’s basketball team to 753 victories over 30 seasons, the most by any men’s coach in Michigan college basketball history. The program finished fourth in the nation in 1969. Mott has won three national titles since 2007. The college is also where Justus Thigpen, Sr., the first athlete from Flint to play in the NBA, got his start as the basketball team’s starting guard. The Griffins have varsity men’s sports teams, four varsity women’s teams, and a co-ed e-sports team.

Today, MCC serves over 8,000 students seeking to gain knowledge and skills in a wide variety of occupational programs. Mott Community College continues to be a key partner that delivers on the workforce development
needs of the region through continual innovation and investment in their students’ success. By creating programs such as the Mobile Learning Lab, Workforce Promise, and the operation of Applewood Cafe, the college has seized every opportunity to support the development in Flint by providing workforce training and experience to students and workers.

The college is also a leader in expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. From the hiring of Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffes in 2014, its first African-American female president, to the building of the Lenore Croudy Family Life Center, which is focused on providing support to students and families experiencing housing and food insecurity, the college continually works to reduce barriers and challenges by investing in their students. MCC has also been chosen for the Aspen Institute Award six times as one of the top 150 community colleges in the Nation dedicated to excellence and student success.

Mott Community College has greatly impacted the lives of generations of students and has positively shaped the city of Flint as we know it today. I ask you to join me in recognizing the college as they commemorate their centennial celebration.

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**TRIBUTE TO BENNETT AARON BERT**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Bennett Aaron Bert, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Bennett is currently studying at the Catholic University of America, where he is completing a bachelor’s degree in politics with a minor in business. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Bennett for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLE INDIA ASIAG**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gabrielle India Asiag, a spring and summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Gabrielle is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Gabrielle for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MATTHEW BATURA**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Thomas Matthew Batura, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Thomas is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a master’s degree in public administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Thomas for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO GABRIELA SOFIA BRAVO**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gabriela Sofia Bravo, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Gabriela is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in political science with an emphasis in intelligence and national security, as well as a minor in international and global studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Gabriela for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO VICMARIE PALOMARES-COLON**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Vicmarie Palomares-Colon, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Vicmarie is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Vicmarie for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO PABLO ELIAS FORTICH**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Pablo Elias Fortich, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Pablo is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a bachelor’s degree in political science with a concentration in national security and intelligence. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Pablo for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO RHYAN FURDA**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Rhyan Furda, a summer 2023 intern, with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Rhyan is currently studying at Colorado State University, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Rhyan for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.

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**TRIBUTE TO XIMENA RAFAELA HAKIME**

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Ximena Rafaela Hakime, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

  Ximena is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

  I extend my deepest gratitude to Ximena for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.
TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW WILLIAM HOCHFELDER
• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Matthew William Hochfelder, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida. Matthew is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a bachelor’s degree in comparative politics with a concentration in international relations. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.
I extend my deepest gratitude to Matthew for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAMRYN RIOS
• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Camryn Elizabeth Rios, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office. Camryn is currently a student at The University of Mississippi, where she is majoring in public policy leadership with a minor in journalism. I extend my gratitude to Camryn for her work with my office during this semester.

TRIBUTE TO GIANNA SOFIA ROMAN
• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gianna Sofia Roman, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida. Gianna is currently studying at the University of Florida, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree in political science and women’s studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.
I extend my deepest gratitude to Gianna for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MADISON SHEPPARD
• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Madison Joelle Sheppard, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida. Madison is currently a student at Florida State University, where she is majoring in international affairs and political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.
I extend my deepest gratitude to Madison for her work with my office during these challenging times, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MAEgan SMARKUSKY
• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Maegan Smarkusky, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida. Maegan is a recent graduate of J.W. Mitchell High School and will attend Florida State University, where she will major in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.
I extend my deepest gratitude to Maegan for her work with my office during these challenging times, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.

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
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 appropriate committees.
(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 11:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. McLaughlin, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:
S. 475. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:
H.R. 5981. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED
The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:
H.R. 5981. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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–2140. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Pelly Amendment to the Fisherman’s Protective Act of 1967, to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2141. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 182(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Development Act (LIBERTA) of 2017, and pursuant to the semi-annual report relative to telecommunication-related payments made to Cuba during the period from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Prohibited Exports, Imports, and Sales to or from Certain Countries - Cyprus” (RIN1400–AF69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2023, to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2143. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2144. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2145. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Taiwan to strengthen its self-defense capabilities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2146. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2148. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2023–0062 – 2023–0066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2149. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2023–0070–2023–0073); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC–2150. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Agency Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dispensing of Narcotic Drugs To Relieve Acute Withdrawal Symptoms of Opioid Use Disorder” (RIN1117–AB73) (Docket No. DEA–702) received in the Office of the President of the
EC-2151. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, to the report of a rule entitled “Pre-enforcement Notice and Conciliation Procedures” (RIN1235-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2155. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updating the Department’s Related Acts Regulations” (RIN1225-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2159. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s fiscal year 2022 Actual Evaluation of the Expected Obligations and Status of the PBGC Funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2160. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board’s budget request for fiscal year 20225 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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-55. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming reaffirming its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are bonded by their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a free market economy; and

Whereas, on March 5, 1984, the State of Wyoming adopted Taiwan as Wyoming’s sister state; and

Whereas, Taiwan ranks as the United States’ eighth largest trading partner, Taiwan ranks as the United States’ sixth largest agricultural exports destination and bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached an estimated one hundred fourteen million dollars ($114,000,000,000.00) in 2021; and

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan have welcomed the resumption of high-level trade engagements expressed a desire to work closely together; and

Whereas, Taiwan ranks as the State of Wyoming’s eighth largest trading partner in Asia and both the State of Wyoming and Taiwan are committed to strengthening bilateral economic bonds; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act in 1979 to sustain a close, bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, based on the principles of the United States’ and Taiwan’s Education Initiatives in 2020, Taiwan’s Ministry of Education and the State of Wyoming’s Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding on educational cooperation in 2022, with further 21 to 22 student exchanges and cultural awareness; and

Whereas, the United States has previously assisted both States with the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization and the United States will continue to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; and

Whereas, Taiwan, as a willing and contributing member of the world community, has made countless contributions of technical and financial assistance in the wake of natural disasters worldwide; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming.

Section 1. That the Wyoming reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming.

Section 2. That Wyoming supports Taiwan’s participation in internal organizations that impact the global trade, health, safety, and well-being of twenty-three million people in Taiwan.

Section 3. That Wyoming reiterates its support for a closer economic and trade partnership with Taiwan including signing the United States-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to Wyoming’s Congressional Delegation, to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Seattle, Washington.

POM-56. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan of the 110th General Assembly, to the Michiganders to strengthen ties with Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan have strong ties based on shared ideals and robust bilateral trade. Taiwan shares the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the state of Michigan. In 2021, the United States ranked as Taiwan’s second-largest trading partner, while Taiwan was the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States, counting the European Union as a single trading partner. The countries shared 133.9 billion dollars in two-way goods trade and 19.8 billion dollars in two-way service trade in that year; and

Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important trade partner for our nation’s agricultural industry. Taiwan imported 3.9 billion dollars worth of agri-food products from the United States in 2021, making it the sixth-largest market for United States food and agricultural products overall. Examining individual agricultural products, Taiwan was the seventh-largest market for United States soybeans and corn in 2021. Due to our high-quality produce, the United States remains one of the largest sources of agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of the country’s total agricultural imports in 2021; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan and Taiwan have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship, with strong bilateral trade and a long history of educational and cultural exchanges. Taiwan was Michigan’s tenth-largest export market in Asia in 2022, with over 313 million dollars’ worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan that year. Since 2005, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Taiwanese Ministry of Education have had an English and Chinese language teacher exchange program, helping our citizens to grow closer and learn about each other’s cultures. The Taiwan Friendship Caucus in the Michigan Legislature exists to strengthen ties between government officials, and our people. To ensure this relationship remains strong, Michigan businesses should increase their economic engagement with Taiwan; and

Whereas, the United States could take additional steps to strengthen bilateral trade with Taiwan, which would also enhance Taiwan’s trade with the United States. The bilateral trade between our nations could be improved if the United States entered into a bilateral trade agreement and an avoidance of double taxation agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan could also be included in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a partnership between many Indo-Pacific nations and the United States that was created to strengthen economic cooperation. The United States invited other Indo-Pacific partners to join the IPEF in May 2023, but Taiwan was not invited to and included in this partnership; and

Whereas, Taiwan has adopted a policy of “steadfast diplomacy” in its foreign relations policy to benefit and peace, creating sustainable partnerships with diplomatic allies, and strengthening
substantive ties in multiple fields with friendly and like-minded countries." Taiwan is clearly willing to collaborate with the world to deal with global challenges and seek a brighter future together; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the United States government and the United States Congress to strengthen ties with Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–57. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the United States and Michiganders to strengthen ties with Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to each pregnancy help organization in Arkansas, to the Governor, to the President of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

POM–58. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arkansas recognizing the importance of pregnancy help organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–58. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arkansas recognizing the importance of pregnancy help organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to each pregnancy help organization in Arkansas, to the Governor, to the President of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

POM–58. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arkansas recognizing the importance of pregnancy help organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to each pregnancy help organization in Arkansas, to the Governor, to the President of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.
WHEREAS, the harvesting of shrimp has been part of the cultural heritage of Louisiana since the nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the Louisiana seafood industry produces an economic impact of over $2.4 billion annually for the state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana shrimp fishery is the largest commercial fishery in the state by economic value and the second largest commercial fishery by volume of landings; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s shrimp landings account for more than forty percent of all warmwater shrimp landed in the United States in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana wild-caught shrimp fishery is losing domestic market share to an inferior, pond-raised, imported shrimp, which results in lower dockside prices for Louisiana fishermen; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety-four percent of seafood consumed in the United States is imported and shrimp account for the highest percent of all seafood imports; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), imported shrimp products have risen from less than two hundred fifty million pounds in 1980, to nearly two billion pounds in 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics from the United States Census Bureau and the NOAA, the price per pound for imported shrimp, adjusted for inflation, has decreased from nearly ten dollars in 1990, to just over four dollars in 2022, while the Gulf dockside value has declined from nearly five dollars in 1990, to approximately two dollars and fifty cents in 2022; and

WHEREAS, current food safety regulations and inspections are failing to prevent risks to human safety and, according to a report published in Environmental Science and Technology, only two percent of all seafood imported into the United States is inspected for contamination, whereas the European Union inspects fifty percent, Japan inspects eighteen percent, and Canada inspects fifteen percent. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of Louisiana hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health, the United States Food and Drug Administration to take the following actions in response to imported shrimp products that are fresh, frozen, dried, salted, or hermetically sealed, and for certain canned food products, physical checks are conducted on approximately fifty percent of imports; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine published a 2020 paper titled “Determination of Sulphite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA”, which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained sulfites, (2) ten percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained...
fluroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA in domestic aquaculture operations;

Whereas, although the FDA requires that food and drug standards to sulfites must include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

Whereas, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful to human health during both handling and consumption by those exposed to all of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia, renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at risk; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a disadvantage commercially; 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 1990 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign shrimp to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices using antimicrobial drugs, while depleting local industries and the local communities built around them. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood. 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–42. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Toledo, Ohio, urging the federal government and our nation to embrace the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations

POM–43. A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Washtenaw County, Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to normalize trade and diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba by dissolving the current U.S. trade embargo, removing Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list and other barriers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations

POM–44. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Monterey Park, California, condemning the military junta of Myanmar (Burma) for the oppression of civilians with excessive violence and standing firmly with the people of Burma in their pursuit for a fair, legitimate, and democratic sovereign government; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. CASEY:
S. 2396. A bill to amend part 2 of title IV of the Social Security Act to support the mental health and well-being of children and youth in, formerly in, foster care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKY:
S. 2357. A bill to amend the Anti–Drug Abuse Act of 1986 to provide forfdbuster funding in a community grant program for the states to combat drug abuse at a local level and to provide for such purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SAWYER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 2383. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Civilian Climate Corps to help communities respond to climate change, create a clean economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WIRTH, Mr. SHUKER, Mr. LUIJÁN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):
S. 2389. A bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. AMES):
S. 2490. A bill to improve access to and the quality of primary health care, expand the health workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MENENDEZ):
S. 2491. A bill to improve voter access to the ballot box through automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):
S. 2492. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to clarify that State may not use an individual’s failure to vote as the basis for initiating the procedures provided under such Act for the registration of the official list of registered voters in the State on the grounds that the individual has changed residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, Ms. COETZER MASO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):
S. 2494. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 1995 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for same day voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 2494. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on plastics; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
S. 2495. A bill to prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from utilizing such assistance from the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 2496. A bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:
S. 2497. A bill to prohibit the importation of agricultural products, raw materials, and food from the Russian Federation if the Russian Federation prohibits the importation of such products, materials, and food from the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
S. 2498. A bill to block the property of Russian state-owned entities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUIJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. STABENOW):
S. 2499. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. DADHLI):
S. 2500. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and to ensure equitable treatment such the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PETTAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, and Mr. PADILLA):
S. 2501. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. G RASSLEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
a report on grant programs to support the nursing workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. SMITH).

S. 2864. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the city of Fargo, North Dakota, for the conveyance and use of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fargo National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. GRAASSLEY):

S. Res. 349. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2023, as “National Stillbirth Awareness Month”; considered and agreed to, by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Mr. PETERMAN, Mr. DURbin, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. CARDIN);

S. Res. 350. A resolution designating September 19, 2023, as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHARIEEN, Mr. HASSAN, Ms. WAREH, Mr. MARKY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida);

S. Res. 351. A resolution designating September 25, 2023, as “National Lobster Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOFF (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HAWLEY);

S. Res. 352. A resolution designating September 25, 2023, as “National Lobster Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HAWLEY);

S. Res. 353. A resolution designating September 25, 2023, as “National Lobster Day”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 359

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. FRIEDENSTEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes.

S. 656

At the request of Mrs. FISHER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 656, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of military driver education programs for purposes of veterans education assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUSHD) 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. 1176

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1176, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care industry and related industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1269

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1269, a bill to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin.

S. 1374

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1374, a bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. CASSEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1482

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1482, a bill to provide for the reliquidation of certain entries of golf cart tires.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to reform and enhance the pay and benefits of Federal wildland firefighters, and for other purposes.

S. 1611

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1611, 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. 1753

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to allow individuals with drug offenses to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.
S. 1809
At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish an Office of Small Farms, and for other purposes.

S. 1917
At the request of Mr. Padilla, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1917, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for the establishment of standards to limit the carbon intensity of the fuel used by certain vessels, and for other purposes.

S. 2039
At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2039, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide for cost-sharing for oral antineoplastic drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost-sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 2065
At the request of Mr. Crapo, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Bookman) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. Cantwell) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2065, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2090
At the request of Mr. Mullen, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Budd) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2090, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for the elimination of the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines.

S. 2378
At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase excise taxes on fuel used by private jets, and for other purposes.

S. 2379
At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2379, a bill to expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the Negev Forum, and for other purposes.

S. 2413
At the request of Mr. Fischer, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2413, a bill to expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the Negev Forum, and for other purposes.

S. 2444
At the request of Mrs. Murray, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2444, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2501
At the request of Mr. Brown, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2501, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

S. 2551
At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Hagerty) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2551, a bill to impose export controls and sanctions to address the security threat posed by the genetic mapping efforts of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and other countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2583
At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2583, a bill to ban new corporate ownership of agricultural land, and for other purposes.

S. 2669
At the request of Ms. Warren, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2736
At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. Britt) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2736, a bill to clarify that section 8552(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 does not apply with respect to the use of funds for sports clubs, teams, training, or related activities provided for students.

S. 2778
At the request of Mr. Vane, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Lankford) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2778, a bill to prohibit through December 31, 2024, the imposition of a mask mandate on passengers of air carriers or public transit and in educational settings within the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2784
At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2784, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase survivor benefits for disabled widows, widowers, and surviving divorced spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 2770
At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2770, a bill to prohibit the distribution of materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media relating to candidates for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 2777
At the request of Mrs. Murray, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2777, a bill to increase child care options for working families and support child care providers.

S. 2797
At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Budd) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2797, a bill to ensure religious freedom and rights of conscience for health care workers and other government employees, and to protect health care workers and other government employees from various forms of compelled speech.

S. 2825
At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2828
At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) was added as a co-sponsor of 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.

S. 2833
At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Wicker) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2833, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. J. Res. 43
At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts) were added as co-sponsors 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”.

Amendment No. 1113
At the request of Ms. Hirono, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 1113 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. 1311
At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1311 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. 1311
At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Ms. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1311 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. 1311
At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1311 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.

STATMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN): S. 2846. A bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.
Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: S. 2846

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 “Community Access, Resources, and Empowerment for Moms Act” or the “CARE for Moms Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds the following:
(1) Every year, across the United States, nearly 40,000 women give birth, more than 1,000 women suffer fatal complications during pregnancy, while giving birth or during the postpartum period, and about 70,000 women suffer near-fatal, partum-related complications.
(2) The maternal mortality rate is often used as a surrogate to measure the overall health of a population. While the infant mortality rate in the United States has reached its lowest point, the risk of death for women in the United States during pregnancy, childbirth, or the postpartum period is higher than such risk in many other high-income countries. The estimated maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births) for the 48 contiguous States and Washington, DC, increased from 14.5 percent in 2000 to 32.0 in 2021. The United States is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal morality rate.
(3) The National Vital Statistics System of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that in 2021, there were 32,920 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births in the United States. That ratio continues to exceed the rate in other high-income countries.
(4) It is estimated that more than 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable.
(5) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the maternal mortality rate varies drastically for women by race and ethnicity. There are about 24.6 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births for White women, 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births for Non-Hispanic Black women, and 32.0 deaths per 100,000 live births for American Indian/Alaskan Native women. While maternal mortality disparately impacts Black women, this urgent public health crisis traverses ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational background, and geography.
(6) In the United States, non-Hispanic Black women are about 3 times more likely to die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth compared to non-Hispanic White women, which is one of the most disconcerting racial disparities in public health. This disparity widens in certain cities and States across the country.
(7) According to the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the maternal mortality rate heightens with age, as women 40 and older die at a rate of 138.5 per 100,000 births compared to 20.4 per 100,000 for women under 25. This translates to women over 40 being 6.8 times more likely to die compared to their counterparts under 25 years of age.
(8) The COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated the maternal health crisis. A study of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that pregnant women are at a significantly higher risk for severe outcomes, including death, from COVID–19 as compared to non-pregnant women. The COVID–19 pandemic also decreased access to prenatal and postpartum care. A study by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health found that COVID–19 contributed to 25 percent of maternal deaths in 2020 and 2021.
(9) The findings described in paragraphs (1) through (8) are of major concern to researchers, academics, members of the business community, and providers across the obstetric continuum represented by organizations such as:
(A) the American College of Nurse-Midwives;
(B) the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists;
(C) the American Medical Association;
(D) the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses;
(E) the Black Mamas Matter Alliance;
(F) the Black Women’s Health Imperative;
(G) the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative;
(H) the Charlotte Area Midwives Collaborative;
(I) the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative;
(J) the March of Dimes;
(K) the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives; (L) the National Center for Black Maternal Health; (M) the National Partnership for Women & Families; (N) the National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association; (O) the Preeclampsia Foundation; (P) the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine; (Q) the What’s Up Project; (R) Tufts University School of Medicine Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice; (S) the Shades of Blue Project; (T) the National Maternal Health Leadership Alliance; (U) Tulane University Mary Amelia Center for Women’s Health Equity Research; (V) Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda; and (W) Physicians for Reproductive Health.
(10) Hemorrhage, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular conditions, cardiomyopathy, infection or sepsis, embolism, maternal health complications (including substance use disorder), hypertensive disorders, stroke and cerebrovascular accidents, and complications of maternal-related deaths and complications are the predominant medical causes of maternal-related deaths and complications.
Most of these conditions are largely preventable or manageable. Even when these conditions are not preventable, mortality and morbidity may be prevented when conditions are diagnosed and treated in a timely manner.

(11) According to a study published by the Journal of Perinatal Education, doula-assisted mothers are 4 times less likely to experience a birth complication involving themselves or their baby, and significantly more likely for breastfeeding to be successful.

(12) Intimate partner violence is one of the leading causes of maternal death, and women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence during pregnancy than at any other time in their lives. It is also more dangerous than pregnancy. Intimate partner violence during pregnancy and postpartum crosses every demographic and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(13) Oral health is an important part of perinatal health. Reducing bacteria in a woman’s mouth during pregnancy can significantly reduce the risk of developing oral diseases and spreading decay-causing bacteria to her baby. Moreover, some evidence suggests that women with periodontal disease could have a greater risk for poor birth outcomes, such as preeclampsia, pre-term birth, and low-birth-weight babies. Furthermore, a woman’s oral health during pregnancy is a good predictor of her newborn’s oral health, and since mothers can unintentionally spread oral bacteria to their babies, putting their children at a higher risk for tooth decay, prevention efforts should happen even before children are born, as a matter of pre-pregnancy health and prenatal care during pregnancy.

(14) In the United States, death reporting and analysis is a State function rather than a Federal process. States report all deaths—including maternal deaths—on a semi-voluntary basis, without standardization across States. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has the capacity and system for collecting death-related data based on death certificates, these data are not sufficiently reported by States in an organized and standard format across States such that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can readily identify causes of maternal death and best practices for the prevention of such death.

(15) Vital statistics systems often underestimate maternal mortality and are insufficient data sources from which to derive a full scope of medical and social determinant factors contributing to maternal death, such as intimate partner violence. While the addition of pregnancy checkboxes on death certificates since 2003 have likely improved States’ ability to identify pregnancy-related deaths, they are not generally completed by obstetric providers or persons trained to recognize pregnancy-related mortality indicators. As a result, death certificates may not fully encapsulate the myriad medical and social determinants factors that contribute to such high maternal mortality rates within the United States compared to other developed nations. Lack of standardization of data and data sharing across States and between Federal entities, health care delivery systems, and research institutions can keep the Nation in the dark about ways to prevent maternal deaths.

(16) Having reliable and valid State data aggregated at the Federal level are critical to the Nation’s ability to quell surges in maternal death and imperative for researchers to identify factors contributing to maternal deaths.

(17) Leaders in maternal wellness highly recommend that maternal deaths and cases of maternal morbidity, including complications, enter the national and future increased risk of death, be investigated at the State level first, and that standardized, streamlined, de-identified data regarding maternal morbidity be made available to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Such data standardization and collection efforts could be added to the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and akin to the Confidential Enquiry in Pregnancy Mortality in the United Kingdom. Such a maternal mortalities and morbidities registry and surveillance system would help providers, academicians, law makers, and the public to address questions concerning the types of, causes of, and best practices to thwart, maternal mortality and morbidity.

(18) The United Nations’ Millennium Development Goal 5a aimed to reduce by 75 percent, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate, yet this metric has not been met. In 2017, the maternal mortality rate in the United States has been estimated to have more than doubled between 2000 and 2013.

(19) The United States has no comparable, coordinated Federal process by which to review cases of maternal mortality, systems failures, or best practices. The majority of States have active Maternal Mortality Review Committees (referred to in this section as “MMRC”), which help leverage work to improve maternal and child health. For example, the State of California has worked extensively with their State health departments, health and hospital systems, and research collaborative organizations, including the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative and the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, to establish MMRCs, wherein such State has determined the most prevalent causes of maternal mortality and recorded and shared data with providers and researchers, who have developed and implemented salutary best practices. Such data related to mortalities, maternal hemorrhage, puerperal sepsis, maternal cardiomyopathy, and the like. In this way, the State has been able to leverage its maternal mortality review board system, generate data, and apply those data to effect changes in maternal care—related to maternal mortality.

(20) Hospitals and health systems across the United States lack standardization of emergency obstetric protocols before, during, and after delivery. State-based perinatal quality collaboratives, or entities participating in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), have formed obstetric protocols, tool kits, and other resources to improve system care and response as they relate to maternal complications and warning signs for such conditions as maternal hemorrhage, preeclampsia, or peripartum cardiomyopathy. These perinatal quality collaboratives serve an important role in providing infrastructure that supports quality improvement efforts, as well as reporting outcomes. State-based perinatal quality collaboratives partner with hospitals, physicians, nurses, midwives, patients, public health, and other stakeholders to provide opportunities for collaborative learning, rapid response data, and quality improvement science support to address system-level and practice-level issues.

(21) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 22 percent of deaths occurred during pregnancy, 25 percent occurred within 7 days of delivery, and 53 percent occurred between 7 days and 1 year after the day of delivery. Yet, for women eligible for the Medicaid program or on public or private insurance in States without Medicaid postpartum extension, such Medicaid coverage may expire sooner than 60 days after the day of delivery, which is the 60th postpartum day landmark.

(22) The experience of serious traumatic events, such as being exposed to domestic violence or substance use during pregnancy, is a risk for postpartum hemorrhage and systemic racism, can over-activate the body’s stress-response system. Known as toxic stress, the repetition of high-doses of cortisols to the brain, can harm healthy neurodevelopment and other body systems, which can have cascading physical and mental health consequences, as documented in the Adverse Childhood Experiences study of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(23) A growing body of evidence-based research has shown the correlation between the stress associated with systematic racism and one’s birthing outcomes. The undue burden of sex and race discrimination paired with institutional racism has been demonstrated to contribute to a higher risk of maternal mortality, irrespective of one’s gestational age, maternal age, socio-economic status, educational level, geographic region, or individual-level health risk factors, including poverty, limited access to prenatal care, or smoking, obesity, or mental health (although these are not nominal factors). Black women remain the most at risk for pregnancy-associated or pregnancy-related causes of death. When it comes to preeclampsia, for example, for which obesity is a risk factor, Black women of normal weight remain at a higher risk at any time during the perinatal period compared to non-Black obese women.

(24) The rising maternal mortality rate in the United States is driven predominantly by a disproportionately high rates of Black maternal mortality.

(25) Compared to women from other racial and ethnic groups, Black women experience prolonged, unrelenting stress related to systematic racial and gender discrimination, even through pregnancy and postpartum, which exacerbates Black women’s pregnancy-related causes of death, giving birth to low-weight babies, and experiencing pre-term birth. Racism is a risk-factor for these aforementioned experiences. This cumulative stress, called ‘weathering’, often extends across the life course and is situated in everyday spaces where Black women establish livelihood. Systemic barriers that exacerbate Black women’s likelihood to experience poor or fatal birthing outcomes, but do not fully account for the great disparity.

(26) Black women are twice as likely to experience pre-term birth, postpartum depression, and disproportionately higher rates of preeclampsia compared to White women.

(27) Racism is deeply ingrained in United States society. When combined with a lack of access to quality maternal health care, lack of access to nutritious food, and social determinants of health exacerbate Black women’s ability to experience poor or fatal birthing outcomes, but do not fully account for the great disparity.
(whether maternity care clinicians or maternity care support personnel) consistently required to undergo implicit bias, cultural competency, respectful care practices, or empathy training on a consistent, on-going basis.

(28) Women are not the only people who can become pregnant or give birth. Non-binary and gender-expansive people can also become pregnant. The terms “birthing people” or “birthing persons” are also used to describe pregnant or postpartum people. Gender identity and gender expression are inclusive of individuals who experience gender beyond the binary.

(29) Substance misuse among pregnant women, including the use of substances that are illegal or criminalized, misuse of prescribed medications, and binge drinking, has increased after 2014 for the past decade. Pregnant women with substance use disorder, particularly those with opioids, amphetamines, and cocaine use disorders, are at greater risk of severe maternal morbidity, including conditions such as eclampsia, heart attack or failure, and sepsis.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING FEDERAL EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO PREVENTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY.

(a) FUNDING FOR STATE-BASED PERINATAL QUALITY COLLABORATIVES DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), acting through the Division of Reproductive Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish a grant program to be known as the State-Based Perinatal Quality Collaborative grant program under which the Secretary awards grants to eligible entities for the purpose of development and sustainability of perinatal quality collaboratives in every State, the District of Columbia, and eligible territories, in order to measurably improve perinatal care and perinatal health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women and their infants.

(2) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under this subsection shall be in amounts not to exceed $250,000 per year, for the duration of the grant period.

(3) STATE-BASED PERINATAL QUALITY COLLABORATIVE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “State-based perinatal quality collaborative” means a network of teams that—

(A) is multidisciplinary in nature and includes the full range of perinatal and maternity care providers;

(B) works to improve measurable outcomes for maternal and infant health by advancing evidence-informed clinical practices using quality improvement principles;

(C) works with hospital-based or outpatient facility-based clinical teams, experts, and stakeholders, including patients and families, to develop and implement strategies to optimize resources to improve perinatal care and outcomes;

(D) employs strategies that include the use of the collaborative learning model to provide opportunities for hospitals and clinical teams to collaborate on improvement strategies, rapid-response data to provide timely feedback to hospital and other clinical teams to track progress, and quality improvement science to provide support and coaching to hospital and clinical teams;

(E) improves population-level outcomes in maternal and infant health; and

(F) has the goal of improving outcomes of all births, including those in the hospital, community, integration, and collaboration across birth settings.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

For purposes of carrying out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

(b) EXPANSION OF MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.—

(1) REQUIRING COVERAGE OF ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.—

(A) MEDICAID.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) is amended—

(i) by inserting “(a)” after “subsection (a)(1);” and

(ii) inserting “” after “and” at the end of “section 1905(b)”; and

(B) CHIP.—Section 2105(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397d(c)(6)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (A)—

(1) by inserting “or a targeted low-income pregnant woman” after “targeted low-income child”; and

(2) by inserting “; and, in the case of a targeted low-income pregnant woman, the benchmark dental benefit package satisfies the coverage requirements specified in section 1905(j)” after “emergency conditions”; and

(ii) in paragraph (B), by inserting “but only if, in the case of a targeted low-income child who is pregnant or a targeted low-income pregnant woman, the benchmark dental benefit package satisfies the coverage requirements specified in section 1905(j)” after “subparagraph (C)”; and

(2) REQUIREMENT OF CONTINUOUS COVERAGE FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM INDIVIDUALS UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.—

(A) MEDICAID.—Section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(1) in paragraph (86), by striking “and” at the end of the paragraph;

(2) in paragraph (87), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (86) the following new paragraph:

“(88) provide that the State plan is in compliance with subsection (e)(16);”;

and

(v) in subsection (e)(16)—

(1) in paragraph (B), by striking “At the option of the State, the State plan (or waiver of such State plan) may provide” and inserting “A State plan (or waiver of such State plan) shall provide”; and

(2) in paragraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (1), by striking “by a State under the State plan or waiver” and inserting “under a State plan (or a waiver of such State plan)” and

(III) by striking subparagraph (C).

(B) CHIP.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Section 2107(f)(1)(J) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397l(f)(1)(J)), as inserted by section 922 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), is amended to read as follows:

“(J) Paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 1902(e) (relating to the requirement to provide maternal and child health care for pregnant or waiver consisting of full benefits during pregnancy and throughout the 12-month postpartum period under title XIX).”;

(ii) CONFORMING.—Section 2122(d)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397l(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “the month in which the 60-day period” and all that follows through “pursuant to section 2107(e)(4)”.

(3) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

(A) MEDICAID.—Section 1902(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this paragraph and ends on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment, as a condition of receiving any Federal payments under section 1902(a) for calendar quarters occurring during such period, a State shall not have in effect, with respect to women who are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan or under a waiver of such plan on the basis of being pregnant or having been pregnant, eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures under the State plan or waiver that are more restrictive than the eligible standards, methodologies, or procedures, respectively, under such plan or waiver that are in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph.”

(B) CHIP.—Section 2105(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397d(c)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) IN ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR TARGETED LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMEN.—During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this paragraph and ends on the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, as a condition of receiving payments under subsection (a) and section 1902(a), a State that elects to provide assistance to women on the basis of being pregnant (including pregnancy-related assistance provided to targeted low-income pregnant women (as defined in section 2122(d)), pregnancy-related assistance provided to women who are eligible for such assistance through application of section 1902(v)(4)(A)(1) under section 1902(v)(1), or other assistance under the State child health plan (or a waiver of such plan) which is provided to women on the basis of being pregnant) shall not have in effect, with respect to such women, eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures under the plan (or waiver) that are more restrictive than the eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures, respectively, under such plan (or waiver) that are in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph.

(4) INFORMATION ON BENEFITS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make publicly available on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, information regarding benefits available to pregnant and postpartum women and under the Medicaid program and...
the Children’s Health Insurance Program, including information on:
(A) benefits that States are required to provide to pregnant and postpartum women under such Act; (B) optional benefits that States may provide to pregnant and postpartum women under such programs; and (C) the availability of different kinds of benefits for pregnant and postpartum women, including oral health and mental health benefits and breastfeeding services and such programs.
(5) FEDERAL FUNDING FOR COST OF EXTENDED MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE FOR POSTPARTUM WOMEN.
(A) MEDICAID.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d), as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
“(11) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Federal medical assistance percentage specified by the Secretary that provides medical assistance for obstetric or gynecological services that are furnished in a hospital that is located in a rural area (as defined for purposes of section 1221(v)) shall be equal to—
(A) during the first 20-quarter period for which this subsection is in effect with respect to a State, 100 percent; and
(B) with respect to a State, during each quarter thereafter, 90 percent.
(2) EXCLUSION FROM TERRITORIAL CAPS.—Any payment made to a territory for expenditures for medical assistance provided to a woman who is eligible for medical assistance for obstetric or gynecological services that are furnished in the 60th day after the last day of the individual’s pregnancy (including any assistance provided during the month in which such period ends), shall be equal to—
(A) during the first 20-quarter period for which this subsection is in effect with respect to a State, 100 percent; and
(B) with respect to a State, during each quarter thereafter, 90 percent.
(B) CHIP.—Section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(8) EFFECTIVE DATES.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the amendments made by paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and
(B) EXCEPTION FOR STATE LEGISLATION.—In the case of a State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) and subparagraph (J) of section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, the respective plan shall not be taken into account for purposes of applying payment limits under subsections (f) and (g) of section 1106.
(3) Enhanced Payments for Extended Assistance Provided to Pregnant Women.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the enhanced FMAP, with respect to payments under section 1902 of the Social Security Act or a State child health plan (or waiver of such plan) for assistance provided under the plan (or waiver) to a woman who is eligible for medical assistance on the basis of being pregnant (including pregnancy-related assistance provided to a targeted low-income pregnant woman (as defined in section 2121) during the period that begins on the 60th day after the last day of her pregnancy (including any such assistance provided during the month in which such period ends), shall be equal to—
(A) during the first 20-quarter period for which this subsection is in effect with respect to a State, 100 percent; and
(B) with respect to a State, during each quarter thereafter, 90 percent.
(6) GUIDANCE ON STATE OPTIONS FOR MEDICAID COVERAGE OF DOULA SERVICES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue guidance for the States concerning options for Medicaid coverage and payment for support services provided by doulas.
(7) ENHANCED FMAP FOR RURAL OBSTETRIC AND GYNECOLOGICAL SERVICES.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d), as amended by paragraphs (1) and (5), is further amended by—
(A) in subsection (b), by striking “and (ii)” and inserting “(ii)”;
(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:
“(11) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Federal medical assistance percentage for a State, with respect to medical assistance for obstetric or gynecological services that are furnished in a hospital that is located in a rural area (as defined for purposes of section 1221(v)) shall be equal to 90 percent for each calendar quarter beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and
(C) the amendments made by paragraph (3) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and
(iii) the amendments made by paragraph (7) shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.
(8) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet, through a cooperative agreement with an organization that provides education and training opportunities for students and health care professionals, which may be a health system, teaching hospital, community health clinic, school of public health, school of nursing, dental school, social work school, school of professional psychology, or any other health professional school or institution, information about the implementation of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965) focused on the prevention, treatment, or recognition of health conditions that contribute to maternal mortality and the prevention of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity.
(9) DEMONSTRATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall take into account any regional differences among eligible entities and make an effort to ensure geographic diversity among award recipients.
(10) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet, through a cooperative agreement or similar agreement, information about the implementation of health care professional training in implicit bias and delivering culturally competent care, such as departments of public health, perinatal quality collaborative, hospital systems, and health care professional groups, in order to obtain input needed for effective implementation strategies; and
(2) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this section, the term ‘maternal mortality’ means death of a woman that occurs during or within the one-year period following the end of such pregnancy.
“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
For purposes of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2029.”

“(g) SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PRO-
gram for Women, Infants, and Children.—

“SEC. 1206. [42 U.S.C. 1866(a)(1)] is amended—

“(1) to purchase and equip rural mobile health units for the purpose of providing pre-
conception, pregnancy, postpartum, and ob-
stetric emergency services in rural and un-
derserved communities;

“(2) to train providers including obstetri-
cian-gynecologists, certified nurse-midwives,
nurse practitioners, nurses, and midwives to
deliver health services, in-
cluding training and planning for obstetric emergencies, in such mobile health units; and

“(3) to address access issues, including so-
cial determinants of health and wrap-around
clinical and community services including
nutrition, housing, lactation services, and
transportation strategies and referrals.

“(h) NO SHARING OF DATA WITH LAW EN-
FORCEMENT.—As a condition of receiving a
grant under this section, a State shall sub-
mit to the Secretary an assurance that the
State will not make available to Federal or
State law enforcement any personally iden-
tifiable information regarding any pregnant
or postpartum individual collected pursuant
to such grant.

“(i) GRANT DURATION.—The period of a
grant under this section shall not exceed
3 years.

“(j) IMPLEMENTING AND REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—States that receive pilot
grants under this section shall—

“(A) implement the program funded by the
grant; and

“(B) not later than 3 years after the date of
enactment of this section, and not later than
6 years after such date of enactment, submit
to the Secretary a report that describes the
results of such program, including—

“(i) relevant information and relevant
quantitative indicators of the programs’ suc-
cess in improving the standard of care and
health outcomes for individuals in
rural and underserved communities
seen for pre-conception, pregnancy, or
postpartum visits in the rural mobile health
units, stratified by the categories of data specified
in paragraph (2);

“(ii) relevant qualitative evaluations from
individuals receiving pre-conception,
pre-natal, or postpartum care from rural mobile
health units, including measures of patient-
reported experience of care and measures of
patient-reported issues with access to care
without the rural mobile health unit pilot;

“(iii) strategies to sustain such programs
beyond the duration of the grant and expand
such programs to other rural and
underserved communities;

“(2) CATEGORIES OF DATA.—The categories
of data specified in this paragraph are the
following:

“(A) Race, ethnicity, sex, gender,
identity, primary language, age,
geography, insurance status,
disability status.

“(B) Number of visits provided for pre-
conception, prenatal, or postpartum care.

“(C) Number of repeat visits provided
for preconception, prenatal, or postpartum care.

“(D) Number of disease tests pro-
vided for smoking, substance use,
hyper-tension, sexually-transmitted diseases,
diabetes, HIV, depression, intimate partner
violence, or pregnancy.

“(E) DATA PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The re-
ports referred to in paragraph (1)(B) shall not
contain any personally identifiable infor-
mation regarding any pregnant or
postpartum individual.

“(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
conduct an evaluation of the pilot program,
under this section to determine the impact
of the pilot program with respect to—

“(1) the effectiveness of the grants awarded
under this section in improving maternal
health outcomes in rural and underserved
communities, with data stratified by race,
ethnicity, primary language, socioeconomic
status, geography, insurance type, and other
factors as the Secretary determines ap-
propriate;

“(2) any areas of consistent spending on
maternity care by States participating in
the pilot program;

“(3) to the extent practicable, qualitative
and quantitative measures of patient experi-
ence; and

“(4) any other areas of assessment that the
Secretary determines relevant.

“(g) REPORT.—Not later than one year after
the enactment of this paragraph, under
this section, the Secretary shall submit to
Congress and, make publicly available, a
report that describes—

“(1) the results of the evaluation
conduct ed under subsection (e); and

“(2) a recommendation regarding whether
the pilot program should be continued after
fiscal year 2028 and expanded on a national
basis.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There is authorized to be appropriated to the
Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000
for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2029.”

“SEC. 6. REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF IMPEND-
ING HOSPITAL OBSTETRIC UNIT CLOSURE.

“Section 1866(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)(1)) is amended—

“(1) in subparagraph (X), by striking “and” at
the end;

“(2) in subparagraph (Y) (V), by striking the
period and inserting “and” and “;”;

“(3) in paragraph (3), in subparagraph (Y)
the following new subparagraph:

“(3) a recommendation regarding whether
the hospital, not less than 90 days prior
to the closure of such unit, submit to the
Secretary a notification which shall include—

“(i) a report analyzing the impact the

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SEC. 8. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND TOBACCO TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "$42.78" and inserting "$49.56".

(b) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "$3.93 per 1,000 cents" and inserting "$10.74."

(c) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKLESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

"(A) is not intended to be smoked; and
(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, or other single-use or single-dose unit.

(d) TAX PARITY FOR SMALL CIGARS.—(1) In general.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "$30.60" and inserting "$100.66."

(e) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—(1) In general.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "$50.33 per thousand" and inserting "$100.66 per thousand."

(2) Establishing per use basis.—For purposes of section 5701(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act or the date that a product has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate) may issue regulations establishing the level of tax for such product that is equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis as determined by the Secretary.

(3) Time for payment.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the effective date of the tax rate increase.

(4) Articles in foreign trade zones.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the first proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or
(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the second proviso of such section 3(a).

(5) Definitions.—For purposes of this subsection:

(A) Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 5702 of such Code shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(B) INCREASE DATE.—The term "tax increase date" means the effective date of any increase in any tobacco product excise tax rate pursuant to the amendments made by this section (other than subsection (i) thereof).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate.

(6) Controlled groups.—Rules similar to the rules of the sections 5901(e)(3) of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(7) Other laws applicable.—All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of such Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as a person to whom credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed from foreign trade zones defined in section 309(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS, LARGE CIGARS, AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amend- ments made by subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(2), (e), and (f) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702) from the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 after the last day of the 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The amend- ments made by subsection (g)(1) shall apply to articles removed after the last day of the month which includes the date that the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate) issues final regula- tions establishing the level of tax for such product.
NOW, therefore, be it

Resolved, (1) to designate as "National Stills-birth Prevention Day" a day of the year reserved for the purpose of calling upon the President and all other Federal and State officials to use authority to take appropriate action to combat this crisis; (2) to designate the day of September 19 and the following seven days as National Stillbirth Prevention Week; and (3) to encourage the States to observe National Stillbirth Prevention Day, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and in the European Union as well.

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BINDER, Mr. CUSICK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WILKINSON, Ms. WINEGARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. YEH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 350

Whereas, since the 1960s, minority groups such as Black Americans in the South have suffered from the effects of Jim Crow laws that were designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility; Whereas, since the 1870s, minority groups such as Black Americans in the South have suffered from the effects of Jim Crow laws that were designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility; Whereas Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underrepresented voters were subject to violence, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, and grandfather clauses designed to suppress the right of those underrepresented individuals to vote; Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate the rights of voters and were overturned by the courts; Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, photo identification, and the elimination of same-day registration; Whereas these policies could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups; Whereas, in 2018, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate the rights of voters and were overturned by the courts; Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Shelby County v. Holder, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.); Whereas addressing the challenges of administering future elections requires immediate action via court-appointed vote-by-mail and other limited-contact options to ensure access to the ballot and the protection of the health and safety of voters, and access to the ballot amid a global pandemic like the Coronavirus Disease 2019 public health emergency; Whereas Congress must work to combat and reject attempts to dismantle or undermine the United States Postal Service or obstruct the passage of the mail as blatant tactics of voter suppression and election interference; Whereas, in 2020, there has been a relentless attack on the right to vote with more than 400 bills having been introduced to roll back the right to vote, including one which bills have been signed into law in 18 States; Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote through free, fair, and accessible elections, and Congress must exercise its constitutional authority to protect the right to vote; Whereas National Voter Registration Day in 2023 is Tuesday, September 19; and Whereas September 2023 would be an appropriate month—

(1) to designate as “National Voting Rights Day”;
(2) to encourage the States to observe National Voting Rights Month; and
(3) to encourage Congress to pass—

(A) the Freedom to Vote Act (S. 1, 118th Congress), to set basic national standards to ensure all people can cast their ballots in the way that works best for them, regardless of what ZIP code they live in, improve access to the ballot for people in the United States, advance commonsense election integrity reforms, and protect the democracy of the United States from relentless attacks;
(B) the Democracy Restoration Act of 2023 (S. 1677, 118th Congress), to restore Federal voting rights to citizens after release from imprisonment, honoring the responsibilities of citizenship and need for access to the.ballot; in all cases, State legisla-

dive district maps, in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Louisiana to be gerrymandered districts that were created to favor some groups over others; Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, photo identification, and the elimination of same-day registration; Whereas these policies could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups; Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate the rights of voters and were overturned by the courts; Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Shelby County v. Holder, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.); Whereas addressing the challenges of administering future elections requires immediate action via court-appointed vote-by-mail and other limited-contact options to ensure access to the ballot and the protection of the health and safety of voters, and access to the ballot amid a global pandemic like the Coronavirus Disease 2019 public health emergency; Whereas Congress must work to combat and reject attempts to dismantle or undermine the United States Postal Service or obstruct the passage of the mail as blatant tactics of voter suppression and election interference; Whereas, in 2020, there has been a relentless attack on the right to vote with more than 400 bills having been introduced to roll back the right to vote, including one which bills have been signed into law in 18 States; Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote through free, fair, and accessible elections, and Congress must exercise its constitutional authority to protect the right to vote; Whereas National Voter Registration Day in 2023 is Tuesday, September 19; and Whereas September 2023 would be an appropriate month—

(1) to designate as “National Voting Rights Month”; and
(2) to encourage that, through the registration of voters and awareness of elections, the democracy of the United States includes all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2023 as “National Voting Rights Month”;
(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote; and
(3) encourages Congress to pass—

(A) the Freedom to Vote Act (S. 1, 118th Congress), to set basic national standards to ensure all people can cast their ballots in the way that works best for them, regardless of what ZIP code they live in, improve access to the ballot for people in the United States, advance commonsense election integrity reforms, and protect the democracy of the United States from relentless attacks;
(B) the Democracy Restoration Act of 2023 (S. 1677, 118th Congress), to restore Federal voting rights to citizens after release from imprisonment, honoring the responsibilities of citizenship and need for access to the ballot; in all cases, State legisla-
Whereas throughout history, Presidents of the United States have served lobster at their inaugural celebrations and state dinners with international leaders; and
(3) continues to be a mainstay during many other holiday traditions; and
(4) recognizes the human toll of cancer and pledges to make the prevention of and cure for cancer a public health priority; and
(5) reminds the people of the United States of its pledge to make the prevention of and cure for cancer a public health priority.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1242. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed 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, and for other purposes, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1243. Mr. BUDD 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 1244. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1245. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. JOHNSTON) 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 1246. Mr. KING 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 1247. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. ROSS) 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 1248. Mr. ROSS 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 1249. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) 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 1250. Mr. KENNEDY 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 1251. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CARPER) 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 1252. Mr. KENNEDY 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 1253. Mr. MORA (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCAR, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1254. Mr. DURBIN 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 1255. Mr. DURBIN 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 1256. Mr. WHITE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. TILLIS) 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 1256. 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 1257. Mr. JOHNSON 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 1258. 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.

SA 1259. Mr. SCHUMACHER 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 1260. 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.

SA 1261. Mr. REED (for Mr. Tester) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 238, expressing support for recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day.

SA 1262. Mr. ROMNEY 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 1263. Mr. ROMNEY 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 1264. Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRON, and Ms. SANDERS) 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 1265. Mr. SCHATTZ (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. HIRON) 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 1266. Mr. SCHMITT 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 1267. Mr. SCHMITT 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 1268. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HASSAN) 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 1244. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 230, line 13, insert “Provided further, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the congressional report that provides, with respect to the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96), FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-278), and FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-264), a list of each rulemaking and report requirement in such Acts and the status of each rulemaking or report requirement that has been submitted to Congress: after “Congress”:

SEC. 1243. Mr. BUDD 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. 1244. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. 1245. 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:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1246. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE” under the heading “1201. Feed the Future” in section 1201 of division B, insert “Provided further. That of the funds made available by this Act, $25,000,000 shall be used to carry out cranberry research.” before the period at the end.
in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.

(2) VERIFICATION AND DEADLINE.—The verification by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be limited to confirming documentary proof of tribal membership by the Tribe, if the criteria set out in the constitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16, 2001; and

(B) be completed not later than 2 years after the submission of a digitized roll with supporting documentary proof by the Tribe to the Secretary.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An application to take into trust land located within Robeson County, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) In General.—With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over—

(1) all criminal offenses that are committed; and

(2) all civil actions that arise.

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer, in the name of the United States, after consulting with the Attorney General of the United States, any transfer by the Secretary of the United States of any portion of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina described in subsection (a) over Indian country occupied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction described in paragraph (1) may not take effect unless the Secretary has first provided the Secretary of the Interior with the membership set out in subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of enactment of this section shall, subject to verification by the Secretary, define the service population of the Tribe.
under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS” in title III of division C, strike “$850,000,000” and insert “$793,520,000.”

In the matter under the heading “RURAL HOUSING SERVICE” under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS” in title III of division C, strike “$850,000,000.”

In title VII of division B, strike sections 771 and 774.

SA 1252. Mr. KENNEDY 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 the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, insert the following:

TITLE V—IMPROVING REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2023” or the “PLUS for Veterans Act of 2023.”

SEC. 502. CLARIFICATION OF PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, OR PROSECUTION OF A CLAIM UNDER A LAW ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 5001 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Except” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except;” and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) EXCLUSION.—The administration of a medical examination, or the writing of a report based on such examination, described in section 5125 of this title, does not constitute the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim described in subsection (a).”

SEC. 503. AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS IN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: DISCIPLINARY ACTION; SUSPENSION.

Section 5004 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 503, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim before the Department” and inserting “course of representation described in subsection (c)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “FEE AGREEMENTS.”—after “(c)”; and

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

“(1) A case other than a case described in paragraph (2), a fee agreement between a claimant and an agent or attorney, with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim under a law administered by the Secretary, shall be a fee agreement under—

(i) this paragraph, using a standard agreement form prescribed by the Secretary;

(ii) subsection (d); or

(iii) subsection (e).

B. A fee agreement under this paragraph is one under which the total amount payable to the agent or attorney with respect to the claim—

(i) may not exceed $12,500 (as adjusted from time to time under subparagraph (C)); and

(ii) is contingent on whether the claim is resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant.

(C) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of the enactment of the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2023), the Secretary shall increase the dollar amount in effect under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by a percentage equal to the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) increased during the 12-month period ending with the last month for which Consumer Price Index data is available. In the event that such Consumer Price Index does not increase during such period, the Secretary shall maintain the dollar amount in effect under such clause during the previous fiscal year.

(D) The limitation under subparagraph (B)(i) does not apply to any fee charged, allowed, or paid for services provided with respect to proceedings before a court.

(E) For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), a claim shall be considered to have been resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant if all or any part of the relief sought is granted.

(F) The form prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (A)(i) shall include the following notifications to the claimant:

(i) That organizations recognized under section 5902 of this title furnish services concerning claims under laws administered by the Secretary, at no cost to claimants.

(ii) That the claimant may select a private physician for a medical examination described in section 5125 of this title regarding the claim.

(iii) That such agent or attorney may not refer the claimant to a private physician described in clause (i) with whom the agent or attorney has a business relationship regarding the claim.

(G) In paragraph (D), by striking “referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection” and inserting “regarding a claim under a law administered by the Secretary”;

(H) in paragraph (A)(ii), by striking “to paragraph (2) and inserting “to paragraph (1) or (2)”;

(I) and by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(a) PAYMENT OF FEES OUT OF AN AWARD OR INCREASED AWARD.—(1) When a claimant and an agent or attorney have entered into a fee agreement described in paragraph (2), the total fee payable to the agent or attorney (including all ancillary fees) may not exceed the amount that is equal to the product of five and the amount of the monthly increase of benefits awarded on the basis of the claim.

(2) A fee agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is one under which the total amount of the fee payable to the agent or attorney—

(A) is to be paid to the agent or attorney by the claimant, after commencement of the monthly period of payment of monetary benefits based on an award or increased award (as defined in section 5111(d) of this title); and

(B) is contingent on whether the matter is resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, a claim shall be considered to have been resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant if all or any part of the relief sought is granted.

(J) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 504. FEES PAYABLE FOR REPRESENTATION OF VETERANS FOR CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) FEE.—Section 5904 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 503, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim before the Department” and inserting “course of representation described in subsection (c)”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “FEE AGREEMENTS.”—after “(c)”; and

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

“(1) A case other than a case described in paragraph (2), a fee agreement between a claimant and an agent or attorney, with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim under a law administered by the Secretary, shall be a fee agreement under—

(i) this paragraph, using a standard agreement form prescribed by the Secretary;

(ii) subsection (d); or

(iii) subsection (e).

B. A fee agreement under this paragraph is one under which the total amount payable to the agent or attorney with respect to the claim—

(i) may not exceed $12,500 (as adjusted from time to time under subparagraph (C)); and

(ii) is contingent on whether the claim is resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant.

(C) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of the enactment of the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2023), the Secretary shall increase the dollar amount in effect under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by a percentage equal to the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) increased during the 12-month period ending with the last month for which Consumer Price Index data is available. In the event that such Consumer Price Index does not increase during such period, the Secretary shall maintain the dollar amount in effect under such clause during the previous fiscal year.

(D) The limitation under subparagraph (B)(i) does not apply to any fee charged, allowed, or paid for services provided with respect to proceedings before a court.

(E) For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), a claim shall be considered to have been resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant if all or any part of the relief sought is granted.

(F) The form prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (A)(i) shall include the following notifications to the claimant:

(i) That organizations recognized under section 5902 of this title furnish services concerning claims under laws administered by the Secretary, at no cost to claimants.

(ii) That the claimant may select a private physician for a medical examination described in section 5125 of this title regarding the claim.

(iii) That such agent or attorney may not refer the claimant to a private physician described in clause (i) with whom the agent or attorney has a business relationship regarding the claim.

(G) In paragraph (D), by striking “referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection” and inserting “regarding a claim under a law administered by the Secretary”;

(H) in paragraph (A)(ii), by striking “to paragraph (2) and inserting “to paragraph (1) or (2)”;

(I) and by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(a) PAYMENT OF FEES OUT OF AN AWARD OR INCREASED AWARD.—(1) When a claimant and an agent or attorney have entered into a fee agreement described in paragraph (2), the total fee payable to the agent or attorney (including all ancillary fees) may not exceed the amount that is equal to the product of five and the amount of the monthly increase of benefits awarded on the basis of the claim.

(2) A fee agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is one under which the total amount of the fee payable to the agent or attorney—

(A) is to be paid to the agent or attorney by the claimant, after commencement of the monthly period of payment of monetary benefits based on an award or increased award (as defined in section 5111(d) of this title); and

(B) is contingent on whether the matter is resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, a claim shall be considered to have been resolved in a manner favorable to the claimant if all or any part of the relief sought is granted.

(J) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 505. REINSTATEMENT OF PENALTIES FOR CHARGING VETERANS UNAUTHORIZED FEES RELATING TO CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5905 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Penalty” and inserting “Penalties”;

(2) by striking “Whoever” and inserting the following:

“A. WITHHOLDING OF BENEFITS.—Whoever;

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

“(b) CHARGING OF UNAUTHORIZED FEES.—Except as provided in sections 5904 or 5905 of this title, whoever directly or indirectly solicits, contracts for, charges, or receives, or attempts to solicit, contract for, charge, or receive, any fee or compensation with respect to the preparation, presentation, or
prosecution of any claim for benefits under a law administered by the Secretary shall be fined as provided in title 18, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 59 of this title is amended by striking the item relating to section 9065 and inserting the following:

"9065. Penalties for certain acts..."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1253. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. 75. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000 to carry out section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount appropriated under the heading "OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY" under the heading "PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I is reduced by $1,000,000.

SA 1254. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 901(f)(5).—(A) In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000 to carry out the table; as follows:

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) establish, implement, or enforce any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505-1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355-1) for mifepristone that is substantially similar to any of the modifications nullified by subsection (a); or

(2) exercise discretion to not enforce any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505-1 for mifepristone.

SA 1257. Mr. JOHNSON 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 SHUTDOWN ACTS OF 2023

SECTION 4001. SHORT TITLE

This division may be cited as the “Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2023.”

SEC. 4002. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In General.—Subtitle 1 of 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 has not been enacted into law, there is appropriated to the account for a program, project, or activity that 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 subsection (c), the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year.

(b) 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) in any any 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.

(iii) 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 program, project, or activity;

(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 fiscal year were not enacted, provided under this section for such preceding fiscal year.

(iv) 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, section, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, appropriations and funds made available during a fiscal year under this section are 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, 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 such 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 table in section 254(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(a)), for any fiscal year for which appropriations and funds made available under this section, the final sequester the report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1)) and (2) and (3) do not be made available under this section, the final sequester report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1)) and (2) and (3) do not be made available.
"(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 is not enacted by the end of such fiscal year for such program, project, or activity.

"(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 appropriation Act providing continuing appropriations for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year) provides otherwise.

"(e) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(f) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol that triggers a continuity of operations or continuity of Government protocol.

"(g) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(h) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(i) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(j) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(k) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(l) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(m) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(n) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(o) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(p) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(q) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(r) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.

"(s) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue 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.

"(t) No funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted, for a program, project, or activity to continue for any fiscal year pursuant to this section if—

"(1) I N GENERAL.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee during a covered period.

"(2) TRAVEL IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, 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 implementation of the continuity of Government protocol.
such account for less than the entire current year.

(c) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPEND-
ING 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 title 31 United States Code, as added by this division, shall be con-
sidered 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)).

SA 1258. 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 appropria-
tions for military construction, the De-
partment of Veterans Affairs, and re-
lated agencies for the fiscal year end-
ing September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, in-
sert the following:

SEC. 1. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS CONSULTATION 
WITH PHYSICIANS ON NATIONAL 
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on how the Department of Veterans Affairs conducts or ensures that safe, high-quality national standards of practice are developed and implemented across medical centers of the Department.

SA 1261. Mr. REED (for Mr. TESTER) pro-
posed an amendment to the resolu-
tion S. Res. 238, expressing support for 
recognizing September 29 as National 
Service Dog Day; as follows:

In the first whereas clause of the preamble, strike ‘‘including—’’ and all that follows through ‘‘disabilities’’.

In the second whereas clause of the pre-
amble, strike ‘‘, hear’’ and all that follows through ‘‘seizure’’.

Strike the fourth whereas clause of the preamble.

In the fifth whereas clause of the pre-
amble, strike ‘‘, including’’ and all that follows through ‘‘ideals’’.

In the sixth whereas clause of the pre-
amble, strike ‘‘, located in all 50 States, 
Puerto Rico, and Guam’’.

SA 1262. Mr. ROMNEY 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 appropria-
tions for military construction, the De-
partment of Veterans Affairs, and re-
lated agencies for the fiscal year end-
ing September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of divi-
sion C, insert the following:

SEC. 4. REVIEW OF VETERANS WHO 
ENJOYED OR ENGAGED IN TOXIC 
EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES WHILE SERV-
ING IN KOSOVO AND THE HEALTH 
effects of such toxic exposure risk acti-
tivities.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the following:

(1) Data regarding the mortality of covered veterans.

(2) Any data on toxic exposure experienced by covered veterans that is both relevant and available, including toxicology studies.

(3) The type of toxic exposure risk activi-
ties covered veterans engaged in while serv-
ing in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of subsection (a), a covered veteran is a veteran who—

(1) served in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo; and

(2) was a part of such service, engaged in toxic exposure risk activity.

(c) MANNER AND SUITABILITY OF REVIEW.—The Secretary shall carry out the review re-
quired by subsection (a) in a manner such that the findings of the Secretary with re-
spect to the review are suitable and applica-
ble under subchapter VII of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR, OR SPACE SERVICE.—The term ‘‘active military, naval, air, or space service’’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITY.—The term ‘‘toxic exposure risk activity’’ has the meaning given such term in section 1716(e)(4) of such title.

(3) VETERAN.—The term ‘‘veteran’’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of such title.

SA 1265. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. HIRANO) sub-
mitted an amendment intended to be pro-
posed to amendment SA 1092 pro-
posed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, mak-
ing appropriations for military con-
struction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fis-
cal 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 IV of divi-
sion C, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PROTECTING DOMESTIC SOURCES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used to des-
ignate a new, or expand an existing, national monument on land that includes a uranium mill or mine that may provide a domestic source of uranium.

SA 1264. Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be pro-
posed to amendment SA 1092 pro-
posed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, mak-
ing appropriations for military con-
struction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fis-
cal 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, in-
sert the following:

SEC. 6. PROTECTING DOMESTIC SOURCES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used to des-
Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) with respect to a major disaster declared under section 401 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) outside the continental United States on or before August 1, 2023, based on appropriate economic indicators demonstrating high local repair and construction costs. Provided, that such amounts are designated by Congress 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:

**SA 1266. Mr. SCHMITT 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. 1. AMOUNTS FOR ROSECRAINS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MISSOURI.**
The is appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000 to carry out a project at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, Missouri, relating to 139th airmilt wing entry control point planning and design.

**SA 1267. Mr. SCHMITT 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. 2. AMOUNTS FOR ROSECRAINS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MISSOURI.**
The is appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000 to carry out a project at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, Missouri, relating to entry control point planning and design.

**SA 1268. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HASSAN) 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. 3. REVIEW OF VETERANS WHO EN-]ACED IN TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES WHILE SERVING IN KOSOVO AND THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF SUCH TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES.**

(a) Review Required.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the following:

(1) Data regarding the mortality of covered veterans;

(2) any data on toxic exposure experienced by covered veterans that is both relevant and available, including toxicology studies.

(3) The type of toxic exposure risk activities covered veterans engaged in while serving in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo;

(b) Covered Veterans.—For purposes of subsection (a), a covered veteran is a veteran who—

(1) served in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo; and

(2) as part of such service, engaged in a toxic exposure risk activity.

(c) MANNER AND SUITABILITY OF REVIEW. —The Secretary shall carry out the review required by subsection (a) in a manner such that the findings of the Secretary with respect to the review are suitable and applicable under subchapter VII of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR, OR SPACE SERVICE.—The term ‘‘active military, naval, air, or space service’’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITY.—The term ‘‘toxic exposure risk activity’’ has the meaning given such term in section 1710(e)(4) of such title.

(3) VETERAN.—The term ‘‘veteran’’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of such title.

**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. 1210, Lee No. 1121, Cruz No. 1176, Rubio No. 1159, Rubio No. 1237, Hawley No. 1200, Marshall No. 1161, Braun No. 1182, Paul No. 1226, Paul No. 1217, Scott of Florida S. 2721, as amended with a Scott of Florida-Rubio substitute amendment.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing.

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20 AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG DAY**

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to adjourn. In the absence of objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 238) expressing support for recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day.

Whereas evidence-based research has shown that service dogs provide numerous health and fitness benefits;
NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 351, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolution (S. Res. 351) designating September 25, 2023, as “National Lobster Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that 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.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20; that the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4366; that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to suspend rule XVI ripen at 12:15 p.m.; further, that the Senate recess from 5 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. to allow for the all-Senators briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:52 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

JENNIFER L. FAIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION; VICE JAY NEAL LERNER, RESIGNED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

STUART ALAN LEVEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS; VICE MICHAEL O. JORRISSE, TERM EXPIRED.

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

CHRISTOPHER H. SCHROEDER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 3, 2023, VICE HARVEY M. TETTLEBAUM, TERM EXPIRED.


NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DAVID T. WILLIAMS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2023, SHEREE COLLEEN LOWE, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

MELISSA L. HULL

TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

ALICIA C. PALLETT

TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 19, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

RITA K. FAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

VERNON D. OLIVER, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

For appointment to the following positions:

Under Title 10, United States Code, Section 624:

To the grade indicated in the United States Air Force under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624.

To be lieutenant colonel

JULIE A. GRIFFITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

To be major

JOSHUA A. YOUNG

IN THE ARMY


AMANDA E. CAMPEAU

ANDREW T. BECKSTOCK

AUDREY L. FIELDING

JASON K. GRACIDA

ANTHONY J. MORTHURD

CHARLES V. SLIDER


To be colonel

KRISTA L. BARTOLONUCCI

TRAVIS W. ELM

STEPHEN M. HERNANDEZ

BRIDGEN J. MAYER


Arthur A. Blain IV


JAMES A. FAVUZZI


To be major

DAVID A. BOUDREAU, JR.


BRYAN A. SHEPMAN


To be colonel

PETER D. HELZER


STEPHEN L. ROSSIER

JEFFREY A. COUGILLARD

CHRISTOPHER A. DAY

CHRISTOPHER M. MILVIN

JAMES S. MURRAY

STEPHEN M. WARNER


To be colonel

STEPHEN J. JONES


To be colonel

JOSEPH A. JACOBS


To be colonel

STEPHEN J. JONES


To be colonel

JOSEPH A. JACOBS

HONORING GARY KROESCHEN FOR RETIRING AS CHAIR OF THE MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD

HON. DARIN LAHOOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Gary Kroeschon on his retirement as Marshall County Board Chairman.

Gary has dedicated much of his career to serving the people of Marshall County. Throughout his incredible career, Gary served on the Marshall County Board, Bennington Township Board, and Toluca Park District Board. Serving on the Bennington Township Board and the Toluca Park District Board for nearly 20 years, Gary also served on the Marshall County Board for 16 years and 11 of those as Chairman. He retired from this role on September 14, 2023, marking the end of his exceptional tenure serving the Marshall County area.

Like his work serving the people of Marshall County, Gary was a small business owner of Kroeschon Plumbing and Heating Inc in Toluca, Illinois. Gary exemplifies the values of public service and hard work. I want to express the utmost gratitude to Gary, I am certain that my fellow Illinoisans feel the same pride and respect towards him that I do. He has undoubtedly improved the lives of Marshall County residents and Central Illinoisans more broadly. Most importantly, Gary accomplished all this while being a loving husband, father, and family man. I congratulate Gary, and wish him happiness and relaxation in retirement.

HONORING THE VALIANT MILITARY SERVICE OF ELECTRICIAN’S MATE 3RD CLASS ALAN DANCULOVICH

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Richard Alan Danculovich of Jefferson City for his valiant military service during the Vietnam War. Following in his WWII veteran father’s footsteps, EM3 Danculovich’s dedicated service in the United States Navy began on November 29, 1965, at the RTC Great Lakes for Bootcamp and later EM-A School for electrician training.

Upon completion of his naval training, EM3 Danculovich served aboard the U.S.S. Piedmont (AD–17), ported out of San Diego, where he was assigned to the Electrical Repair Division. The U.S.S. Piedmont (AD–17) was a Dixie-class destroyer tender that served and created a legacy that the next generation can follow.

In anticipation of his retirement at the end of this year, associates of Capital Group were asked to characterize Tim’s leadership with just a single word. The words most often repeated included kind, trusted, candid, inclusive, present, and caring. One close colleague added, “It is rare to find a leader who cares so genuinely and openly about his colleagues and clients.” I am proud to celebrate the career accomplishment of Tim Armour and wish him all the very best in life’s next chapter.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY D. ARMOUR FOR WORKING TO IMPROVE PEOPLE’S LIVES THROUGH SUCCESSFUL INVESTING

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Capital Group and one of its retiring leaders, Mr. Timothy D. Armour. Capital Group is not only headquartered, but was also founded more than 90 years ago, in my hometown of Los Angeles. Today, I want to recognize Tim for his contributions to the field of asset management and his dedication to the tens of millions of investors in the United States and around the world who have entrusted Capital Group to safeguard and grow their savings.

At the end of this year, Tim will retire from Capital Group, a firm he joined over 40 years ago at its Los Angeles headquarters. After graduating from the firm’s early-career rotational program, he served as an investment research analyst covering telecommunications and U.S. service companies and later as a portfolio manager in several of the American Funds. He distinguished himself throughout his career as a savvy investor able to identify companies that deliver long-term value for their shareholders.

Tim also served in various leadership roles, including as Chairman of Capital Group’s Management Committee and Board of Directors over the past 8 years. Under his leadership, the 92-year-old firm expanded its reach to global investors while evolving to meet the demands of a changing world and provide for future success for the benefit of Capital Group’s clients, associates and the communities where those associates live and work.

Chuck graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1969, then enlisting in the United States Navy serving as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator from 1970 to 1974 in Coronado, California.

Upon discharge, Chuck enrolled at the California Baptist University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Behavioral Science in 1978. He later returned to school to earn a Master of Divinity in Theology from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

In October 1990, Chuck moved to Hayward from Dixon, California, to become the Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. Through his role, he profoundly contributed to the faith community within Hayward and the East Bay at large. In fact, I fondly remember walking with Chuck through Hayward to deliver prepared Thanksgiving meals to the homeless, something he loved doing every year.

Chuck is heavily involved in community service programs. As Chair of the Clean & Green Task Force, Chuck worked to improve...
the city of Hayward by reducing graffiti vandalism. When graffiti taggers were caught, Chuck offered to mentor and help them change course to prevent property vandalism. Chuck also founded HayWallKru in 2010, empowering graffiti taggers to become artists through abatement, education, and additional development opportunities.

Chuck served in the community through his various roles in other community service organizations, such as director of the Hayward Coalition for Healthy Youth, the Ashland Cherryland Health Community Coalition, the Hayward Rotary Club, the Salvation Army Meal Project Coordinator, Vice President of the Hayward Education Foundation, and an Ambassador for the Hayward Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck has been a beloved member of the Hayward community for over 30 years, and known as the big guy with a booming voice, and a personality to match. Chuck has battled prostate cancer for ten years while remaining involved in various outreach roles and has recently started hospice care.

I join the Hayward community in recognizing the contributions of Pastor Chuck and send my sincerest well wishes to Linda, his wife of over 50 years, and their two children, Chrystal and Aaron.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHNNY APPLESEED ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGovern
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Johnny Appleseed Arts and Cultural Festival in Leominster, Massachusetts on September 23, 2023.

While many have heard the tales of Johnny Appleseed, the American folk hero who wandered our early Nation planting apple seeds—not many know the man behind the story.

John Chapman was born in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1774. From a young age, his father taught him to cultivate trees. That's where his story starts.

Back then, frontier law allowed anyone to claim the land by developing a permanent homestead on it. Chapman established his homesteads by planting apple orchards, just like his father. He ventured more than 100,000 square miles from Massachusetts to Illinois, all the while planting apple seeds in his wake. At the time of his death in 1845, John Chapman owned over 1,200 acres of land, leaving behind hundreds of apple trees.

Every year since 1993, thousands of people have gathered in Leominster to celebrate the life and work of John Chapman. Through live music and apple crisp, the festival aims to honor Chapman's legacy of abundance, bravery, and cultivation.

Mr. Speaker, Rotary Club is special. Under the dedicated rotary and expertise of Festival Coordinator Rick Marchard, the event has blossomed year after year. This year, the festival will provide 1,000 complimentary meals to children and their families, accommodate 230 local vendors, and welcome several dozens of organizations and artists to interface with their community. The Johnny Appleseed Arts and Cultural Festival is a chance to celebrate our rich land across generations.

Mr. Speaker. In honor of Johnny Appleseed is a treasured National figure that we in Central Massachusetts are proud to share. I commend the Johnny Appleseed Festival on its 30th anniversary and am proud of the staff, volunteers, and community members that work to make this such a beloved annual event. We look forward to welcoming tens of thousands of neighbors to this beloved festival.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. Morelle. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed Roll Call No. 393 on September 18, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

REMEMBERING FRANK BARRIOS

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. Gallego. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of Frank Barrios, a third generation Arizonan and proud Mexican American who dedicated over 50 years of service to the people of Arizona. I want to express my gratitude for Frank's remarkable service to the 3rd Congressional District, to our community, and to all of Arizona.

Frank spent his career in hydrology, utilizing his engineering degree to ensure the sustainability of Arizona's water supply. Without these efforts, Arizona's growth and success over the past decades would not have been possible. He began his career with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. From there, he transitioned to the Arizona Water Commission, later called the Arizona Department of Water Resources, serving as a director for both the Pinal and Phoenix Active Management Areas. After retiring from Colorado River Planning in 1998, Frank was appointed to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors, where he served for 3 years.

But Frank's impact and his legacy go far beyond his career. Frank served as President of 7 boards, won numerous awards and accolades, and published several books. He was passionate about preserving the history of Mexican Americans in the Valley, fighting to restore a historically Latino burial ground in downtown Phoenix, and archiving photographs and stories. Thanks to his work, the contributions of Latinos to Arizona history will not be erased.

My thoughts are with Frank's family and friends during this difficult time. Although he will be greatly missed, his legacy will be carried on through the countless lives he touched in his decades of service to the people of Arizona.

HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE OF OPERATIONS SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS DONALD WOLF

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mrs. Harshbarger. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Operations Specialist 5th Class Donald Wolf of Morristown for his courageous military service in the United States Army. Specialist Wolf joined the Army in 1968, and trained for the Quartermaster Corps after attending basic training at Ft. Campbell in Kentucky. In 1969, SPC Wolf deployed to Vietnam, where he served as a clerk in Headquarters Company 266 Supply and Service Battalion. During his tour of duty, he earned the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in a Combat Zone. Ultimately, he was honorably discharged from the Army following 2 valiant years of service. Please join me in thanking Operations Specialist 5th Class Donald Wolf for his bravery and heroic military service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. Scott of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that 20 years ago, on September 4, 2003, President George W. Bush signed the Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA, into law. This law recognized the difficult truth of rampant and completely unacceptable sexual abuse of people in our jails, prisons, and juvenile detention facilities, and endeavored to address it. PREA sought to end these abuses by creating research mandates, promulgating National standards, and providing grant funding to meet those standards. Ending prisoner rape remains one of the increasingly rare topics on which people on both sides of the aisle can agree. I joined forces with my Virginia colleague, Congressman Frank Wolf, to sponsor the bill in both the House and Senate. Fighting against institutional abuse and protecting those who cannot advocate for themselves should never be a partisan issue, and I have been gratified by the coalition of support PREA has inspired over the years.

Since PREA’s passage, we’ve seen dramatic improvements in how adults and children in detention are treated. Thousands of corrections professionals have been hired and trained to ensure the safety of people in their custody through the implementation of PREA’s National standards. The U.S. Department of Justice is now required to gather data on sexual abuse in custody that provides corrections facilities, advocates and policymakers with invaluable information on the dynamics of sexual abuse in detention, and how it can be stopped.

Hundreds of thousands of incarcerated people are educated every year about their right
to be safe and respected, and how to speak out if they are not. Incarcerated people, their families, and advocates now have more effective methods of reporting sexual abuse, as evidenced by the dramatic increase in the number of reports we have seen since PREA’s enactment, let us take this moment to recognize the ways that PREA marked an important shift in how we, as a country, deal with this violence. Sexual abuse in detention may not be a secret epidemic anymore, but it is incumbent upon us to actualize the goal set out in this historic law and end this crisis, once and for all. Let me say again: rape is not part of the penalty.

I also want to acknowledge the broad-based coalition of advocates and civil rights groups that fought to pass PREA. Encourage corrections facilities to implement PREA’s National standards, and continue to ensure that the law lives up to its intended purpose and promise. Specifically, people who have endured this abuse have been on the front lines of the effort to make our prisons and jails places where people are free of sexual abuse. Just Detention International’s Survivor Council deserves special mention. These courageous survivors have fought tirelessly to ensure that no one ever has to face abuse and to instill in all of us the principle that no matter what crime a person has committed, rape is not part of the penalty.

The work we set out to do with PREA is by no means over. Rape in prisons is still far too common. And young people, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and people who come from communities of color are more affected by this crisis than others. The recent cases of staff sexual abuse in California at the Federal Correctional Institution Dublin (FCI–Dublin) at the highest levels expose and illustrate the impunity with which many staff perpetrators can operate. Making things worse, the dozens of women at FCI–Dublin who were abused could not initially get support services. This highlights a larger problem of a lack of resources for community service providers. Prisons, jails, and youth detention facilities nationwide must commit to implementing the National Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. This doesn’t mean merely changing policies as they’re written on paper. It means meaningfully adopting those policies and shifting the culture on the ground in detention facilities. This encompasses everything from safer reporting procedures for survivors to stronger investigations after an assault occurs. We must empower staff to identify signs that incarcerated people are being abused, and to identify red flags in staff behavior that could result in abuse. We must also have more confidential emotional support services in prisons, especially from community providers, so that survivors can get the help they deserve. And finally, we must end the culture of impunity and the code of silence among staff which allows abuse to flourish. As I have before, I call on the Department of Justice to work vigorously to ensure that every state implements PREA to protect all inmates from sexual violence.

Mr. Speaker, on the 20th anniversary of its enactment, let us take this moment to recognize the ways that PREA marked an important shift in how we, as a country, deal with this violence. Sexual abuse in detention may not be a secret epidemic anymore, but it is incumbent upon us to actualize the goal set out in this historic law and end this crisis, once and for all. Let me say again: rape is not part of the penalty.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF CAPRON, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Village of Capron, Illinois, for their service to their community and in expressing our best wishes for the Mu Lambda Chapter’s continued growth and success.

PRATERNITY

VERSARY OF THE MU LAMBDA

CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA

FRATERNITY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the eleventh alumni chapter of the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, by 7 young African American men, known as the Seven Jewels, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The founders of the fraternity—Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle and Vertner Woodson Tandy—recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African Americans.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity is the largest predominantly African American intercollegiate fraternity and 1 of the 10 largest intercollegiate fraternities in the Nation, with more than 850 chapters around the world. The fraternity is led by General President Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III, Interim Executive Director Sean L. McCaskill, Comptroller Donald E. Jackson and General Treasurer Densel Fleming. Its Eastern Region and Mid-Atlantic Association of Alpha Chapters are led by Regional Vice President East Christopher G. Ellis, Jr., Regional Assistant Vice President East Tamir D. Harper, District VI Director Ray Hawkins, Jr., Assistant District VI Director Noah Absalon, and Area Director Michael Taylor.

The Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was established as the first alumni chapter in the District of Columbia on October 1, 1923, in response to the desire of graduate members, many of whom were initiated into the Beta Chapter at Howard University, to give aid to the undergraduate members and continue the work of the fraternity after graduation.

The Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity established the Mu Lambda Foundation in 1994 expressly to provide community service to residents of the District of Columbia and to inspire and assist today’s youth in their quest to make their mark on society. For 100 years, the Mu Lambda Chapter has played a role in the positive development of the character and education of men. Six members of the Mu Lambda Chapter have served as the General President of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and two have served as the Eastern Region Vice President. Members of the Mu Lambda Chapter are leaders in the areas of government, business, entertainment, philanthropy, law, non-profit, science, sports, literature, armed services, religion and academia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the members of the Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, past and present, for their bond of friendship, common ideals and beliefs, and service to their community and in expressing our best wishes for the Mu Lambda Chapter’s continued growth and success.
Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4567–S4607

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2836–2854, and S. Res. 349–352.

Measures Passed:

National Service Dog Day: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 238, expressing support for recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Reed (for Tester) Amendment No. 1261, to amend the preamble.

National Lobster Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 351, designating September 25, 2023, as “National Lobster Day”.

National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 352, designating September 2023 as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”.

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate continued 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:

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.

Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 (listed above) to the bill.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, September 20, 2023; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 (listed above), ripen at 12:15 p.m.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 230), Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 232), Rita F. Lin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 231), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jennifer L. Fain, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Stuart Alan Levey, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring October 3, 2024.

Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring October 3, 2030.

Daryle Williams, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024, Shelly Colleen Lowe, term expired.
Routine lists in the Air Force and Army.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Notices of Intent:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—232)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:52 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4607.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FCC
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman, Federal Communications Commission.

AGING IN PLACE
Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care concluded a hearing to examine aging in place, focusing on the vital role of home health in access to care, after receiving testimony from Carrie Edwards, Mary Lanning Healthcare, Hastings, Nebraska; Judith A. Stein, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Willimantic, Connecticut; Tracy M. Mroz, University of Washington, Seattle; William A. Dombi, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, Washington, D.C.; and David C. Grabowski, Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy, Boston, Massachusetts.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine advanced technology, focusing on threats to national security, after receiving testimony from Gregory C. Allen, Center for Strategic and International Studies Wadhwani Center for AI and Advanced Technologies, and Dewey Murdick, Center for Security and Emerging Technology, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jeff Alstott, RAND Corporation, Arlington, Virginia.

CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine corporate manipulation of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, after receiving testimony from Erik Haas, Johnson and Johnson, Armonk, New York; Melissa B. Jacoby, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Stephen E. Hessler, Sidley Austin LLP, New York, New York; Samir D. Parikh, Lewis and Clark Law School, Portland, Oregon; and Lori Knapp, Greeneville, Tennessee.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing intelligence in the era of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on addressing the national security implications of AI, after receiving testimony from Benjamin Jensen, CSIS, Burke, Virginia; Jeffrey Ding, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and Yann LeCun, Meta, New York, New York.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 14, 5555–5580; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 700–703, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 699, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1130) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas; providing for consideration of the resolution (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 providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3525) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–201); and

H.R. 3511, to amend the Small Business Act to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–202).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Cline to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Recess: The House recessed at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024—Motion to go to Conference: The House agreed to the Rogers (AL) motion to take from the Speakers table the bill H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; disagree to the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate thereon, by a yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas to 27 nays, Roll No. 395. Pages H4401–03

Agreed to the Rogers (AL) motion to close portions of the conference by a yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 396. Page H4402

Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act and Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024—Rule for Consideration: The House failed to agree to H. Res. 680, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1435) to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, by a recorded vote of 212 ayes to 214 noes, Roll No. 398, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 397. Pages H4392–H4401, H4403–04


National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024—Appointment of Conferees: Without objection, the Chair appointed the following conferees on H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Rogers (AL), Wilson (SC), Lamborn, Wittman, Austin Scott (GA), Stefanik, DesJarlais, Kelly (MS), Gallagher, Gaetz, Bacon, Banks, Bergman, Waltz, Johnson (LA), McClain, Jackson (TX), Fallon, Gimez, Mace, Greene (GA), Smith (WA), Courtney, Garamendi, Norcross, Gallego, Moulton, Carbajal, Khanna, Keating, Kim (NJ), Houlanah, Slotkin, Sherrill, and Escobar. Page H4405

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Representatives Turner, Wenstrup, and Himes. Page H4405

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 636, 651–55, 658–61, 1041, and 1042 of the House bill and secs. 303, 563, 592, 593, 1079, 1090K, 1099JJ, 1726, and 3142 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Foxx, Owens, and Scott (VA). Page H4405

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 224, 749, and 3121 of the House bill, and secs. 314, 712 of division A, 1087, 1088, 1090A, 1090G, 1099II, 3122–24, 3143, 3144, 6074, 8141, and sec. 11009 of division J of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Carter (GA), Pfluger, and Pallone. Page H4405

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of subtitle J of title X of division A, sec. 1086, title LXVIII of division F, division I, and division J of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives McHenry, Luetkemeyer, and Waters. Page H4405

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 217, 1009, 1080K, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1216, 1220, 1220A, 1220C, 1220G, 1220K, 1220L, 1221–24, 1234, 1245, 1250, 1310L, 1505, and 1883 of the House bill, and secs. 212,

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 542, 822, 1049, 1689, and 3116 of the House bill, and secs. 1041, 1090H, subtitles I and K of title X of division A, subtitle I of title XIII of division A, secs. 6031, 6075, 6082, 6084, subtitle H of title LX of division E, secs. 6813, 6816, 6821, 6831 of division E, secs. 9007, 9011, 9012, 9014, and title LXXI of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Carl, Hageman, and Grijalva.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of secs. 261, 510, 1853, 1865, 2843, 2844, 2847, and 3515 of the House bill, and secs. 312, 1041, 1090G, 2805, 6711, 11002 of division J, division K, and sec. 11341 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Issa, Lee (FL), and Nadler.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 364, 834, 891, 899C, 921, 922, 1047, 1101–10, 1116–18, 1122, 1221, 1222, 1521, 1523, 1805, and 1880 of the House bill, and secs. 537, 867, subtitle H of title X of division A, secs. 1201–03, 1206–09, 1211–13, 1215, 1512, 11133, 6101, 6202, 6203, 6607, sec. 6831 of division E, 8141, 9005, 11331–33, and secs. 601, 603, 605, 703, 704, 715–18, 802, and 1001 of division M, and secs. 11001 and 11002 of division L of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Grothman, Perry, and Raskin.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of secs. 886, 1608, 1875, and 1879 of the House bill, and secs. 308, 845, 1090E, 1090G, 3144, 5204, and title X of division M of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Mike Garcia (CA), Collins, and Lofgren.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 223, 853, 881, 882, 884, and 886 of the House bill, and secs. 141, 823, 831, 841–45, 849–52, and 5841 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Molinaro, Alford, and Velázquez.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 315, 707, 723, 866, 1602, 1608, 1804, 1854, 3501, 3511–13, 3515, 3531, and 3533 of the House bill, and secs. 314, 1083, 1090D, 1399N, 1606, 1644, 2814, title XXXV of division C, secs. 6079, 6226, 8141, and division H of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Graves (MO), Webster (FL), and Larsen (WA).

From the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for consideration of secs. 571, 572, 579, 1118, 1413, 1733, and 1885 of the House bill, and secs. 1084, 1090B, 1521, 1833, 1852, 6071, 6077, and 11020 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Bost, Luttrell, and Takano.

Quorum Calls Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4401, H4402, H4403, H4403–04, and H4404–05.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH TAIWAN

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Defense Cooperation with Taiwan”. Testimony was heard from Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Department of Defense; Mira Resnick, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security, Department of State; and Major General Joseph McGee, U.S. Army, Vice Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy, Joint Staff, Department of Defense.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM UNDER ATTACK: LOOSENING THE CCP’S GRIP ON AMERICA’S CLASSROOMS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Academic Freedom Under Attack: Loosening the CCP’s Grip on America’s Classrooms”. Testimony was heard from Ryan Walters, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma State Department of Education; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING POLICIES TO IMPROVE SENIORS’ ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE DRUGS, MEDICAL DEVICES, AND TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining Policies to Improve Seniors’ Access to Innovative Drugs, Medical Devices, and Technology”. Testimony was heard from Dora Hughes, M.D., Acting Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Acting Chief Medical Officer, U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and...
Human Services; and John Dicken, Director, Health Care—Public and Private Markets, Government Accountability Office.

PROTECTING AMERICAN MANUFACTURING: EXAMINING EPA’S PM2.5 PROPOSED RULE
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled “Protecting American Manufacturing: Examining EPA’s PM2.5 Proposed Rule”. Testimony was heard from Bryce C. Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, Utah; and public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY HEARING
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, Chairman Green of Tennessee, and Representatives DelBene, Newhouse, Davis of North Carolina, Grothman, Levin, Santos, McClain, Williams of New York, Spartz, Landsman, Moynan, Carey, Casten, Chavez-DeRemer, Ezell, James, Houchin, Molinaro, Khanna, and Baird.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SEC’S DIVISION OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Division of Investment Management”. Testimony was heard from William Birdthistle, Director of Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission.

A HOLISTIC REVIEW OF REGULATORS: REGULATORY OVERREACH AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES
Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “A Holistic Review of Regulators: Regulatory Overreach and Economic Consequences”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS RITUAL ABUSE AND SACRIFICE IN AFRICA
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Efforts to Address Ritual Abuse and Sacrifice in Africa”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EVALUATING CISA’S FEDERAL CIVILIAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS
Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Evaluating CISA’s Federal Civilian Executive Branch Cybersecurity Programs”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL SECURITY: ASSESSING SECURITY FAILURES ON JANUARY 6, 2021

EXAMINING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government held a hearing entitled “Examining Proposed Constitutional Amendments”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN FEDERAL WATERS: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MARINE SANCTUARY AND MONUMENT SYSTEM
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining Barriers to Access in Federal Waters: A Closer Look at the Marine Sanctuary and Monument System”. Testimony was heard from Jainey Bavishi, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S MISMANAGEMENT OF THE FEDERAL ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining the Biden Administration’s Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program”. Testimony was heard from Mike Nedd, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a 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”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Stauber and Neguse; Mike
Reynolds, Deputy Director, Congressional and External Relations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Jacqueline Emanuel, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Cory Smith, Commissioner, Itasca County, Minnesota; Randy Brodehl, Commissioner, Flathead County, Kalispell, Montana; Delano Hunter, Acting Director, Department of General Services, Washington D.C.; and a public witness.

THE ROLE OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MARKETS PART II: NOT WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets Part II: Not What the Doctor Ordered”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIDENOMICS: A PERFECT STORM OF SPENDING, DEBT, AND INFLATION

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “Bidenomics: A Perfect Storm of Spending, Debt, and Inflation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHIPS ON THE TABLE: A ONE YEAR REVIEW OF THE CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Chips on the Table: A One Year Review of the Chips and Science Act”. Testimony was heard from Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary, Department of Commerce.

FEMA: THE CURRENT STATE OF DISASTER READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY


USE AND REGULATION OF AUTONOMOUS AND EXPERIMENTAL MARITIME TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Use and Regulation of Autonomous and Experimental Maritime Technologies”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Wayne R. Arguin, Jr., Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG–5P), U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Todd Wiemers, Assistant Commandant for Capability (CG–7), U.S. Coast Guard; and public witnesses.

VA’S FEDERAL SUPREMACY INITIATIVE: PUTTING VETERANS FIRST?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “VA’s Federal Supremacy Initiative: Putting Veterans First?”. Testimony was heard from Erica Scavella, M.D., Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Chief Medical Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

REDUCED CARE FOR PATIENTS: FALLOUT FROM FLAWED IMPLEMENTATION OF SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLING PROTECTIONS

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reduced Care for Patients: Fallout from Flawed Implementation of Surprise Medical Billing Protections”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CIA INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Central Intelligence Agency held a hearing entitled “CIA Investigation Update”. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in financial services, 10 a.m., SD–538.

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: to hold hearings to examine public investment, 10 a.m., 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, 10 a.m., SR–253.
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, 2:30 p.m., 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, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

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. Hanks, 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 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, 2:45 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine improving mental health and suicide prevention measures for our Nation’s veterans, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled “Industry Perspectives on Defense Innovation and Deterrence”, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

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, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.


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.


Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Election Commission”, 10:15 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 929, the “Puylupp 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, 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, 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, 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Transportation’s Policies and Programs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Less is More: The Impact of Bureaucratic Red Tape on Veterans Education Benefits”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “VA Procurement: Made in America”, 3 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine Putin’s personal prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza, 2 p.m., 2200, Rayburn Building.

Joint Economic Committee: 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.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, September 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, and vote on the Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute, at 12:15 p.m. (Senate will recess from 5 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. for an all-Senators briefing.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, September 20

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Allred, Colin Z., Tex., E861
Gallego, Ruben, Ariz., E862
Harshbarger, Diana, Tenn., E861, E862
LaHood, Darin, Ill., E861, E862
McGovern, James P., Mass., E862
Morelle, Joseph D., N.Y., E862
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E863
Scott, Robert “Bobby”, Va., E862
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E861
Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E861