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of America

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No. 152

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 20, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### RECOGNIZING THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the men and women at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

These Americans work tirelessly to provide the fullest possible accounting for the 81,000 servicemembers who remain missing from past conflicts.

Earlier this year, scientists from the DPAA used dental and anthropological

analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparisons, to positively identify the remains of United States Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant Wesley "Bub" Leon Jones.

Staff Sergeant Jones was killed in action during Operation Tidal Wave when his B-24 bomber was shot down by enemy forces over Romania in 1943. His remains have been unidentified for more than 80 years.

Thanks to the DPAA, World War II veteran and proud Kansan Wesley Jones has finally returned home to Wichita and was laid to rest on Saturday.

I am grateful for the historians, anthropologists, technicians, doctors, and scientists at the DPAA who are fighting every day to bring our heroes home.

### LEADING WITH STRENGTH

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the greatest threat currently facing the United States of America: the Chinese Communist Party.

Communist China, led by President Xi, is buying up American farmland, stealing our intellectual property, investing in our educational institutions, and spying on our most critical military installations. Make no mistake, the time of trusting and welcoming China into the global system is over.

Pushing back against CCP aggression is not partisan. I am proud that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle came together to create the bipartisan Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party to counter President Xi's efforts to undermine American leadership.

It is vital that we put forward solutions to end our economic dependence on China, bring our jobs and supply chains back home to the United States, and make certain that our military is equipped to defend American interests and sovereignty.

The Chinese Communist Party is knocking at our doorstep, and this threat is becoming more urgent every single day.

It is crucial that President Biden starts leading with strength on the world stage to ensure the United States of America remains a beacon of freedom and hope for millions of people around the world.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KANSAN MINERS AND BIG BRUTUS

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of southeast Kansas' most treasured monuments, Big Brutus.

Standing 16 stories tall and weighing 11 million pounds, Big Brutus is the largest electric shovel of its kind. The colossal machine is a towering landmark on the otherwise flatland of West Mineral, Kansas. Here is a handmade wooden replica constructed by John Johnson.

From 1963 to 1974, Big Brutus was in use for coal strip mining. In a day's work, Big Brutus could work at a speed of 0.22 miles per hour and lift 150 tons of coal in a bucket. This efficiency was revolutionary for its time and dramatically increased the success of coal mining in the region.

The immortalization of this monument emphasizes the significance of Big Brutus in the development of engineering, but most importantly, it stands as a testament to southeast Kansas and the strength and fortitude of the people who live there.

As Big Brutus celebrates its 60th year, I commemorate the generations of miners in southeast Kansas for their hard work and dedication.

### CELEBRATING THE CHASE COUNTY COURTHOUSE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the sesquicentennial year of the Chase County Courthouse, the oldest operational courthouse in Kansas.

The courthouse's construction began in 1871 and was completed in 1873. Each

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

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



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year, visitors from across the country visit the Chase County Courthouse to admire its architectural design, stonework, and spiral staircase.

Standing 113 feet tall, this iconic structure can be seen from many vantage points across the county and most prominently in the heart of downtown Cottonwood Falls.

Unmatched in durability and design, the courthouse remains a living tribute to its builders and the Flint Hills pioneers who envisioned a courthouse that would stand and be of service to its residents for well over a century.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the county commissioners, members of the committee, and the entire Chase County community as they prepare to celebrate 150 years of their historic courthouse.

#### SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when Vladimir Putin and his autocratic regime launched their brutal criminal invasion of Ukraine in February of last year, many people predicted that the Ukrainians would throw down their arms and surrender within days.

Mr. Speaker, 18 months later, however, burnt-out husks of Russian tanks litter the Ukrainian countryside. Blue and gold flags fly proudly over Kyiv, Kherson, Lyman, and other towns held or liberated by Ukrainian forces. Russian soldiers surrender, desert, and dodge conscription in droves.

Meanwhile, defenders of democracy stand firm with Ukrainian courage in their hearts and Western weapons in their hands. Ukrainians stand strong because Americans and Brits and Danes and Germans and French and other freedom-loving peoples around the world stand united behind them. That unity is crucial now more than ever as the warmongering dictators of the world—Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-un, and Xi Jinping—have all come together.

We are locked in a struggle between freedom and fascism, democracy and despotism, might and right. The war in Ukraine is that struggle manifest.

President Zelenskyy returns to our Capitol this week, tomorrow, to remind us that the fate not only of this sovereign, democratic nation but of the free world hinges on this conflict. He recognizes that our international cooperation to preserve democracy depends on our cooperation here in the Congress of the United States.

Democrats and Republicans have found consensus on the issue in the past, securing vital military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine. We must keep working in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that Ukrainians receive whatever tools and resources they need to succeed on the battlefield because only the great arsenal of democracy, as we said during World War II, can vanquish an axis of evil.

I echo what President Truman said to the Congress in 1952 when trying to secure further aid for war-torn Europe. He said this: "If through inaction we desert the cause of democracy, the democratic hope may be exterminated in broad areas of the Earth." We must not let that happen.

President Truman called on Congress, as I urge you now, to add powerful momentum to the democratic counteroffensive, which inspires in the people of the world a sense of their own destiny as free men and women.

We have built up that momentum steadily over the last year and a half. Imagine how much more it will grow in the months ahead if the free world maintains its resolve, if this Congress maintains its resolve.

When President Zelenskyy arrives in our Capitol corridors tomorrow, he should not have to plead for more support. Instead, we ought to show him that we are committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure that action prevails over inaction, that democracy triumphs over autocracy, and that Ukraine emerges victorious over Russia.

Like the martyrs who gave their lives on the Lexington Common in 1775 and Kyiv's Maidan in 2014, we will show the world that we will do everything to protect our democratic principles.

If we are to defend democracy at home and around the world, if we are to defeat the despots, dictators, and dealers of destruction, then we, Ukraine, and the free world must stand as one.

Our words supporting freedom will ring very hollow if not coupled with our actions to defend freedom, as President Kennedy said, "here and around the world." Let us defend the democracy that we hold so dear.

#### HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week is Gold Star Family Remembrance Week. Every September, Gold Star Family Remembrance Week takes place on the week leading up to Gold Star Mother's Day, which has been observed by Presidential proclamation since 1936 on the last Sunday of September.

The Gold Star symbol first originated in 1917 when the United States began its involvement in World War I. Families would hang banners to represent a family member in the armed services. If the family member died in combat, the family would change the banner from a blue star to a gold star.

We will never know the exact number of Gold Star families. However, accordingly to the National Gold Star Family Registry, at least 472,251 fallen military members are registered by loved ones. At least 36,548 of those service-

members have been registered in my home State of Pennsylvania.

As an Army dad, I am blessed my son returned home. I am aware that this is not the case for all families, and we must take the time to remember, respect, and honor the families of our fallen servicemembers.

To honor and remember our fallen servicemembers and their families, I look forward to supporting efforts such as the Gold Star Family Remembrance Week. This week recognizes the loss and sacrifices of families in support of fallen members of the Armed Forces, as well as veterans.

I look forward to supporting legislative efforts to honor this occasion and encourage fellow Americans to perform acts of community service and goodwill to honor these families.

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

This important week is a time to remember the families of the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our freedom.

Madam Speaker, let us take a moment to remember that our freedom is not free. We cannot begin to imagine the loss and pain that these families have experienced.

Gold Star families have lost a loved one in the name of protecting our freedom, and they deserve our gratitude every day.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVID HECKER

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, in his 22 years of service as the president of the American Federation of Teachers of Michigan, David Hecker has been consistent in his commitment to working families, our teachers, and our education system, especially public education.

Mr. Hecker became a member of AFT in 1977 and has served as the AFT president in Michigan since 2001. AFT Michigan, Madam Speaker, has 35,000 members who are educators and healthcare providers working in K-12 as well as intermediate schools, community colleges, universities, and hospitals across the State of Michigan.

During his tenure, AFT Michigan has organized many new locals representing thousands of new members, particularly in higher education and healthcare.

Mr. HECKER is a lifelong labor leader committed to working families and worker rights and building a stronger labor movement. For many years, David has been a member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and Metro Detroit's AFL-CIO executive committees.

I am blessed to call David a friend. Please join me in recognizing his 22 years of public service and commitment to improving the lives of teachers across Michigan as we wish him well in his retirement.

□ 1015

## CONGRATULATING STEVE DENSMORE ON HIS RETIREMENT

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I recognize Assistant Fire Chief and Melvindale City Council member Steve Densmore for his 27 years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Assistant Fire Chief Densmore got his start in public service in 1996, Madam Speaker, and he was instrumental during many difficult times in our community. He helped lead the effort with the COVID vaccine clinic, the handling of two federally declared disasters, multiple commercial fires, and other emergency incidents.

He has been recognized numerous times for saving lives and his commitment to our community. Over the course of his career, Assistant Chief Densmore showed his unwavering commitment through his achievements that include numerous certification programs and various rescue operations, techniques, and other technical programming.

Assistant Chief Densmore has been an outstanding public servant, so please join me in recognizing his 27 years of commitment to protecting our families across Michigan's 12th District as we wish him well in his retirement.

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROCIO OCAMPO

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I recognize a dear friend, Rocio Ocampo, a community mother, whose contributions had an enormous impact on the families of southwest Detroit, as we honor her memory.

I first met Rocio when I served in Michigan's State Legislature at a parent advocacy meeting at Phoenix Elementary School. I was instantly impressed by Rocio. She was tenacious, and she had a drive to pursue a better quality of life and future for all children.

She was involved in numerous community organizations, serving on the board of Urban Neighborhood Initiatives as well as the City of Detroit's Property Assessment Board of Review, as well as a Parent Teacher Association member at her children's school. Rocio's active involvement in our community was marked by her dedication not only to making it a safer and healthier place to live, but to making it a more beautiful place to thrive.

Above all, Rocio loved her children and her grandchildren deeply. Her love extended out to the children of the neighborhood where she lived. She could always be counted on for a kind word, warmth, and generosity of spirit.

Rocio Ocampo's vibrant presence will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognizing her contributions and services as we honor her memory.

## RECOGNIZING MARSHA BRUHN

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Marsha Bruhn, a public servant and longtime resident of Detroit, Michigan's 12th Congressional District, for her numerous outstanding

contributions to the city as well as the Grandmont Rosedale community she calls home.

Madam Speaker, before settling in Detroit's Grandmont Rosedale community, Ms. Bruhn lived all over the country. She developed her passion for community development when she volunteered with the Staten Island Citizens Planning Commission. The community engagement work she witnessed while later living in Los Angeles spurred her to return to school to complete her master's degree in urban planning. She used that experience and education over 22 years of service as the director of the Detroit Planning Commission.

We were really, really blessed that she chose to live in our community in Detroit's North Rosedale Park neighborhood. She quickly became a champion of North Rosedale Park and the entire neighborhood area that comprises Grandmont Rosedale.

Ms. Bruhn has contributed immensely to strengthening housing and retaining and attracting small businesses that are the backbone of our community's corridor. She spearheaded the capital campaign to revitalize the North Rosedale Park Community House. I thank Ms. Bruhn and recognize her dedication and thank her for her commitment.

## HONORING THE SERVICE OF TIM GUYER

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize fallen Johnson County Deputy Sheriff Tim Guyer, who passed away at Indiana Law Enforcement Academy last month.

Deputy Guyer was training at the academy and set to graduate just 2 weeks after he passed. We will never forget his service and sacrifice to our Indiana community, and I extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

## RURAL HEALTHCARE IN RUSHVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about my recent visit to Rush Memorial Hospital in Rushville, Indiana. During the visit, we discussed the current state of rural healthcare and what can be done to improve it.

I also got to meet and speak with the outstanding stat flight team, who deliver timely and critical care to those in need throughout the southern Indiana district.

I really enjoyed my visit to the hospital and thank the entire team at Rush Memorial Hospital for all they do and for their hospitality.

## PUT AMERICA'S INTERESTS FIRST

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern with President Biden's decision to hand over \$6 billion to Iran, the largest sponsor of terrorism, as part of a ransom deal on the anniversary of 9/11.

September 11 is a day where we should be remembering the Americans

who lost their lives, honoring our first responders, and praying for the families who lost a loved one. The Biden administration's decision to broker a deal with terrorists on 9/11 is tone deaf, shameful, and desecrates the day.

Additionally, this deal emboldens our enemies, puts our Nation's safety and security at risk, and will ultimately fund anti-American terrorist activities. It is time for President Biden to stand up to our adversaries and put America's interests first.

## SERVING VETERANS IN SHELBY COUNTY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Shelbyville, Indiana.

The clinic offers primary and mental health care, optometry services, and physical therapy.

I thank the VA, the director of Veterans Health Indiana, Michael Herschman; the dedicated onsite clinical team; and Shelbyville Mayor Tom DeBaun for their efforts in getting this new facility open to serve Hoosier veterans throughout Shelby County and beyond.

## SLOW DOWN ELECTRIFICATION-OR-NOTHING APPROACH

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about my takeaways from a roundtable I attended with Hoosier stakeholders in Franklin, Indiana.

At the roundtable, research universities such as Purdue University and Vincennes University, along with the State of Indiana parking and mobility experts, and EV charging station developers joined together in Indiana's Sixth District to share lessons learned and best practices for the electrification policy.

We also discussed why the current timelines and excessive regulations of the Biden administration are far ahead of what is possible, practical, and of course affordable. This roundtable just further proved that it is time for the Biden administration to slow down their electrification-or-nothing approach.

## ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns about our Nation's electric grid reliability.

Our electric grid is on an unsustainable path, and if we do not change our direction now, we could be heading toward a catastrophic failure in the future. In fact, this month, for the first time ever, NERC has identified certain energy policies as the major threat to our grid's reliability. These policies include increased usage of electric vehicles, as well as reliance on wind and solar energy.

Yet, the Biden administration and far-left Democrats continue to try to push their rush-to-green energy agenda and force electrification of everything from cars to stoves. It is past time for this administration to face reality and put our Nation on a sustainable path forward to ensure the American people are able to keep their lights on.

## EPA'S PM2.5 RULE

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise my concerns about the command and control regulations in EPA's PM2.5 rule. These regulations will only hurt Indiana's electric reliability, raise costs on Hoosier businesses, and hinder economic growth in our State.

Additionally, at a time when companies are looking to re-shore domestic manufacturing, this rule serves as a detriment to new investment. Overall, this rule is bad for Hoosiers and for all Americans.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
UAW WORKERS

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

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are bravely leading the fight for fair pay, better benefits, and safe working conditions.

It is important that the industry supports a contract that rewards auto-workers for the sacrifices they have made and the profits they have built for these companies and our economy. Let's not forget that in 2008 these workers did their part. They stayed on the job and kept manufacturing and production going while the government swooped in to keep the industry afloat.

These workers didn't complain when we supported the big automakers, but now it is our turn to support them. The Big Three car manufacturers are experiencing record profits. Their CEOs are bringing home millions of dollars and 40 percent pay increases—that is right, 40 percent pay increases—while their workers cannot say the same.

Generation Z—something I am very proud of—is America's most pro-union generation, overwhelmingly supporting union workers time and time again. Now Congress needs to stand in solidarity with working people and do what is necessary in the struggle for what they deserve: fair wages, better benefits, and safe working conditions. I am proud to stand with the United Auto Workers.

## FIGHT AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the climate movement for a huge win today. President Biden has announced the creation of the American Climate Corps, which will train tens of thousands of young people to build the climate-friendly infrastructure we deserve and that we need. This is youth workforce development and will help us in many different issues, from gun violence to the economy.

This transformational thinking is the policy and work that we deserve to save our planet and save humanity. I thank the youth-led movements, like the Sunrise Movement, that made moments like this possible. I thank every-

one who has championed this. This is a great step in the greater fight to protect humanity, to fight against the climate crisis, and to have a world that we deserve.

The climate crisis is here, and the cost of not doing anything is far greater than the cost of taking bold action. Yes, in terms of dollars and cents, which is usually the way we think about things here in Congress, but I also think about the cost of human life and the cost of humanity. Let's continue this fight together.

HONORING BLANCA M.  
HERNANDEZ-ADAME

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I recognize Blanca M. Hernandez-Adame for all her tremendous work in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. Blanca's determination and kind-hearted nature have benefited our community for years.

Born in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, from a very early age, Blanca showed signs of being a natural-born leader. She always stood out among her peers in the different activities, groups, or social clubs she participated in.

Blanca has three children: Eros, Daniel, and Camila. She is a strong woman of faith and puts God first in everything she does. One of the most important people in Blanca's life is her mother, who has been present through good times and bad times for her whole life.

In 1995, Blanca began law school at the Universidad Autonoma de Guerrero and demonstrated an interest in politics. She became involved in Mexican politics and volunteered in campaigns for senators, state Governors, rectors of the University of Guerrero, and even the Presidency of the Mexican Republic in Mexico.

Blanca graduated from law school in 1999 and had the opportunity to work for some of the most essential people in the State of Guerrero as a trusted staff member. Later that year, due to the economic situation, Blanca left Mexico for the United States to pursue opportunities for herself and her family.

In 2000, she began working in a packinghouse. Blanca has the utmost respect for people who work in these places, as they can be very repetitive jobs and hard work. Some stay in the same place, doing the same movement for 8 to 10 hours every day for weeks, months, and even years. Every day that she spent at the packinghouse, she became more convinced that she had to learn English and that if she didn't, she would stay there forever working in a very difficult job.

She began taking English classes at night after a long day at the packing plant, but one of Blanca's strengths is her persistence. She knew that the effort would be worth it, so little by lit-

tle she learned to speak English and became a representative of the workers' union at the packing plant.

From there, she became active in our community in South Omaha. For 6 years, she served on the board of directors of the One World Clinic in Omaha. She volunteered in different community groups, nonprofit organizations, and is the founder of the Queens of Cinco de Mayo contest, one of the most important events in the Latino community of South Omaha.

In 2016—and this is where we want to focus because she has done so much great work here—she founded Generation Diamond to help people reenter our community after incarceration. She believes that her participants are diamonds in the rough that only need to be polished to shine. In just 7 years, Generation Diamond is one of the only organizations in Nebraska that helps the formerly incarcerated remove tattoos free of charge and covers basic needs, such as food and clothing. Services are offered in both English and Spanish, with a focus on building the Latino community. They are able to help fund employment and offer classes in trauma, finances, and stress reduction to give those they serve a glimmer of hope and the ability to remain in the community. Generation Diamond has grown rapidly, providing 1,020 services last month alone.

Madam Speaker, I thank Blanca for her hard work and determination to make our community better, and for investing in so many people and giving them a second chance. I am eager to see the growth and positive impact Generation Diamond will have in my district.

□ 1030

## KUSHNER-SAUDI DEAL

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, just last week on the House floor, I called this body to investigate the clear corruption and grift of Jared Kushner.

The American people deserve answers. Why did Jared Kushner receive \$2 billion, with a b, from the Saudi Government just 2 months after leaving the White House?

Here are the facts.

First, we know that Donald Trump's son-in-law was unqualified to work in the White House, but Jared was placed at the heart of government overseeing Middle East policy.

Kushner personally intervened to secure a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. He supported the Saudis through the brutal war in Yemen even after they murdered Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist, who we all know was an American resident.

The Saudi Crown Prince, shown here with Jared and Ivanka, reportedly bragged to other heads of state that

Kushner was “in his pocket.” Jared delivered for the Saudis over and over.

We now know today that when Jared left the White House just 2 months later, the Saudi Royal Family gave \$2 billion to the Kushner hedge fund, and Jared pockets another \$25 million per year in fees directly from the Saudi's.

Now advisers to the Crown Prince said publicly that this made absolutely no financial sense, and they pushed back, but the Saudi Crown Prince went forward, and Jared Kushner is receiving that enormous benefit to this day.

Madam Speaker, I have been calling out the Trump and Kushner crime family for months, and we should not stop speaking out until we get the investigation that we deserve. Americans need to trust that White House officials are looking out for our national interest.

The Kushner-Saudi deal is the biggest corruption scandal right now in American politics. We need subpoenas, investigations, and reforms so that this type of grift never happens again.

#### UKRAINE STRATEGY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the ongoing brutal and unjust war that is still wreaking havoc in Eastern Europe to this day and about America's role.

Make no mistake, Vladimir Putin is an evil tyrant whose brutal army is devastating the people of Ukraine. Like many others, I look forward to seeing him in The Hague.

My position on providing aid to Ukraine has been clear. Ukraine should have the tools it needs to win this war, its war, with the help of other countries, not just the United States.

The United States, especially with the American President, who holds many of these powers, absolutely cannot provide a blank check without robust oversight and something else that has been lacking: a clear strategy to end America's involvement.

Before I became a Member of this House, the previous Congress gave the Biden administration the resources it needed to help the Ukrainians end their war. However, the piecemeal approach taken by this administration has prolonged, rather than ended, the fight.

Frankly, just like former President Trump has said, the United States of America has the tools to end this war in 24 hours, bring that thug Putin to the table, stop the killing of innocent civilians, and allow Ukraine to maintain its independence.

I believe the American people, as well as the Ukrainians fighting on the front lines, have little use, if any, for weak and ill-equipped weaponry that simply prolongs the war rather than bringing it to an end once and for all.

A piecemeal approach to helping Ukraine is wasting taxpayer dollars,

and I do not know anyone who is in favor of wasting American tax dollars.

What we need is a strategy, oversight, and accountability:

A strategy that explicitly defines what victory looks like so we know when America's involvement is at an end; oversight so that the American people know how their tax dollars are being spent; and accountability for this administration's failures to implement these elementary pillars of decision-making.

Another far-reaching, multi-billion-dollar supplement without these three key tenets is not what the American people want or deserve. Frankly, it is not what the Ukrainians want either.

The Ukrainians have taken significant steps to restore accountability to their government and weed out corruption, so I believe they understand just how important a transparency is.

Madam Speaker, Ukraine can end this war, Ukrainians can have peace, the innocent killings of civilians at the evil hands of an evil dictator can stop. We can share the tools Ukrainians need without depleting our own capabilities. However, the United States cannot be drawn into another forever war without a meaningful strategy that defines how we know when it is over. We cannot put American servicemembers in harm's way, and we certainly cannot waste taxpayer dollars.

We were supposed to learn this lesson after Vietnam, and, instead, we ended up with a 20-year war in Afghanistan. We cannot make the same mistake again.

Madam Speaker, I represent one of the largest Ukrainian-American populations in the House of Representatives. My constituents are Americans who are the family members of Ukrainian soldiers. They are Americans who are faith leaders, and some are even first-generation Ukrainian Americans. All of them are grateful for the American assistance and that of our allies, and every single one is ready for this war to come to an end, just as I know so many others are, as well.

It is time for this administration to be up front with the American people and articulate a coherent strategy to define our end goal.

Let us all work together to commit to saving taxpayer dollars, increasing crucial oversight of our operations, logistical and tactical support, and finally commit ourselves to developing the strategy needed to save innocent lives, help the Ukrainians end their armed conflict, keep America out of this war, and ensure this does not go on another day longer.

#### TRIBUTE TO DON TRINKS—MAYOR OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the

mayor of Windsor, Connecticut, Don Trinks, a dear friend and person who served in the capacity of mayor for 22 years, and a public servant in Windsor for nearly three decades, as well.

He is a lifelong resident in what he would claim is the oldest community in the State of Connecticut, the town of Windsor. It may be disputed by some in Wethersfield, but that is what Don would claim, and that is where he met his wife, Barbara, in high school. They went on to get married, and he went on along with Barbara to be the go-to people in the community of Windsor.

Now, he also happens to run and manage, and probably is well known for running Bart's, which is second only to Augie & Ray's in East Hartford as the greatest hot dog you can receive in the State of Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Don's commitment to the community of Windsor is unsurpassed. In political office, Don always sought to bring people together. He has the right temperament for public service and the ability to bring people together, as he did time and again, and why he was so successful at getting more than \$3 million to revitalize downtown Windsor.

I was always happy to work alongside of him. It has been his leadership throughout his career, his temerity, especially during difficult times and especially during COVID, where he was one of those chief elected officials who led by example, especially for small businesses, of which he was very much one of them. He was also a devoted fan of Social Security, and we had an opportunity to work on that and visit many senior centers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to submit for the RECORD a tribute to Don Trinks, the mayor of Windsor for 22 years.

I commend Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW who came before the Committee on Ways and Means last week to discuss her concerns about WEP and GPO and Social Security. I look forward to working with her. I think there is an opportunity here, Madam Speaker, to recognize with more than 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, with almost 70 million people who are currently receiving Social Security, and with more than 40 percent of them Social Security being their only form of retirement and pension, it is long overdue for the United States Congress to act.

It has been 52 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. Madam Speaker, more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below-poverty level checks from the government, and, of them, the majority are women, because they were the care providers and were at home with their children or caring for someone that was sick, and also because when they were in the workforce they weren't making as much as their male counterparts.

There is no rational reason why these people in the wealthiest Nation in the world, who have worked all their lives



and paid into the system, gets below-poverty level checks, except for the fact that the United States Congress hasn't taken any action to correct this. It is long overdue.

With people like Julia coming in, Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a great opportunity for us to come together and succeed and make sure that all Americans know that Social Security is there for them.

This is not the time to talk about cutting their benefits. This is the time to talk about extending their benefits.

Yes, it is true that people are living longer, but for every year you raise the age of Social Security, that is a 7 percent cut. What sense does it make if you are living longer that you receive less Social Security money to live on? Of course, it does not.

#### RESTORE FISCAL SANITY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the face of a looming government shutdown to discuss fiscal responsibility and the importance of returning to regular order in this Congress.

The government borrows too much money and the government spends too much money. The Biden administration and Congressional Democrats' spending addiction has created massive inflation and caused our national debt to climb to nearly \$33 trillion. They prioritize spending that is out of touch with what Americans are asking for and are killing the economy in the process.

Republicans have offered real solutions to fix this mess. All the other side has offered is enthusiasm for more reckless behavior.

House Republicans remain committed to limiting future government spending, reclaiming unspent COVID relief money, eliminating burdensome regulations, and promoting pro-growth energy and economic policies.

We need to get government spending under control and get our economy back on track, and we need to protect both our national defense and Social Security and Medicare benefits for seniors while we do it.

What we are seeing now is President Biden and Washington Democrats' failure to negotiate, which regular order mandates and which Congress is based on. We can't keep going down this road.

In my commitment to the Big First, I promised to do everything I can to end Washington's spending addiction, balance the budget, grow the economy, curb inflation, secure the border, and lower taxes for individuals and small businesses.

We must restore fiscal sanity. Americans deserve to have their tax dollars used wisely. Giving the President endless, no-limit credit cards is no way to govern in a democracy.

Let's secure the border. Let's decrease our country's dependence on Communist China. Let's commit to reining in government spending.

It is hard for me to imagine how anyone can love the open border so much, or love losing to China so much, or love \$200 billion of unaccounted for COVID relief dollars so much that they would be willing to shut down the Federal Government to keep the situation as is.

If the other side would spend as much energy on funding the government as they do on their liberal wish list, we would have solved this problem long ago.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we have 10 days until House Republicans force a catastrophic government shutdown; 10 days until the food assistance that nearly 50 million Americans rely on, including 6 million women and children, is put in jeopardy; 10 days until seniors struggling with the Social Security or Medicare issue can't get someone on the phone to get their benefit or to keep their coverage; 10 days until the loans small businesses depend on to pay their workers and keep their doors open are delayed for who knows how long.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this train wreck before.

Republicans shut down the government for over a month in 2018 while they demanded billions in taxpayer funds for Donald Trump's border wall, the same one that Mexico was supposed to pay for.

That shutdown lasted 35 days, hurting families and reducing our economic output by \$11 billion, much of which was never recovered. It only ended after planes were grounded at major airports due to the strain on air traffic controllers, who were working around the clock with no pay to avert a major disaster.

Here we are again. It is Republican shutdown *deja vu*. Extreme MAGA Republicans are once again holding the American people hostage in exchange for dangerous policies and a politically motivated impeachment.

You don't have to take my word for it. Just listen to the demands from my colleagues across the aisle. One of our colleagues, a Congresswoman from Georgia, tweeted that she would not vote to fund the government if Congress doesn't pursue an impeachment inquiry against President Biden. Others are trying to roll back abortion protections for women serving in our military regardless of where they are stationed.

To pretty much no one's surprise, Speaker MCCARTHY has folded like a

cheap suit on every single one of their demands. That still hasn't been enough to get Republicans on board with this new plan, a breakthrough that would slash funding for the home heating assistance that thousands of families in my home State of Massachusetts depend on each winter; eliminate access to Head Start and childcare programs for nearly 200,000 children nationwide; and cut off access to housing vouchers for 20,000 veterans and 90,000 seniors, pushing them closer to homelessness.

This deal hashed out by Republicans for Republicans was a disaster from the start, and the fact that it fell apart even quicker than it came together is embarrassing for the majority of this Chamber.

It is amateur hour, but the stakes are too high, and the American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, there are 212 Democrats standing by whenever your party is ready to get serious and do what needs to be done. There are 212 votes standing by to keep our government open, to keep veterans housed, to keep our children fed.

I encourage Speaker MCCARTHY and my colleagues across the aisle to avert this disaster before it is too late. Put a clean funding package on the floor, and let's pass it together.

That is our job. It is your job, and the American people expect you to do it.

#### ENACT STRICTER SENTENCES FOR CHILD TRAFFICKERS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share the introduction of my bill, the CHILD Act of 2023.

This bill seeks to amend chapter 77, section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, by raising the mandatory minimum years of imprisonment for engaging in the trafficking of any person under the age of 18.

The current law states that if convicted of trafficking a victim under the age of 14, there is a minimum of 15 years imprisonment. If convicted of trafficking a victim between the ages of 14 and 17, the minimum sentence is 10 years imprisonment.

Child sex trafficking remains a pressing issue in the United States. In 2021, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 17,200 reports of child sex trafficking in all 50 U.S. States, affecting every type of community, including cities, rural areas, and Tribal land.

According to an NCMEC report from 2021, out of the 25,000 missing runaway children, 1 out of 6 are likely to be victims of sex trafficking.

Offenders often target vulnerable children who are of lower income, live in dangerous circumstances, and seek out better lives for themselves. Victims come from all backgrounds and become trapped in a never-ending cycle

of threats, abuse, false promises, isolation, shame, and debt.

These victims are deprived of something every child deserves—a future.

If enacted, this legislation would make the sentence for traffickers exploiting victims under the age of 18 the same regardless of their age. A child is still a minor, and there should be no differentiation at all.

It would also increase the minimum sentence to 25 years for those who are convicted of child trafficking. This will convey the serious nature of their crime and ensure that traffickers know that they will be punished if they continue to exploit minors.

By enacting more stringent penalties, this bill aims to bring justice for the victims and families affected by child trafficking and issues a strong statement to traffickers, who leave a lifetime of scars on innocent children.

My message is clear: Sex trafficking is a heinous crime that will not be tolerated.

Current laws are too soft on these criminals, and I am committed to ensuring stricter laws and harsher punishments to anyone who harms innocent children.

Lastly, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support this crucial piece of legislation to protect all children.

I also thank my co-leads—Congressman DON DAVIS, Congressman BUDDY CARTER, Congresswoman DIANA HARSHBARGER, Congressman DON BACON, and Congresswoman AMATA RADEWAGEN—for cosponsoring the CHILD Act of 2023.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Lord of all the Earth, be exalted in the nations. In the cacophony of the crises we face this day, may we stand still and wait on You to speak into the whirlwind that surrounds us on all sides.

In the complexity that is the war in Ukraine and in conflicts across the globe, let not the discord of our disagreement or the ardor of our opinion prevent us from hearing Your demand for peace and justice.

In the impasse of political processes, let not the storms of dispute deafen our

ears to Your direction, but may we yield ourselves to Your guidance in the deliberations that are laid before us in this season.

We need only to look to You and see what You, O Lord, have done in ages past. You have made wars to cease to the ends of the Earth. You have broken the bow and shattered the spear.

Lord Almighty, remain with us. May we learn to trust in You, O God, that You would be our guide and stay in these days of strife. Cause us, then, this day to be still and know that You are God.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OGLES 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.

#### PRICE TRANSPARENCY FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans attend nearly 1 billion medical appointments and emergency room visits and quite often are unaware of how much their treatments will cost until after their appointment has ended.

Now, the House has a chance to pass bipartisan legislation to address this issue and to stand up for our patients.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act would immediately benefit patients by providing clear price transparency for medical procedures, allowing patients the flexibility to choose where they will receive their care.

This bill includes legislation that I authored to provide funding for community health centers, which provides care to over 30 million Americans nationwide. From pediatric checkups to dentistry, rural communities rely on these health centers to meet their daily medical needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### NDAA MOTION TO INSTRUCT

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a handful of issues have always transcended politics. Our troops, the guardians of our freedom, have always been one of them, but in the MAGA Republican Party, nothing is off the table. Nothing takes priority over their goal of a nationwide abortion ban.

Military promotions, troops' paychecks, our national defense bill: all held hostage because extremists want to tear away the reproductive freedom of the very people fighting for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: Put our country first and instruct the conferees to deliver a defense bill that puts freedom over fascism.

#### MYTHS ABOUT U.S. AID TO UKRAINE

(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, this month, Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute addressed "The Top Myths about US Aid to Ukraine," revealing: "Every dollar spent in support of Ukraine is authorized by Congress and used for a specific purpose."

"As of September 2023, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with \$101 billion, or about 0.43 percent of America's GDP."

"The vast majority of this money never leaves the U.S. and instead supports American jobs."

"There has likely never been more accountability in place for U.S. foreign assistance," with the U.S., "Ukraine Oversight Interagency Working Group. More than 160 officials across 20 Federal oversight agencies monitor U.S. aid to Ukraine."

"According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy's Ukraine aid tracker, total European commitments are now more than double those of the U.S."

"Russia is China's junior partner. A defeated Russia means a weaker China."

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, "The security of the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from the European security."

I support the proven Republican policies of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan of why not victory over dictators.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVE ROWLEY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual who has dedicated four decades of his life to the field of broadcasting, and in doing so, has become a cherished

voice for the people of Northern Chautauqua County.

I am proud to address this Chamber to celebrate the retirement of a true newsman, Dave Rowley. His long career in broadcasting is testament to his passion for storytelling and his dedication to keeping our community informed.

Dave has worn many hats over the years, from reporting to anchoring, producing, and hosting his radio show, "Viewpoint." Through his work, he has provided a space for meaningful conversations on the issues that matter most to the people of Chautauqua County.

As we celebrate Dave's retirement, we can't help but feel a sense of loss as very few journalists possess the same integrity and reliability he has always displayed.

His commitment to excellence, his passion for the truth, and his dedication to his community will be a lasting legacy for all that follow in his footsteps.

Dave Rowley's retirement may mark the end of an era, but it also marks the beginning of a new chapter in his life, and we wish him all the happiness and fulfillment in his next chapter.

#### STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UNITED AUTO WORKERS

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are fighting for fair pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

These workers have built \$250 billion in profit for the Big Three automakers over the past decade, but they have been left behind. The Big Three CEOs, the big bosses, have increased by an estimated 40 percent in their compensation over the last 4 years, but workers over the last 4 years, 6 percent—a measly 6 percent.

To put that in perspective, Big Three corporate bosses, \$12,000 an hour. Those starting wages for the autoworkers, 18 bucks an hour.

This says it all. It should be fair, but this is unjust and unacceptable. Workers deserve a fair wage and benefits that reflect their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, we urge them to be supported.

#### RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA'S MCCLURE BEAN SOUP FESTIVAL

(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 the McClure Bean Soup Festival. Over the weekend, I attended the 132nd McClure Bean Soup Festival in Snyder County, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

This annual celebration started when Captain Michael Smith and several other surviving Civil War veterans wanted to host a reunion with other veterans, and it has now grown into a weeklong fair.

Supposedly, Captain Smith and his comrades basically had beans and some ham and, therefore, decided to provide bean soup for all their comrades who were attending that reunion. Today, this fair has vendors, rides, and games, but the biggest attraction is the bean soup.

Last year, volunteers made more than 30 kettles, and, yes, the recipe has stayed the same for more than 130 years.

Mr. Speaker, this weeklong festival is a staple in the Snyder County community. It is a unique way to remember the veterans of the Civil War while building memories within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to next year's McClure Bean Soup Festival as well.

#### FAIRNESS AND DIGNITY FOR UAW

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

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, everyone should have the ability to work in safe conditions, receive competitive pay and benefits, and at the end of the day, be able to put food on the table.

America's hardworking families keep our country running, but right now a lot of families are finding they don't have the support they need. Auto-workers made concessions in 2008 to save the auto industry and new contracts have not been reinstated to help them recover from those cuts and keep up with the economic demands.

Meanwhile, auto company profits at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis have skyrocketed 92 percent over the last 10 years, totaling \$250 billion. In 2023 alone, they are expected to profit more than \$32 billion. Despite their efforts, worker pay has only gone up 6 percent over the last 10 years.

Companies can and should do better because Americans deserve better. Workers deserve a fair deal. They aren't asking for the moon; they are asking for fairness and dignity.

#### LETTER TO ELON MUSK RE: TAIWAN

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, Elon Musk, someone generally known for promoting free speech and autonomy, falsely stated that Taiwan is an "integral part of China."

On a practical level, think about what that means for our efforts. We in Congress can promote Taiwan's partici-

pation in international organizations. We can argue that Taiwan must have a seat at the table, but if we refuse or fail to confront the CCP on their falsification of the historical record, if we, as a Congress, can't confront the CCP with the truth, we are letting Xi Jinping dictate the terms of the debate. That is irresponsible and wrong.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the first time that Mr. Musk has spread misinformation about the relationship between the CCP, China, and Taiwan.

For Elon to spread the talking points of the CCP from a position of influence in the United States is unacceptable, which is why I am sending a letter to Elon Musk providing him with an accurate account of Taiwan's history and a clear message: Taiwan is not part of the People's Republic of China and their free will is not for sale.

□ 1215

#### RECOGNIZING REVEREND JAMES LAWSON'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th birthday of my friend, Reverend James Lawson, who for more than half a century has been a force for justice and worker rights.

As a minister and teacher of non-violent resistance, James Lawson was a leader of the civil rights movement and worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King. Lawson led sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and strikes, including the historic 1968 Memphis sanitation strike, and he was a mentor to our beloved John Lewis.

In 1974, Reverend Lawson moved to Los Angeles, where he teaches non-violence at UCLA. His work orchestrating nonviolent sit-ins and civil disobedience helped improve working conditions for southern California hotel workers, generating a national movement for immigrant worker justice.

Reverend Lawson has been an inspiration to many as he continues the fight for freedom and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Reverend Lawson a happy birthday.

#### SENATE MUST ACT ON IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address America's immigration crisis.

For 29 months, encounters with illegal immigrants have been higher than the highest month in the Trump years.

While Washington Democrats continue to ignore the crisis, House Republicans continue to do everything we can in our power to enforce them.

Earlier this year, we passed H.R. 2, also known as the Secure the Border



Act. This bill helps finish the border wall, stops the Biden administration's open-border policies, and increases Border Patrol staffing.

This legislation awaits consideration in a Democratic-controlled Senate. It cannot wait any longer.

It is time for the Senate to take action. We cannot allow the Biden administration to dismantle the border wall. We cannot allow Secretary Mayorkas to circumvent or dismantle the successful remain in Mexico policy. We cannot continue to allow illegal immigrants to stream across our border illegally without regard for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come together and support a commonsense plan like H.R. 2 to stem the humanitarian crisis on our southern border.

#### STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH UAW

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because labor is in the House, the people's House, as we stand with workers all across America who are on strike, especially our United Auto Workers, who are on the front lines right now.

As a daughter of labor, this is a powerful moment in history. Across the Nation, across sectors, American workers are tired of giving their lives for their jobs every single day and getting less in return. They are standing up, organizing, and demanding better pay, better conditions, and better benefits.

This movement is about people, about writers, actors, postal workers, and autoworkers who are paving the path for future generations and receiving just compensation.

This is the moment. I am proud to stand in solidarity with our United Auto Workers and every worker across America who is collectively bargaining for the pay, benefits, and conditions that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends to stay strong and keep up the fight.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 704

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Ms. Tlaib.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Houlahan of Pennsylvania moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2670 be instructed to disagree to section 716 of the House bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this motion to instruct.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this House has a choice. We can either stand up for the rights of servicemembers and military families or we can allow the Republican-led House, and specifically the extreme faction of the Republican Conference, to continue their assault on reproductive freedoms.

For my Democratic colleagues and I, this choice is clear. We will fight. We will fight for the freedom of servicewomen and for their families, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please do the same.

Many of our servicemembers joined the Armed Forces prior to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* last June, and they did so with the understanding that they and their families would be treated with dignity and would receive comprehensive and high-quality healthcare services, regardless of where they were stationed—and, yes, that also includes access to abortion care.

Since *Roe* was overturned, servicemembers and their families have had access to travel and to leave if they need to seek reproductive healthcare, but unfortunately, that freedom is now being threatened today.

Mr. Speaker, today, for the very first time since 1973, 14 States have passed outright abortion bans. Seven more

have passed partial bans, and six more have tried but have been stopped by the courts.

Nearly 120,000 servicemembers are currently stationed in Texas. This is a State that has implemented a draconian anti-choice law and now has among the worst maternal health outcomes for women in the entire Nation. Our servicewomen deserve better.

This issue has been politicized, and it has been distorted. Outright lies have been spread by elected officials and by anti-abortion activists alike.

I will set the record straight. Here are the facts: Women in States with abortion bans are nearly three times more likely to die during pregnancy, during childbirth, or soon after giving birth. Let that sink in. We are stationing our women in uniform and their families in States where they are three times more likely to die during pregnancy.

No servicemember should have to accept a reality where they could literally die as a result of the anti-choice State law where they are stationed.

These are the conditions that our servicewomen and their military families have to consider when they decide to serve. Nearly half of servicemembers no longer have access to abortion care, and that is not counting even the members of their families, as well.

Our servicemembers signed up to serve our country with the understanding that one day they may have to make the ultimate sacrifice, the sacrifice of their life.

Let me remind the Chamber and those who are watching that we have an all-volunteer force. Again, I will repeat: We have an all-volunteer force.

As we look to recruit and retain the best fighters and the greatest minds that this Nation has to offer, we really cannot restrict the very freedoms that we ask women and men in uniform to potentially die for.

It is also important, as we talk, to go beyond the facts and figures and to share the personal and human impact of these anti-abortion laws and the choices we are facing here this week in this body.

In Texas, the second-largest State for Active-Duty servicemembers in our country, Amanda Zurawski was 18 weeks pregnant when her water broke, putting her at a high risk for developing a life-threatening infection. Doctors told Amanda that her life was in danger and that the fetus was going to die, but doctors could not provide the medical care that she needed because their hands were tied by Texas law.

Amanda eventually did develop sepsis and did eventually nearly die. Heartbreakingly, her ability to be and get pregnant in the future might be damaged, as well.

Amanda survived, and she survived to share this story about her harrowing experience to hopefully prevent others from having this experience, as well.

This story and the data that we have talked about today is why I am working with my colleagues, led by my dear

friend and fellow veteran, Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL, to try to codify this basic travel policy.

This body decided that women cannot be trusted to make their own reproductive healthcare choices, and instead, the majority in this House has decided to make it harder for servicewomen and their families to access care; to make it harder for them to make their own healthcare choices; to make it harder for servicewomen and military families to decide on their own if, when, and how to start their own families.

Also, a single United States Senator is holding up more than 300 military promotions and counting, hollowing out the military leadership and hurting our military readiness in the process. He is doing this all because he is that adamant that women in uniform cannot be trusted.

As a veteran myself, let me say out loud and clear that his actions are a disgrace, and Americans agree.

Again, more data: 70 percent of our constituents believe that women should have access to abortion care.

Mr. Speaker, the grave concerns I have outlined don't even begin to scratch the surface of all the harmful amendments that are also tacked on to this bill. Quite frankly, it is an embarrassment to this institution that our governance is just so fractured, so unable to agree on something so simple as letting a woman in uniform make the best care decisions for her family, her career, and herself.

Sadly, this is indicative of where we are today. I grew up in a military family, and I myself served. My parents didn't always agree on politics, but they shared a common love for the promises that this Nation offered my father, a refugee and Holocaust survivor who became a Navy aviator.

I have colleagues on the other side of this aisle with whom I work and respect, which is why I am deeply saddened to see a bipartisan bill that has endured for 60 years fall victim to this kind of partisan politics because the bipartisan bill that we passed originally out of committee by 58-1 is literally no longer recognizable.

Today, Mr. Speaker, is about choice, choice in more ways than one. We can either let this far-right minority continue to hold our national security hostage to their radical agenda, or we can refuse to allow them to play politics with our national security and with the health and well-being of our servicemembers.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this motion to instruct. This motion seeks to strip language in the House bill that prohibits the Department of Defense from spending taxpayer money to facilitate abortion procedures.

DOD's abortion travel policy is a flagrant violation of Congress' intent and our Nation's moral principles.

This is all part of the Biden administration's politicization of the military. For years, Biden's political appointees have been pushing questionable policies on our troops just to satisfy their ideological agenda. They understand that using military orders is the most efficient way to usher in the rapid social change that they seek.

The military should not be used as a petri dish for social experimentation. This is not the right thing to do. Our troops should not be used as the vanguard for the left's social agenda.

The civilian leadership at DOD should be focused on building the world's most lethal fighting force. Instead, they are doing somersaults to try to satisfy the far-left's political agenda.

This misguided abortion travel policy is just another example. It is a radical overreaction to a problem that doesn't exist.

Secretary Austin said that the policy was necessary to avoid significant implications for the readiness of the force, but in the 6 months since this began, there have been less than a handful of people who have exercised this policy.

Rather than helping readiness, radical policies like this one are undermining readiness. They are driving away potential recruits, and they are undermining morale and retention. It needs to end.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose this motion, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

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

Just before I introduce our next person, I want to emphasize that this is not a new policy. The DOD is not simply creating a new policy out of thin air. The DOD is, in fact, using precedent from the nonavailability of care and simply allowing women with reproductive health service needs to be able to have effective travel and reimbursement for said travel. Again, this is not a new policy, and it simply updates a policy that allows for travel reimbursement to ensure that we have equal access to healthcare.

Thankfully, we have a President in Joe Biden who is responsive to the needs of our military servicemembers and who supports this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for the time.

Hopefully, at some point on this floor, we will be able to debate the Defense appropriations bill. That bill and this bill that we have the motion on, the NDAA, have extreme social policy riders that make bipartisan cooperation just impossible.

The restricting rider that we are focusing on today is in both bills, and it stops servicemembers, civilians, and dependents from seeking basic reproductive healthcare. As the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania pointed out, when certain care is not available where a person is stationed, they have the flexibility of going to seek out that healthcare. The DOD's current policy is totally under Federal law and is totally legal.

Another misnomer that I hear quite often sometimes is it is undermining the Hyde amendment. Well, it doesn't do that either. The Hyde amendment allows for abortion services in certain circumstances. This would be a ban if a woman was stationed at a military post where we don't even offer obstetrics and gynecology, where she would have to seek care in another State, and many of these States have limited and put so many restrictions in place that the doctors are fearful of performing even procedures after miscarriage or the procedures that were pointed out with the woman in Texas. They have to go someplace else to receive the service, even services that are provided under the Hyde amendment.

Make no mistake, I don't support the Hyde amendment, but that is the least we should be able to do.

As has been pointed out, nearly 20 percent of the people who serve in our military are women, 80,000 of them are in States that restrict abortions, and our troops don't get to choose where they are stationed.

We need to make sure that our servicewomen are not treated as second-class citizens and that they have full access to their reproductive rights. In the past and in the future, women have faced barriers to reach their full potential. Let's not put up another barrier.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), an outstanding member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his outstanding leadership in crafting the strongest defense bill I have seen during my time in Congress.

Year after year, the chairman assures us that we are going to have a strong NDAA that we can be proud of back home, and this year is no different.

In July, this body passed the NDAA on a bipartisan basis to provide our warfighters with the resources and the authorities they need to provide for the defense of our Nation.

As a former Navy rear admiral, I know the vital role this legislation plays in our national security. Not only does this NDAA ensure that we have the weapons systems and equipment that our servicemembers need, it makes needed course corrections to restore the military's focus on fighting and winning wars.

This bill ensures that our military is laser focused on confronting the most

pressing national security threats that our Nation faces.

However, now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to come to the floor and are seeking to inject politics back into our military by overturning the Jackson-Roy amendment that was adopted on a bipartisan basis to end the Department of Defense's illegal and immoral abortion policy.

After the Supreme Court's historic decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Biden administration made their intention clear that they would work to sidestep the law however possible.

The Biden administration has pulled every lever within the Federal Government and encouraged Federal agencies to create rules and adopt policies that not only expand abortion access but also leave American taxpayers on the hook to subsidize abortion services.

Not even the Department of Defense was spared from the Biden administration's efforts. In October of last year, the Secretary of Defense released a memo titled: "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care."

This memo outlined the steps to be taken by the Department to use taxpayer dollars to provide servicemembers and their dependents access to abortions and for providers to travel to different States to obtain the licensing required to perform such procedures.

In February of this year, the DOD enacted the policies outlined in the memo and became a completely unjustified and inappropriate participant in the war on life.

According to its illegal policy, the DOD can now reimburse travel expenses for servicemembers and their dependents who travel to obtain an abortion in another State and can also reimburse any associated fees for healthcare professionals seeking to be licensed in other States for the purpose of performing abortions, all, once again, on the taxpayers' dime.

Last year, immediately after the DOD started this unconstitutional process, Congressman ROY and I got to work to address this issue and ensure that we developed a bill to right this wrong.

I am so proud to stand on the House floor today and say that our provision mandating the DOD cease this insanity was successfully included in the House-passed version of the bill.

At the same time, Senator TUBERVILLE has bravely and steadfastly held the line in the Senate by placing a hold on all DOD senior leader nominations until the DOD complies with Federal law and ceases its abortion policies.

The DOD has complained that these holds harm national security, but the DOD has the ability to stop this immediately. All they have to do is rescind this illegal policy.

It has become clear to me that the Biden administration has purposely prioritized an illegal and highly political abortion policy over confirming

general and flag officers in our military.

This Biden-endorsed policy has nothing to do with strengthening our national security. Instead, this is just the latest example of the Biden administration pushing its radical and extreme pro-abortion agenda, ironically in the very agency responsible for defending American lives.

Regardless of your political or moral stance on abortion, this policy is in direct violation of Federal law, specifically section 1093 of title 10, U.S. Code, which restricts funds made available to the DOD from being used to perform abortions or for DOD facilities to be used for abortions.

No doubt my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will insist that taxpayer dollars are not directly funding these abortions, thereby rendering their policy legally sound. This is absolutely misleading, and they are lying to the American people.

While funds may not be going directly to the performance of the procedure, it has always been true that a restriction on funding for abortion is a restriction on funding for any cost used to promote or facilitate the abortion.

Funding travel and/or other costs for an abortion is, in fact, funding the abortion. There is no other reason for these travel expenses except to get an abortion. Therefore, providing financial support for the travel expenses relating to an abortion is a clear violation of laws that are already on the books.

The NDAA is meant to provide aid, support, and direction to the men and women charged with defending the security of this Nation. When necessary, it is also a mechanism through which we can bring the Department into compliance as needed.

Inclusion of the House's prohibition on the DOD's abortion policy in this year's NDAA is vital to bringing the Department into statutory compliance in accordance with our oversight function and refocusing the Department on its core mission of fighting and winning wars.

It stops here and it stops now. On this issue, I will never relent.

The days of the radical left ignoring the law and driving their social agenda in the military are done. I will absolutely not waver in my defense of the unborn or in my support of the rule of law.

I will do everything I can to ensure our military servicemembers can focus on their jobs and their families instead of being used to score political points for the Biden administration.

I appreciate the chairman's strong leadership in crafting this year's bill, and I look forward to the conference process where we will do everything in our power to maintain this vital provision.

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

Here are the facts: Not a single dollar is going toward paying for an abortion

under the current DOD travel policy, which only provides for leave and travel reimbursements for servicewomen who are forced to travel for their healthcare due to restrictive laws of the State that they are stationed in, in line with a very longstanding DOD policy that has always provided for travel and leave where specialized healthcare is not provided or allowed for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the amendments that have been forced into the Pentagon budget over the past month-and-a-half.

When this Pentagon budget was voted on in our committee, it passed 58-1. I voted for it, as did many of my peers on this side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle.

When it left our committee, it became a wish list of the rightwing culture war agenda. If you take a 40,000-foot view of what is going on here, it becomes very clear. The other side of the aisle is not going to stop until there is a Federal ban on all abortions, in every State, in every circumstance. Our last speaker made it clear.

A bill that is typically bipartisan has now become a prisoner of this debate. Let's review the bidding.

We have seen the other side of the aisle put in unnecessary abortion restrictions in minor appropriations, in veterans' bills targeting female veterans. A single Senator is holding up 300 critical military nominations because servicemembers want to get leave to get the care that they need, and the NDAA in its current form is targeting servicewomen specifically.

Make no mistake, the United States should hear that in every place, in every possible window. The people on the other side of the aisle are going to continue their 50-year pledge to get rid of all abortions everywhere. They are open about that. While those of them who are in competitive elections may try to mealy-mouth what they have done for the past 20 years, we need to hear what they are telling us.

The other side of the aisle is taking national security issues hostage for their unrelenting fight on this issue so that no woman can have a right to an abortion if she has been raped, if she is the victim of incest, or for a simple miscarriage, which one out of three women in America have had.

I know the other side of the aisle is not listening on this issue. The American people need to hear it loud and clear. They want a Federal ban on abortion.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), a great new member of the Armed Services Committee and a longtime champion of the unborn in America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Representative JACKSON for their important work on this really critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, historically, Americans have transitionally held the most positive view of the U.S. military among all of our institutions, but something changed last year. Right now, less than half of Americans now have a great deal of confidence and trust in the military.

You want to know why? The reason stated is because the military leadership has become overly politicized. They are addressing issues that don't have anything to do with our national defense.

The best example of that probably is Secretary Austin's policy of reimbursing travel expenses for servicemembers seeking an abortion.

The law is clear, as the chairman has stated. Title 10, section 1093, explicitly prohibits funds available to the DOD from being used to perform abortions.

The statute was drafted, passed, and signed into law by the people's duly elected representatives. This politicized Department of Defense has decided to create a workaround.

Thankfully, the House-passed NDAA will end this lawlessness. We have to stand for that. The House has spoken on the issue, and the House's position is very clear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this motion to instruct.

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

We don't get to choose what our facts are. The chilling effect that is happening right now on recruiting is caused by a variety of things, but the number one reason, the number one contributing factor to a servicemember's decision to enlist or reenlist, is the support of their spouse.

If we are showing the entire country that we don't trust women and families to be in control of their own healthcare decisions, why would they encourage anyone in their family to reenlist or to enlist in the service at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the conferees to strike this truly abhorrent provision from the National Defense Authorization Act.

As several of my colleagues have pointed out, when this bill went out of committee, out of the Armed Services Committee, it passed with a very strong bipartisan 58-1 vote. Then extremists within the Republican Party got ahold of it and made floor amendments and put in poison pills, including this one, in the bill.

A couple of facts: Number one, no taxpayer money is going to provide abortions for servicemembers. The longstanding policy of the Department of Defense is we allow servicemembers to travel for necessary medical procedures and care when they can't get that care on a base or locally. That is longstanding policy. That is what we are talking about here today.

You have also heard a bunch of my colleagues get up today and say this has nothing to do with national de-

fense, that this is superfluous; nothing to do with the national defense of our country. Really?

We can spend money and buy all the best tanks and aircraft carriers and missiles that money can buy, but what actually makes us strong? It is our people. Our people are behind all of that. What undergirds people is the trust within a unit.

I served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I can tell you, if you don't trust the person you are going to war with, it is all meaningless.

Are we really going to set up a system where our women servicemembers are second-class citizens within our units and undermine the very trust and integrity of those units? No, we should not and will not. I will stand against that.

Number two, we are suffering historic recruiting shortages in our military. Are we really going to send a message to our young women who want to stand up and serve our country and maybe give their lives, that they can't access the same care as their male counterparts?

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). The time of the gentleman has expired.

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

Mr. CROW. Is that the message we want to send? No. You can't say you are for our national security and also support this measure. More than anything else, this is a moral argument.

I don't want to see yellow ribbons tied around trees, I don't want to see people thank people for their service, I don't want to see 10 percent discounts on coffee or meals if they are willing to support a policy that undermines the morality of this country and the ability of our young men and women to get the care they need and for our young servicewomen, in particular, to be treated equally.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have one correction to make, that this is a new policy. This was not existing policy. It was announced on October 20 against the advice of the congressional leadership and finalized on February 16. They didn't just take existing policy and continue it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a great new freshman Member.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, and I agree with my colleagues across the aisle: You cannot choose your own facts, and this is a moral discussion.

Abortion is not reproductive health. Abortion takes a life. There are two people involved in this issue, and one of them dies. This is not healthcare. This is not a political issue. It is a moral issue that our Nation needs to grapple with.

This motion must not pass.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. PELOSI), former Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this issue.

I commend the chair and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for the legislation that came out of their committee 58-1, the bipartisanism to protect and defend, which is the oath of office that all of us take to serve in government; and also, though, to acknowledge that, on the floor of the House, these poisonous resolutions came forward and were added to the bill. I rise to move to instruct House conferees to honor our men and women in uniform by protecting their fundamental health freedom.

I was listening with interest and prayerfully, frankly, to the previous speaker, who just said that terminating a pregnancy is not a health issue. Well, for some people, it might be.

Do you believe in the Hyde amendment? I am not a fan of the Hyde amendment, but that is the law of the land. Under the Hyde amendment, if there is rape, incest, or the life of the mother is at risk, then that changes the dynamic in terms of public policy.

Now, suppose a family member has a situation where the life of the mother is at risk or a child of a servicemember is the victim of violence and rape in the community. Would you want that person to have their health needs met? If they are in a State that says absolutely not, then they would have to travel elsewhere to have their health needs met, in keeping with the Hyde amendment.

If you believe in the Hyde amendment, which I don't subscribe to, but many of you do, how can you deprive the life of a mother—whether it is a servicewoman herself or the spouse of a serviceperson, or child of a servicemember—the ability to seek the healthcare that they need?

The NDAA has long been bipartisan. This year, House Republicans are now engaging in a version that would restrict servicemembers from receiving full reproductive rights.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. This is disrespectful. Shame on those who play political games with the courageous people who would give their lives to save ours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiment of the most recent speaker. I think it is shameful that the DOD has been playing games with the troops in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON for

working tirelessly to stop Joe Biden from using our military to fund abortions and his woke agenda. Throughout this year, we fought to incorporate an amendment into the Defense bill to protect the religious liberty of our servicemembers and prevent the Biden Pentagon from funding abortions.

The American people do not want the military paying for abortions. Biden's radical leftwing transformation of our military has created a recruitment and retention crisis which puts our military readiness in crisis.

I thank my colleagues in the House who have fought to keep our military from funding abortions. No taxpayer funds should ever be used to fund abortions, and I will continue to advocate for innocent life.

As the saying goes: "America is great because America is good." Abortion is evil, and we can never become advocates for killing innocent babies in the womb.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, just a reminder that President Biden knows personally what it means to support those in uniform and to keep the administration's promise to make sure that our servicemen and -women are protected as they serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, just a couple quick points.

First of all, there is no legality issue here. This policy is clearly and unequivocally legal. As the quotes from the Hyde amendment said earlier, the Hyde amendment says that the government can't pay for an abortion or use their services for abortion.

The travel policy does not do either one of those things, so there is nothing illegal and nothing unconstitutional. This is a policy choice, and we have heard some very passionate arguments on both sides about what that policy choice should be.

Number one, let's put aside this ridiculous notion that this is illegal or unconstitutional. No. This is a perfectly legal policy that, on a policy ground, you disagree with.

Number two, in response to Chairman ROGERS' comment about this being a new policy, it is not really a new policy in the following sense: It has always been the policy of the Department of Defense that if you cannot get the healthcare that you need where you are at, they will pay to take you to where you can.

Now, prior to the Dobbs decision, that was not an issue when it came to reproductive services. The Dobbs decision changed that. The Biden administration didn't support the Dobbs decision and didn't make that happen.

Once that happened, servicemembers in many, many States were no longer able to get the reproductive healthcare that they needed or wanted where they were, so, therefore, the travel policy that has been a long-time existing pol-

icy then applied. It applied to servicemembers seeking reproductive healthcare that couldn't get it in the State where they were.

This is not a change in policy, and it is not illegal. It is a policy choice. As a number of speakers have mentioned, it is an important policy choice on the very recruitment issue. It will be harder to recruit women if they are not protected.

I think the former Speaker made an outstanding argument for why it is really important. Even if you don't believe in abortion, you have a miscarriage, you need these services that you cannot get, this is crucial to recruitment.

The last point on this is we keep hearing the military is not popular anymore because of Biden's woke policies, which is ridiculous. To the extent that the military has gone down in credibility, it is because so many people are running around trashing our military saying they are excessively woke.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Our military is the best in the world. It is the best in the world today with those policies. Continuously undercutting and trashing our military as being weak and woke is hurting recruitment. I will grant you that. It is completely wrong, as are Senator TUBERVILLE's efforts to gut the military's ability to do its job because he disagrees with the policy.

We had a vote on it. President Biden got elected. He made his decision. Change the policy. Don't trash the military.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), a long-time champion of the unborn in America.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct.

Let's be absolutely clear. Current Federal DOD law already permits taxpayer funding of abortion in cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother, but the Biden DOD travel policy forces taxpayers to pay the transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to procure an abortion for any reason whatsoever right up until the moment of birth.

Some States, like my State of New Jersey—and there are many others like it, like New York and California—have enacted extremist laws that legally sanction the killing of a baby for any reason whatsoever right up until the moment of birth. The Biden policy has no limits on gestational age, so it facilitates aborting babies through all 9 months.

There is nothing humane, Mr. Speaker, or benign about abortion. Abortion is not healthcare unless one construes the precious life of an unborn child

analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished.

Dr. RONNY JACKSON's House-passed amendment to the NDAA overturns the DOD abortion travel policy.

Regrettably, the pro-abortion culture is truly a culture of denial. It continues to deny, devalue, and disrespect unborn children, both boys and girls.

We must recognize the breathtaking miracle of the newly created life of an unborn child and that women deserve better than abortion. We need to care for both. We need to love them both.

I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that future generations will someday look back on us and wonder how and why a society that bragged about its commitment to human rights could have legally sanctioned and aggressively promoted child beheadings, because they do behead the child during the process of a dismemberment abortion, as well as other dismemberment.

Abortion pills. How do they work? They literally starve the child to death. That is how they work. I work on global hunger and food insecurity issues in my district and throughout the country and world all the time. How does the abortion pill work? It starves the baby to death.

Please, Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to not force taxpayers to facilitate abortion on demand.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here beside my women colleagues in support of this very important motion. As they have shared, we have an essential duty to protect the rights of our servicemembers, their reproductive rights. We protect the decisions that they must be able to make about their own body.

When servicemembers volunteer, they know that they will be making sacrifices. They know that they will have to follow orders. They know that they will have to take on hard missions and do whatever is necessary to defend our country. One thing they did not sign up for is to sacrifice their fundamental medical care and their fundamental rights to their own body.

Access to medical care has a direct impact on military readiness. I am very surprised to find that the very people that are claiming to care about our military's capability and readiness are pushing policies which will actively degrade our fighting forces.

Denying access to medical care sends a loud and clear message to every woman in the military now and to every other woman that may want to join the military; that is, your reproductive rights will not be honored or will not even exist should you join the military.

That is a message that will be sent to 18 percent of the women who make up our military today, and it will send the same message to every other woman who might want to join the military in the future.

The policies that are in this bill will chase women away from what they want; that is, to patriotically serve our country in the military. It is the wrong message.

This particular instruction should pass this House if we care about the readiness of our military.

□ 1300

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), an outstanding member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot of claims, some of them very hyperbolic and some of which I would classify as drivel from some of the prior speakers.

It is one thing to disagree, but we should at least be truthful. Let's look at the amendment itself, section 716, lines 9 through 14: The Department of Defense may not use any funds for abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or in a case where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Let's be truthful, Mr. Speaker. At least we are making some progress. Some of the Members, our friends across the aisle, have actually used the term "woman" instead of "birthing person." That is something that has, I think at least for me, given me some hope.

The question before us is a simple one: Are we a rule of law nation or not?

Secretary Austin's decision to pay servicemembers to pursue abortions is a clear violation of current law, the Hyde amendment.

We are hearing "necessary healthcare." Is it necessary healthcare, or is it an elective abortion? Necessary healthcare in the case of, let's say, rape is already covered under the Hyde amendment.

Don't paint us with some wide brush to say that we want to take that right away. I would submit that many Republicans want to protect women that have been impregnated because of rape.

That is absurd, and it really is very unfair.

Is the DOD complying with Federal law right now or not? This policy does it by prohibiting funding. The NDAA is simply ensuring we maintain the protections that are already enshrined in current law.

Again, it is one thing to disagree, but to make these hyperbolic, untrue claims doesn't serve the purposes of a spirited exchange of ideas or an honest debate.

Secretary Austin, if you want to be honest, is playing politics. If he would simply follow the law, 300 general and flag officers would get the promotions that they are due.

The only people who are jeopardizing readiness right now are Secretary Austin and President Biden and his administration.

Our bill puts an end to this nonsense once and for all. I support the amendment.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania has 8 minutes remaining.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues often blame the military's current recruitment crisis on DEI initiatives. They say the military is becoming too woke and that it is driving away recruits.

The only problem with that is that the survey data we have actually says the exact opposite. It says that what recruits are concerned about is being welcomed into an organization that will accept who they are.

With this anti-abortion policy, Republicans are effectively telling 50 percent of America and 20 percent of our current fighting force: You are not welcome here because of who you are.

If you are a White guy, you are probably fine. If you are a woman, sorry, you are a second-class citizen. You don't have the healthcare options that the rest of us have.

It is no wonder that every branch except the Marine Corps is struggling to meet recruitment goals.

Instead of seriously focusing on how we deter a war with China, we are having politically motivated debates in this Chamber over a woman's private healthcare decisions.

What my Republican colleagues won't say is that the DOD's abortion travel policy does not even pay for this medical care. It doesn't even pay for it. It simply allows a woman who has put her life on the line for our country the necessary leave if she is stationed in a State where abortions are not available.

I voted against the NDAA because it doesn't support our servicemembers. It makes them political pawns. It is a slap in the face to every woman who serves or might consider it in the future. We need to treat women with the respect they deserve for serving our country.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, let me start by saying killing a baby is not healthcare if it is done in an elective abortion. Clearly, the Hyde amendment gives exceptions for life of the mother, rape, and incest.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't really have to be here talking about this issue today, but we are. The amendment we are speaking in support of today would repeal the Department of Defense's policy that facilitates elective abortion at

taxpayers' expense. Whether those funds are for travel or any other purpose related to abortion, they are illegal.

Mr. Speaker, it seems pretty cut and dry to me and many of my colleagues that what the Department of Defense is doing now is not in line with longstanding and current law, according to the Hyde amendment.

While the administration might disagree with the Supreme Court's decision with respect to Dobbs, that does not give them the right to circumvent the law. Taxpayer funds should not be spent on elective abortion, period.

Republicans are not the ones polarizing this country or injecting wokeness and politics into the institutions entrusted with our defense. It is quite the contrary.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do is strip those things out of the Department of Defense and return them to their sacred duty of defending the country.

I voted in support of this amendment during the House consideration of the NDAA because it was the right thing to do.

As the House just agreed to proceed in conference, I strongly encourage House conferees to advocate for its inclusion in the final product in conference.

This is an issue about the rule of law and pushing back on an administration that has demonstrated its appetite to ignore it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his leadership as we head into conference.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), a great member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand with my colleagues to oppose the motion to obstruct and to repeal facilitating abortions funded by the Department of Defense and, in effect, taxpayers.

Following the Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision, the Biden administration sought ways to bypass the ruling. They have encouraged Federal agencies to not only expand abortion access but also to burden American taxpayers with the cost.

Last October, the Secretary of Defense released a memo titled: "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care." Let's get something straight, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing reproductive about abortion. Abortion ends a life. It does not reproduce.

This memo paves the way for taxpayer money to facilitate abortion for servicemembers and their dependents. It even allows for the reimbursement of



travel expenses for those seeking abortions in another State. Taxpayer funds for the DOD are meant for national defense, not to further a pro-abortion agenda.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. We believe in life-affirming care for the mother and the baby that God is growing inside of her, but we also believe that the government in no way, no shape, and no form should be paying to facilitate ending that life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to back this amendment and defeat the motion to obstruct. Let's save some lives.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this motion, although I will admit that it is very nice to hear my Democrat colleagues are finally concerned with military recruitment.

I wish they were worried about military recruitment when they were voting to kick out of the military members who didn't want to get the jab or when they were voting to support the botched Afghanistan withdrawal that led to so many unnecessary deaths.

They seem to have already changed the recruitment videos from "Be All You Can Be" to come and get an abortion. How proud they must be.

This is no more than a Federal power grab usurping State laws that were legally and constitutionally created by State legislators elected by a majority of voters from each State.

This is a Federal power grab by a party intent on forcing its radical political agenda down the throats of Americans, who overwhelmingly don't want it.

As President Biden and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know, the Hyde amendment, which President Biden supported for decades, explicitly prohibits Federal dollars from being used for taxpayer-funded abortions. Nearly 60 percent of Americans agree that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortions.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the motion to instruct conferees to not include Representative RONNY JACKSON's amendment in the fiscal year 2024 NDAA.

This policy is a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars to circumvent State laws and violates the decades-old, bipartisan Hyde amendment.

It is clear that Joe Biden and Lloyd Austin's Department of Defense is more focused on appeasing the woke mob of pink-hat-wearing feminists than focusing on keeping our Nation safe.

This is the same DOD that surrendered to the Taliban, costing the lives

of 13 brave servicemembers. This is the same DOD treating our military like a woke social experiment. This is the same DOD the House will vote to fund later this week.

The Department of Defense should be focused on readiness and lethality, not spending taxpayer dollars to kill the lives of innocent, unborn babies.

We are not going to give up on this cause that is righteous, and we are not going to stop fighting to give voice to the voiceless.

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, over 63 million lives have been lost to abortion. I personally have held a newborn baby born at 23 weeks old, 1 pound, 8 ounces. I know that her life has just the same worth and value as any one of us standing here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman RONNY JACKSON, for his leadership in restoring our military focus and protecting these precious unborn lives.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in defense of these children, as well as with millions of Americans across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this motion to instruct.

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

I would like very much, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask you to ask my colleagues to not presume to judge who I am.

I stand here as a woman who has worn the uniform, who has given birth while wearing the uniform. To have assumptions about who I am or what I am and to judge me or any of my other colleagues who have worn the uniform is an offense to me, and I would ask that you advise them not to presume anything about me.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this provision protects life and restores sanity to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, a far-right minority in Congress has spent the last 9 months holding this process, this NDAA, hostage—again, a reminder that this passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. They are currently struggling to even pass a rule for Defense appropriations, let alone to pass the budget itself.

They have gone through attacks on servicewomen, on LGBTQ servicemembers, on immigrant servicemembers, and so much more. Their allies in the Senate are risking our military readiness with asinine confirmation holds and ignoring the repeated requests of our most senior military members to stop.

Time and time again, they have used must-pass, historically bipartisan legislation such as the NDAA to force an extreme agenda on our servicemembers and many others in our country.

As an Air Force veteran and as a proud military child who lived and served across this great country and in many other places outside of this country, I did so with the full protections of Roe v. Wade.

It not only saddens me but also pains me to think that we would give servicewomen orders without the full reproductive freedoms and protections that I had when I was able to serve.

□ 1315

Today, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to choose to be on the side of our servicemembers, military families, and all Americans who love and support them by supporting this motion to instruct.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. 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 will be 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 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1350

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BABIN) at 1 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2670; and

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1530, if ordered.

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

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES  
ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2024**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct conferees on 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, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 214, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 400]

**YEAS—205**

Aguilar	Foster	Meng
Allred	Foushee	Mfume
Auchincloss	Frankel, Lois	Moore (WI)
Balint	Frost	Morelle
Barragán	Gallejo	Moulton
Beatty	Garamendi	Mrvan
Bera	Garcia (IL)	Mullin
Beyer	Garcia (TX)	Nadler
Bishop (GA)	Garcia, Robert	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Golden (ME)	Neal
Blunt Rochester	Goldman (NY)	Neguse
Bonamici	Gonzalez,	Nickel
Bowman	Vicente	Norcross
Boyle (PA)	Gottheimer	Ocasio-Cortez
Brown	Green, Al (TX)	Omar
Brownley	Grijalva	Pallone
Budzinski	Harder (CA)	Panetta
Bush	Hayes	Pappas
Caraveo	Higgins (NY)	Pascrell
Carbajal	Himes	Payne
Cárdenas	Houlahan	Pelosi
Carson	Hoyer	Perez
Carter (LA)	Hoyle (OR)	Peters
Cartwright	Huffman	Pettersen
Casar	Ivey	Phillips
Case	Jackson (IL)	Pingree
Casten	Jackson (NC)	Pocan
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Porter
Castro (TX)	Jacobs	Pressley
Cherfilus-	Jayapal	Quigley
McCormick	Jeffries	Ramirez
Chu	Johnson (GA)	Raskin
Clark (MA)	Kamllager-Dove	Ross
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Ruiz
Cleaver	Khanna	Ruppersberger
Clyburn	Kildee	Ryan
Cohen	Kilmer	Salinas
Connolly	Kim (NJ)	Sánchez
Correa	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes
Costa	Kuster	Scanlon
Courtney	Landsman	Schakowsky
Craig	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
Crockett	Larson (CT)	Schneider
Crow	Lee (CA)	Scholten
Cuellar	Lee (NV)	Schrier
Davids (KS)	Lee (PA)	Scott (VA)
Davis (IL)	Leger Fernandez	Scott, David
Davis (NC)	Levin	Sewell
Dean (PA)	Lieu	Sherman
DeGette	Lofgren	Sherrill
DeLauro	Lynch	Slotkin
DeBene	Magaziner	Smith (WA)
Deluzio	Manning	Sorensen
DeSaulnier	Matsui	Soto
Dingell	McBath	Spanberger
Doggett	McClellan	Stansbury
Escobar	McCollum	Stanton
Eshoo	McGarvey	Stevens
Espallat	McGovern	Strickland
Evans	Meeks	Swalwell
Fletcher	Menendez	Sykes

Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez

Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

**NAYS—214**

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

Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Luetkemeyer  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Murphy  
Newhouse  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Santos  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Staubert  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

**NOT VOTING—14**

Adams  
Donalds  
Gomez  
Horsford  
Hunt

Kaptur  
Kelly (IL)  
Lucas  
Luna  
Moskowitz

Nehls  
Norman  
Peltola  
Scalise

□ 1416

Messrs. VAN ORDEN, WEBSTER of Florida, GOODEN of Texas, CLYDE, Ms. SPARTZ, and Mr. GROTHMAN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall vote No. 400. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 400.

**VETERANS BENEFITS  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1530) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 401]

**YEAS—423**

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

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

Kiley  
Kilmer  
Kim (CA)  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Luetkemeyer  
Luttrell  
Lynch  
Mace  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Manning  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCarthy  
McCaull  
McClain  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McHenry  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Nickel  
Norcross  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Ogles  
Omar  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Peters

Pettersen  
Pfluger  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Santos  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Self  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Strong  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Tenney  
Thaneadar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dyne  
Van Orden  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters

Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton

Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)

Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

## NOT VOTING—10

Adams  
Cole  
Gaetz  
Hunt

Kaptur  
Lucas  
Luna  
Norman

Peltola  
Scalise

□ 1427

Messrs. ROY and PERRY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 401.

### WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3371) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2872) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### ELECTING THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REP- RESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 705

*Resolved*, That William McFarland of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### SWEARING IN OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Will the Sergeant at Arms-designate please take the well.

The Chair will now swear in the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The Sergeant at Arms-designate took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

### HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

### HONORING CAPTAIN ELEANOR LEBEAU COOKE

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Eleanor LeBeau Cooke.

To friends and family, she was known as Ellie, the fifth of eight children of David and Victoria LeBeau. She graduated from Althoff Catholic High School in 2012 before attending Murray State University in Kentucky.

In 2018, she answered the call of service and joined the Marine Corps and became an Osprey pilot. It was in the Marines where she met her beloved husband, Chase.

Ellie received the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. In March

of this year, she was promoted to captain.

Three weeks ago, Ellie lost her life in a V-22 Osprey crash on a training mission off the coast of Australia. Two of her fellow marines also passed away.

Her family and her home community in St. Clair County mourn her loss, as do countless other southern Illinoisans. She was special. As her obituary noted, "There was just something about Ellie."

Our prayers go out to Chase and to the entire LeBeau and Cooke families at this very difficult time.

Semper Fidelis, Captain Eleanor LeBeau Cooke. Your impact on our Nation will be remembered.

#### DANGEROUS BUDGET CUTS THREATEN COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the dangerous Republican budget cuts and how they will hurt American families, damage education, and threaten our communities.

They will force Border Patrol agencies to fire 800 agents and make our country less secure.

They will remove 40,000 teachers from classrooms and affect the education of 33.5 million students.

They will deny 55,000 American workers the money they earned on the job.

They will take 4,000 law enforcement officers off our streets and make our neighborhoods less safe.

In addition, these cuts will take food out of the mouths of millions of American children and seniors.

If they do not get their way, Republicans will shut down the government and hurt more Americans, including our veterans. Clearly, this behavior does not represent a party working for the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING MOBILIZE RECOVERY ACROSS GEORGIA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia for their work during National Recovery Month.

Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia is a traveling bus tour that is crossing the State of Georgia throughout the month of September to promote addiction recovery.

From 2019 to 2021, drug overdose deaths in Georgia increased by 55.9 percent. Over 800,000 Georgians are living in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder.

Georgia is simply a snapshot of a nationwide epidemic that affects countless lives, families, and communities each year.

This engaging and uplifting bus tour is designed to bring together Georgia

policymakers, local officials, and the 800,000 recovering Georgians.

I thank Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia for bringing Georgians together to celebrate recovery and for educating them on what resources are available to them.

#### WELCOMING THE WARREN COUNTY CHAMBER ALLIANCE TO THE CAPITOL

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially welcome folks from the Warren County Chamber Alliance to the Capitol this week.

I am so proud to represent these folks here in Congress and so glad that they are here in Washington these past few days. These leaders are incredible advocates for our Warren County businesses and residents.

We have had a very productive time discussing our bipartisan policy work and how our office can help them in their work. They have great projects, from road updates to high-speed internet expansion to updating water lines. We hope to have over \$14 million coming back to southwest Ohio in this budget, which, when passed, will help ensure that these projects are fully funded.

Again, I am proud to officially recognize their visit to D.C. this week and look forward to continuing our work together.

#### STOPPING THE FLOW OF FENTANYL

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced my plan, H.R. 3190, to crack down on Mexico for its failure to stop the flood of fentanyl across our border.

The Mexican President continues to falsely state that fentanyl is not manufactured or consumed in his country, but the numbers do not lie. The DEA said in December that most of the fentanyl trafficked by the cartels is being mass-produced at secret factories in Mexico with chemicals sourced largely from China.

There were 14,000 pounds of the drug seized last year at the southern border. Fentanyl continues to pour across our border because of the disastrous open border policies of President Biden.

My plan will cut off U.S. taxpayer funding for economic aid to Mexico until President Biden certifies Mexico is working with the United States to secure its border and stop the inflow of fentanyl. Mexico should not be rewarded with U.S. taxpayer dollars while they are sending fentanyl across the border.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to hold Mexico accountable.

#### CONCERNS ABOUT A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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 speak on behalf of the many residents of eastern North Carolina who have expressed their deep concerns to me about a government shutdown.

I have listened, and many are tired of the division and chaos. Families across eastern North Carolina and America deserve better than uncertainty and anxiety. Let us work together to prevent a government shutdown.

To the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District, know that I remain committed to doing everything to avoid a shutdown.

□ 1445

#### ZERO OUT SECRETARY MAYORKAS' SALARY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Holman rule is a rule in the House of Representatives that allows amendments to appropriations bills that reduce the salary of Federal employees. It is a great mechanism for punishing Federal employees and public servants who fail the American people.

I can think of no greater failure than this administration allowing millions of illegal immigrants to pour over our southern and even northern borders. This mass illegal immigration, sometimes aided and abetted by the Biden administration, is an insult and a farce. From the language some of its proponents use, it seems as though it is being done out of pure spite.

It is supposed to be the job of the Department of Homeland Security to prevent illegal immigration in this country and deport those who violate this Nation's sovereignty. Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has utterly failed his duty and stubbornly insists to Congress and Senate Republicans he has done nothing wrong.

I disagree. Secretary Mayorkas has done much wrong. What is worse is that, in fact, he could argue the border situation would be better if he had simply done nothing. When you see welded-open gates, when you see even the city of New York saying, Please make it stop, and they start shoving people into the border States, you know you have got a giant problem.

Maybe Secretary Mayorkas' salary would be better off under the Holman rule adjusted down to \$1 per year because that is even too much.

#### CONGRATULATING ALAN SMITH ON HIS WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Smith.

Throughout his career, Alan faithfully served his community and played a key role in supporting his local library system. When I was in local government, I was fortunate enough to appoint Alan to our local library commission, the Contra Costa Library Commission in the bay area. Through his decades of service with the library commission, he worked throughout the State of California, in addition to our community, conducting training sessions for library boards and commissions and advocating for our libraries.

Alan also served as the president of the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners and represented Contra Costa County on the Bay Area Library Information Systems Advisory Board. Alan was recognized for his leadership and received the California Library Association's President's Award.

As part of his service, Alan was a fierce advocate for legislative action to strengthen our Nation's public libraries.

Please join me in recognizing Alan Smith on his well-deserved retirement after 26 years of service to this Nation's libraries.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CAROL HARTER

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Carol Harter, the first female and longest serving president in the history of the University of Las Vegas.

I was fortunate to teach at UNLV during her tenure, where I witnessed firsthand her dedication to higher education, her student-centered leadership style, and her passion for research and learning. She was a recognized scholar, an able administrator, and one tough lady.

Carol served as president from 1995 to 2006 during one of the university's most productive stages: creating 100 new programs, overseeing construction of 17 new buildings, and cofounding the internationally recognized Black Mountain Institute. It is in large part thanks to her that UNLV is a leading institution today.

My condolences to Carol's family and the entire UNLV community. We will remember her through the inimitable footprint she left on campus and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled, "Let Her RECORD Prove Them Wrong."

#### LET HER RECORD PROVE THEM WRONG

President Emerita Carol C. Harter, who broke down barriers while building up UNLV's status as a research institution, passed away at age 82.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

UNLV President Emerita Carol C. Harter has passed away Sept. 14, 2023, at age 82. She was UNLV's longest-serving president and steered the university through a period of rapid growth. Her work set the stage for its eventual rise as a top research institution. This story was originally published in September 2022.

Numerology insists that the number 711 is as lucky as luck can get. Carol C. Harter was UNLV's seventh president. Her tenure lasted 11 years. Do the math and you realize: Numerology nailed it. The president emerita was lucky for UNLV.

#### LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

"In my very first speech I made to the faculty, I said, 'We need to be the kind of major urban university that UCLA, or the other great institutions are—because we can do that,'" recalls Harter, who guided UNLV's impressive growth during her 1995–2006 presidency.

That was an ambition the longest-serving UNLV president pursued aggressively, with impressive results. To thumbnail her list of accomplishments—not an easy task—consider just a partial legacy list:

Overseeing unprecedented growth, with the construction of 17 new buildings, including the Lied Library.

Creating 100-plus new degree programs—most notably those conferred by the School of Dental Medicine and the William S. Boyd School of Law, championing the creation of both.

Putting the university on the path toward a Carnegie-designated R1 research institution, a feat it would accomplish in 2018.

Making UNLV more student-centered and responsive to students' needs.

Spearheading funding to create the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

Spurring the Invent the Future campaign, at the time the most ambitious fundraising program in UNLV history.

Cofounding the international literary center, Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute, which she continued to lead after departing the presidency.

Oh, and she also made history as the university's first female president, a milestone she built upon by promoting gender equality on campus and in the community, supporting the creation of the Women's Research Institute of Nevada.

"Just keep going—that's my number one piece of advice," Harter says she tells young women hoping to carve out academic administration careers similar to hers. "You know who you are, you're in a position where your education is likely to be at a high level, there's nothing you can't do. And don't let anybody stop you or say, 'That's not your job.'"

As she rose in her career, Harter often found herself the only woman in a room of executives. "You may feel uncomfortable," she says, "But, it's not a barrier."

#### A LOVE OF LITERATURE BLOOMS

No barriers deterred Harter, whose journey to the heights of academia began humbly in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she was born on June 1, 1941.

"We were not rich at all, we lived modestly in a little house," she says, fondly recalling the pleasures of a New York upbringing and a working-class life. "We would go to Jones Beach regularly, where I worked as a clerk, a cashier, and a lifeguard."

Harter's dad was a businessman who had earned a degree in finance from New York University, attending at night over many years.

"He hoped I would be interested in the business world one way or the other, which

in a way you are when you're a president of a university," she says. "You're running a major operation, it's a business life as well as an academic one. So, he was very proud of what I did."

Her mom, a typical homemaker of the period, took pleasure in her daughter's penchant for reading and creativity.

"She was just a darling thing," Harter says of her mother. "She was very supportive all the way and loved the artistic side of me and the literary side."

That literary side was apparent early on. First came a classic of young female readership: The Nancy Drew mysteries.

"I read every single one of them, one end to the other," says Harter, who later happily lost herself to serious literature via a collection purchased by her mom. "It was beautifully bound in gold and brown and green leather. I read Great Expectations and The Count of Monte Cristo and just many of the classic books that she had collected. I realized when I got to college that I had read many classics, that I had been educating myself."

Inspired by a high school teacher, Harter excelled in honors English classes, but also nursed an interest in chemistry, which might have forged her life's path—had she not been discouraged.

"When I went to what then was Harpur College (now Binghamton University) and tried to enroll as a chemistry major, the dean of students, who was a woman, said, 'You can't do that, women don't do chemistry, you have to do something else.'"

"She shouldn't have discouraged me like that, she should have encouraged me, but I took her advice and enrolled as a literature major."

Still, Harter saw literature as more of an avocation than the launching pad for her eventual career until a faculty member urged her toward graduate studies, eventually earning her bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D in English and American literature.

Along her collegiate journey, she also met Mike—her husband of 61 years and counting—over a ping pong table in a campus rec room.

"I was dating a guy who liked to play, and I would beat him. And Mike was in that rec room watching and he said he wanted to play with me. And of course, he beat me," she recalls.

It was love at first serve, more or less. And who wouldn't trade a table tennis loss for a lifelong love? "That's for sure," she says. They married when she was 19.

#### THE ROAD TO ACADEMIA

Academia as a career commenced for Harter when she served as dean of students and vice president for administration at Ohio University, a move she chalks up to serendipity.

While she was working as a faculty member and a campus ombudsperson, the new president sought her out to inquire about student and faculty grievances. After impressing him with her savviness and her ability to work effectively with students and professors, she rose in the administrative ranks.

Next came a position as the president of SUNY Geneseo. But after six years, job limitations caused her eyes to wander toward other opportunities.

"I felt a little trapped in it," she says, noting that the system's chancellor at the time didn't make distinctions among the state's institutions when budgets were handed out. "Being really good didn't have any effect on how much money you got in the budget. Feeling constrained, there wasn't really anything more I could do for the place without more money. We just started looking at

what kind of place is likely to be a place where we can use some creativity.”

Enter a city on the other side of the country, one known for constant reinvention.

“It’s weird when you’re at Geneseo as the president, a little upstate New York liberal arts school and you wind up in a major city that’s just growing a major university. I tell you, that is a big move,” Harter says. “I’ve been here 25 years and people still ask me, ‘How the heck did Carol Harter wind up in Las Vegas?’”

Here’s how the heck she did:

“Las Vegas was growing like crazy and the institution was very young and was in competition with Reno to get started. It just made it real attractive to me. It was just an aspirational kind of feeling that we could make something great out of UNLV. And I think it’s happened. It’s an attractive place for faculty and students, I think.”

Not that her entrance into the campus community was easy. She had to get past resistance all-too-common to anyone breaking through a glass ceiling. Such issues would follow her throughout her tenure, but Harter was determined to let her record prove them wrong.

“Several of the exact people who resisted terribly at the beginning became good friends and supporters, who end up saying, ‘This person is pretty good.’ It helps a lot to strengthen the institution and the presidency.”

Of all her storied accomplishments, she cites several that stand out, including UNLV’s status as an RI research institution.

“At that time (when she was named president), we were barely research two, I think we might have even been research three,” she says. “It is research one now, which is great, a great accomplishment.”

Also on the pride list: The launching of professional schools for law, dentistry, and architecture, as well as laying the groundwork for the eventual opening of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine.

“It took three years before I could persuade the (NSHE) Board of Regents and the chancellor, that the law school was something we should do,” she says.

It is still the only law school in the state.

“The architecture program was there as a small program. We made it into a major school with its own faculty and its own facilities. And, we launched 50 graduate programs in my years there as president.”

Such a fruitful career couldn’t end with her presidency—and didn’t. After leaving the administration, Harter, along with English professor Richard Wiley, cofounded the Black Mountain Institute, headquartered at UNLV, to promote literacy around the globe.

“When I knew I was leaving the presidency, I thought I could do it then. So did (Southern Nevada business titan) Glenn Schaeffer, who had been a real supporter of literary activity at UNLV,” Harter says. “We felt there was no school in Nevada that really had a literary center that could be a shining light. He came to me and said, ‘I will invest in it, if you can get something started that we can work on.’”

And that brought Carol Harter back to the young girl from Brooklyn who was first entranced by Nancy Drew mysteries. The passion has not dimmed, even as she relaxes at her and her husband’s San Diego summer retreat, overlooking the sailboats gliding over Mission Bay.

“I’m in a book club,” she says. “It’s always a novel of one kind or another I read every day, and my husband does too, so we’re readers together. I’m the same ol’ person.”

Carol Harter makes Las Vegas—and Brooklyn—justifiably proud.

## ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will pass a resolution condemning the actions of New Mexico Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, a former Member of this body.

Late on a Friday night earlier this month, the Governor took action to suspend open carry and concealed firearms in her State. Yeah, you heard that right. She claimed so-called emergency powers to combat a public health crisis, she said, and on a whim, she attempted to restrict the Second Amendment rights of every law-abiding New Mexico resident, the citizens of her State, the citizens of this country.

Her action, of course, was overtly unconstitutional. It is functionally useless, and it will only divide Americans further. Someone with elementary-level knowledge of the Constitution would, of course, know this. Fortunately, New Mexico residents and law enforcement openly defied her order, and it was panned by lawmakers across the country, even some of our Democratic colleagues in this body.

Mr. Speaker, here is the interesting thing I wanted to note today: It is ironic that Attorney General Merrick Garland was here on the Hill and has been in the Judiciary Committee in an oversight hearing for the last several hours. He is America’s top law enforcement officer in charge, of course, of our top law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice. One would think that this type of issue, this event in New Mexico, regardless of the politics, that that is something the DOJ might intervene in, but they haven’t.

Now, by principle, of course, we are conservatives, and we believe in less Federal Government intervention. The less the Federal Government is involved in State affairs, the better overall. But this is not the case. In this situation, the issue here is the DOJ’s selective application of justice and its clear targeting of red States for passing laws that its duly elected Representatives voted for.

Think about these few examples.

In 2021, the DOJ sued the State of Georgia for passing election integrity reform. That suit failed, and Georgia had record voter turnout just a year later.

Months later, the DOJ sued the State of Texas over laws—your State, Mr. Speaker—passed to protect unborn children. The Supreme Court refused to intervene, and statistics show that abortions in Texas have plummeted, thankfully, as a result.

Earlier this year, the DOJ sued the State of Tennessee for a ban on child sex change procedures. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the suit, and now it is State law.

The DOJ, Attorney General Garland in particular, has displayed a penchant for filing public lawsuits against red States for passing conservative policy through their democratically elected legislature. They do so with weak charges, based on unconstitutional arguments on cases they know they cannot win, but that is not the point. They have politicized the DOJ.

Here is the big question. Given those examples and the trend of this Department of Justice, why hasn’t Merrick Garland hosted a press conference or announced a Federal lawsuit into the State of New Mexico for arbitrarily suspending the constitutional rights of its citizens?

I will tell you why. It is no secret. It is because New Mexico’s action serves the Biden administration’s stated political goals.

The DOJ will sue red States for passing conservative policy, while turning a blind eye to Democrat Governors who unilaterally curtail constitutional rights. They will put grandmothers behind bars for protesting abortion but refuse to prosecute violent offenders who actually attack the pro-life pregnancy centers. They will prosecute President Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents, but they give President Biden a complete pass for even worse infractions.

When we say the DOJ has been weaponized, this is exactly what we are talking about, and this is what the American people see.

Mr. Speaker, today the House Judiciary Committee, as I mentioned, asked Attorney General Garland about these questions and many more. Right now, 65 percent of the American people have no faith in the Department of Justice. It is because of his leadership. He has eroded the rule of law. He has destroyed public trust in an essential American institution.

I used my time this morning, I was the first questioner on our side in Judiciary, and I asked the Attorney General about the DOJ’s Hunter Biden investigation. This is a big question on the minds of my constituents and most of ours around the country.

I asked him plainly:

Have you had personal contact with anyone at FBI headquarters about the Hunter Biden investigation?”

His answer was, I don’t recollect the answer to that question.

Really?

Okay. Let me get this straight, I told him, the Attorney General of the United States cannot remember if he discussed an FBI investigation into the son of the sitting President of the United States? That is your testimony under oath?



Yes, it is, he said.

It is extraordinary.

Mr. Speaker, frankly, we didn't expect full transparency today from this Attorney General. He and his top DOJ lieutenants have shown us, they have demonstrated over and over that they hold no regard for the rule of law and really are just acting as political hatchet men protecting their boss, President Biden.

The Attorney General was clearly unwilling or unable to provide the essential answers that we needed today. We will continue to press for them. That is our job. That is our constitutional duty on Judiciary to provide oversight over the DOJ.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great lineup of Members here to speak this afternoon on some very important topics to the country.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON for his leadership. Mr. JOHNSON is focused. He is an individual who is bringing this whole body forward, and I look forward to working with him continually on these issues.

There is a saying, we all know it, the truth shall set you free. The accusations made against the Bidens more than require an investigation. These accusations have painted a picture of corruption, bribery, and shameful behavior unbecoming of our executive branch.

Let's talk about them a little bit.

Bank records obtained by the Oversight Committee reveal almost \$20 million in payments directed to Biden's associates and family.

These aren't Republican talking points. These aren't JEFF VAN DREW talking points. This is the reality of what we have already found.

Over 150 transactions involving the Bidens have been flagged as "suspicious activity." That is not only by the banks, but also the Treasury Department.

President Biden himself participated in phone calls with his son, Hunter—it is a fact—effectively acting as the merchandise that was being sold by his son, Hunter, who was the salesman. They closed deals, and we want to know what they are about: calls that led to the funneling of millions of dollars to Hunter and other Biden family members and Hunter's associates.

The list goes on and on and on. I am only touching the surface. This is more than enough to garner the extra powers granted from an impeachment inquiry. Our goal is to get to the truth.

As I said in the beginning of this conversation, the truth shall set you free. If there is nothing for them to worry about, they should welcome an impeachment inquiry. They should welcome producing the records, and they should welcome producing the statements. It is just the truth that we want.

We have a mission, a duty, and a responsibility. Our duty is to restore the

American people's faith in our institutions. Our mission is to reaffirm that no one person, no one group is ever above the law in the United States of America.

This inquiry will move forward, with full transparency and steadfast resolve. If there is nothing here to hide, there is nothing here to worry about. If the allegations are confirmed, there will be, and needs to be justice.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. He is exactly right. We had no choice but to proceed to the impeachment inquiry phase because that is where the evidence has led us, as you noted. We have a responsibility. Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution says very clearly that a President shall be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors. We have credible allegations of a number of those infractions. Bribery is one of them. High crimes and misdemeanors are another. We have mounds of evidence now stacking up to support those allegations, so we do not have a choice under the Constitution but to proceed accordingly, and that is what we will do. We will do our constitutional duty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), my good friend and Super Bowl champion.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 684, the resolution condemning Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's unconstitutional actions violating New Mexicans' Second Amendment rights.

The Second Amendment is not an optional legal provision that bureaucrats can toss aside at their whim. It is a fundamental principle to ensure that every law-abiding citizen has the God-granted right to protect themselves, their families, their property, and their liberties.

Growing up in the Deep South, I witnessed how Black Codes and Jim Crow laws unjustly restricted minority communities from owning firearms. In the mid-1950s, Martin Luther King, Jr., kept firearms for self-protection, but his application for a concealed weapons permit was denied because of racist gun control laws in his State.

Gun control laws proposed by Democrats and State legislatures, Congress, and the White House aggressively erode our basic constitutional rights. As it was in the civil rights era, the Black community has seen this movie before. As Democrats abridge our rights to self-protection, they legislate away the commonsense tools for Black Americans to protect themselves. As they push "defund the police" and "soft on crime" policies, it is the urban Black community that suffers. We are now experiencing all-time highs in homicide, robbery, car thefts, physical assaults, and destruction of Black-owned businesses.

House Republicans will never waver in our commitment to defend the rights of all law-abiding citizens, re-

gardless of race, creed, color, or ZIP Code. We will continue to fight to safeguard Americans' inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. It is an honor to lend my support to this House resolution. I pledge to continue to champion the Second Amendment rights of all Americans. I thank Representative JOHNSON for bringing us together for this purpose.

□ 1500

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. That was well said.

If time permitted today, I am sure we would have every Republican in the Conference come to the floor and speak to the same issue because it is so outrageous that we have this trampling upon some of our most fundamental freedoms; the Second Amendment, of course, being among them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman and former mayor from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYN).

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Biden family business of selling out America.

Here is just a sliver of what we know:

The Biden family and associates received nearly \$20 million in payments funneled through shell companies. They were paid by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Lord knows who else.

Joe Biden lied about his family receiving over \$1 million in payments from China through an associate.

Hunter put Joe on the phone at least 20 times in business meetings with foreign nationals.

Hunter Biden's business associates visited the White House at least 80 times while Joe Biden was Vice President.

There were more than 150 bank transactions involving the Biden family that U.S. banks flagged as suspicious.

Not only was Joe Biden involved with Hunter's clients and flying Hunter around the world on Air Force Two to generate more business, but it is also apparent that Joe was using his office as Vice President to manipulate U.S. policy. We see that with Ukraine, Burisma, in the firing of the prosecutor.

Unraveling the mountain of Biden's lies, his shell companies, and Joe's actions as Vice President is part of what we will be investigating in these hearings, in the impeachment inquiry.

If you are going to sell out America, this is what it looks like.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend; that was well said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), for yielding.

So here we are, after nearly 9 months of investigations into the Biden family's influence-peddling schemes, this body has uncovered mounting credible evidence of corruption, evidence that

has come to light through numerous committee meetings, whistleblower testimony and interviews, document discovery, and rigorous Congressional oversight.

Despite the false claims of leftwing media outlets such as CNN and MSNBC, there is, in fact, evidence of peddling and corruption. Under the IRS whistleblower testimony, two IRS agents testified under oath that Joe Biden was present at at least one meeting with Hunter Biden's foreign clients.

Agent Joseph Zeigler, formerly known as "Whistleblower X," testified that he was handcuffed and hamstrung throughout the IRS's 5-year investigation of Hunter Biden and was ultimately stopped from moving forward in the manner that he believed to be appropriate for the offenses committed.

Over \$17 million were sent to Hunter Biden from companies operating in authoritarian, oppressive nations.

The Internal Revenue Service whistleblowers also alleged that the DOJ would not let them pursue Joe Biden or any connections that would lead to him. They allege a campaign of delay, divulge, deny surrounded their requests to pursue leads that led to Joe Biden.

This allegation has been confirmed by a former FBI SSA. The Special Counsel was appointed to obstruct Congressional investigations and inquiries behind the curtain of an ongoing investigation.

The testimony of these IRS whistleblowers have been corroborated by the testimony of the FBI SSA and two additional colleagues that claimed that they were fired from the investigation by order of Attorney Weiss.

Devon Archer's testimony to the Oversight Committee is that Joe Biden is a brand. Archer alleges members of the Biden family used Joe Biden's position as Vice President to sell power and access to interested parties. VP Biden would protect oligarchs from competent legal probes and investigations into foreign countries, such as Ukraine.

Hunter or another family member would be paid money, and then Joe would meet with the interested party in Washington, D.C.

A quick summary: An oligarch pays money to Hunter Biden's company or associate, which then is paid to Hunter, and a portion of that goes to the big guy, his father.

The Shokin investigation: In 2015, Hunter was pressured by Burisma to call D.C. to get help in removing a Ukrainian prosecutor, Viktor Shokin.

Shokin was indeed later fired, and video evidence has surfaced of Joe Biden bragging about getting him fired in order for foreign aid dollars to flow to the Government of Ukraine, right on tape.

Joe Biden's family received \$17 million from contacts from foreign nations, according to IRS documents.

What was being done in exchange for this money? The National Archives have confirmed that Joe Biden used

pseudonyms when communicating with Hunter and his business associates from official government emails, including the Office of the Vice President.

So you have DOJ misconduct, confirmed by the FBI SSA and leadership, that DOJ—specifically, Merrick Garland—prevented investigators from doing their jobs as best as he could.

The FBI D.C. office tipped off the Secret Service of an interview with Hunter Biden that was being planned. The FBI headquarters also tipped them off of a planned search of Hunter's residence which gave time and forewarning for any incriminating evidence to be removed.

No ordinary American would ever expect to receive such preferential treatment if they were accused of the crimes that Hunter and Joe have been. What they can normally expect is a 4 a.m. knock on the door with a battering ram for even lesser crimes.

Investigators are not allowed to ask about the big guy. The bank records show over 170 Suspicious Activity Reports filed by banks on the Biden family financial transactions. This means banks believe that over 170 separate financial transactions in Biden's family bank accounts were linked to bribery, money laundering, or other serious financial crimes.

An FBI informant documented conversations that indicated to them that Joe pressured foreign companies to send millions to the family business. The claims from Democrats and their media allies that the impeachment inquiry was opened without evidence are not only false but also illogical.

Inquiries exist for the purpose of uncovering evidence. An impeachment inquiry is an investigation into whether an impeachable offense has been committed. It is not the whole scope of impeachment. It gives the ability to do further investigation.

Where there is smoke, you will probably find fire.

There is evidence from whistleblowers and former associates that Joe Biden was intimately involved in Hunter's corrupt business dealings.

This is an impeachable offense. The allegations that since this conduct allegedly only happened when Joe was VP and not while President thus means that an impeachment is not possible, that is false.

Impeachable conduct includes high crimes, bribery, or other misdemeanors that occurred while the accused was in a previous Federal office.

Joe Biden has lied about his connection to his son's corrupt business dealings for years.

Now, we are not supposed to take impeachment lightly around here. Indeed, it has been abused the last few years a couple of times, but House Republicans are going to go through a process, due process, and find real evidence.

The conclusion is that despite the disparate claims of the partisan media and their Democrat allies, there is in-

deed mounting evidence that President Joe Biden was involved in his family's influence-selling scheme and intimately involved in Hunter Biden's corruption.

An impeachment inquiry will help House Republicans get to the bottom of this, and I hope Democrats will be interested as well, and then determine whether or not there is proof of these crimes. If there indeed is, then President Biden has committed impeachable offenses.

Again, impeachment is not to be taken lightly, not to be just thrown around for political purpose but utilized. This impeachment inquiry is a very important ability for Congress to answer the questions that many, many American people are asking about the obvious corruption that is coming forward, thanks to whistleblowers, and others, that are bringing this evidence to the front.

With that, let's proceed, and let's do this properly.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, very well said by the gentleman.

Look, let's hasten to say we take no pleasure in this. There are a lot of big challenges that the country needs to fix. We don't want to spend time and resources investigating the President, impeaching a President.

Next to declaring war, this is the heaviest power that we have in the House of Representatives, but Article I of the Constitution does give us the "sole power of impeachment" here.

We have no choice in the matter. Given the evidence, given the allegations, we have to pursue it, and we will. We are often asked: Why is the House majority, why are the House Republicans spending so much time investigating? If we had not done these investigations, we wouldn't have all of this evidence.

Why?

It goes back to the theme of what I was saying earlier: The Department of Justice is simply not doing its job. Under normal circumstances, the DOJ would be investigating all these allegations of corruption but they simply looked the other way.

As I noted earlier, Attorney General Garland, who is just now leaving the Committee on the Judiciary, he has been here all day, has abused the Department to pursue political agendas. He has sued conservative States over their local policies. He has raided the home of President Biden's main political opponent. The Department is obstructing at the same time the Hunter Biden investigation and impeding the House's impeachment inquiry into President Biden.

What are we to do?

I was home on the August district work period. I was doing townhalls in my district in Louisiana, and I will tell you that at every venue, the number one question everybody has is: When will there be accountability?

I mentioned earlier that 65 percent of Americans now have no faith. They

don't trust the Department of Justice. We are losing faith in our institutions because the people do not see accountability. They don't see a fair system of justice. They see a two-tiered system of justice.

It is frightening. You cannot maintain a Constitutional republic if the people do not trust the system of justice. They don't believe it is fair. They don't believe that they are going to get a fair shake, that every American, regardless of who they are, is going to have equal justice under law. That is the threat right now. There is nothing more serious than that.

Mr. Speaker, we will pursue the truth, and we will follow it wherever it leads and try to return that accountability to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I end the Special Order hour here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

#### SOLIDARITY WITH UAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, we have seen workers standing up to corporate greed and fighting for better rights on the job, good benefits, and fair wages.

Today, our Congressional Progressive Caucus Special Order hour is devoted to this topic and to our solidarity with striking workers at UAW plants across the country.

This week, the United Auto Workers authorized a strike. As a long-term organizer myself, and as the chair of our 103-member strong Congressional Progressive Caucus, a caucus that has been at the center of championing labor issues, I am proud to stand in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers across the country.

Let me start today by thanking all the workers who have had the courage to organize, the courage to use their collective power to stand up for better pay, cost-of-living adjustments, increased job security, and many other critical benefits that they deserve to live with dignity.

Unionization is fundamentally about workplace democracy, about the engagement and the priorities of workers; your benefits, your hours, your pay, your priorities. Nobody tells you what

those are except the workers themselves.

UAW workers are showing us what it means to have collective power to stand together and to demand better.

Over the last decade, CEOs at the Big Three automakers have seen their salaries skyrocket by 40 percent, and these companies have made close to \$250 billion in profits over the last decade.

Let me just say that again: A quarter of a trillion dollars in profit for these three automakers, while workers in the auto manufacturing industry have actually seen their wages drop by more than 20 percent when adjusted for inflation.

Just listen to these numbers.

At Ford, the CEO makes 281 times that wage of the median worker.

At General Motors, the ratio is 362 to 1, and at Stellantis, which makes Chrysler, Jeep, and Ram, the ratio is 365 to 1.

Do these CEOs work hundreds of times harder than their lowest paid workers?

The answer is, there is nothing at these companies without the workers. There would be no profits without these workers. Why is it that they cannot share in the profits in an equitable way?

It is workers who have built the successes of these companies and led them to these record profits. Yet, these same workers have reported being forced to work 12-hour shifts for 90 days straight without a single day off. That is just unconscionable.

It is unacceptable for these CEOs to be raking in multimillion-dollar salaries while their workers are forced to strike for the pay raises and the benefits they should be entitled to.

□ 1515

UAW has been clear about their demands for months. We are in this situation because the Big Three automakers, their CEOs, have refused to even come to the table in meeting workers' demands halfway. These companies need to come to the bargaining table in good faith. They cannot expect workers to continue working unreasonable hours without job security to make cars that they cannot even buy.

In spite of the failure of the Big Three to grant workers' demands, the unionization movement is not slowing down. When their contract expired on Thursday, September 14, UAW president Shawn Fain announced initial strikes at three plants that include nearly 13,000 workers. Still awaiting a fair contract, a new strike deadline of this Friday, September 22, at noon has been announced if Ford, General Motors, or Stellantis haven't made progress toward a new agreement.

Many of these CEOs frame UAW's demands as unreasonable, but let me be clear about something. Labor costs make up only about 5 percent of the costs that goes into a vehicle. These companies could raise worker wages to the levels they are asking without rais-

ing costs to consumers and still rake in billions in profits.

Let's not forget who stepped up and sacrificed during the recession. These companies actually got billions of dollars in taxpayer bailouts, and auto-workers were the ones who took life-changing cuts to benefits and wages just to keep the industry alive because they cared about that industry.

For the Big Three, this is a huge opportunity to lead and to repay the American taxpayers and the auto-workers who made the sacrifices to keep those companies afloat.

These big corporations should be standing with instead of against the very workers who built their companies from the bottom up, and any management that says otherwise does not understand what workplace democracy means.

It is clear that President Biden understands what is at stake. He just recently said—and it is quite unprecedented for a President to say this—the Big Three “should go further to ensure record corporate profits mean record contracts for the UAW.”

We agree. House Democrats in the Congressional Progressive Caucus understand this, too. That is why we in the House have passed the PRO Act multiple times, despite it dying in the Senate because of a Jim Crow legacy filibuster.

That is why we are bringing manufacturing union jobs to America in every corner of this country. Unions keep our economy strong. They protect our workers. The power to come together and organize is so important, and it is a right that I will always defend in Congress.

As workers at UAW and other unions across the country push for fair pay and better benefits, we at the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we in the Democratic Caucus, will be standing with them in solidarity today, tomorrow, and forever.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), who has been a champion for labor issues and of justice in general.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity and speak in support of our autoworkers who are currently on strike.

Working men and women are the backbone of this Nation, and their desire for job security, for fair wages, and to simply be treated fairly is something that every working individual deserves.

During the 2008 great financial crisis, these workers sacrificed pay and benefits during a time of desperation to help keep their companies afloat. Now, long after these corporations have bounced back, they are making record profits that they refuse to share with their own workers. That is unacceptable and wrong.

These workers have ensured that key industries that make our country run stay functioning. In return for the billions that they have generated, all

they want are wages and benefits commensurate with their company's success. That seems fair to me.

I am proud to stand alongside the thousands of autoworkers that this contract covers, and I hope an agreement is reached soon.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus executive board who has really been on the front lines of this fight, who has been telling us for months that we need to pay attention to this, and who has been fighting at every turn for workers.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with our UAW workers. I have seen many negotiations in my lifetime, but these are the most important I have ever witnessed, and I am likely to, in my career.

The industry is at a crossroads, and quite frankly, the domestic auto industry's future is at stake.

We must manufacture electric vehicles here in America to stay at the forefront of innovation and technology in the world. We are competing in a global marketplace, and these workers are critical to it. They are the backbone of the American economy.

This is not a talking point moment. This is where the rubber is meeting the road.

Too many people are trying to make this an either/or, that you can protect the environment or you can protect the worker, but you can't do both. We can and must do both.

There are a lot of important issues on the table right now, but let's talk about the autoworkers. This industry was near bankruptcy in 2008 and 2009, quite frankly, because of poor management decisions. Nobody wanted to see the auto industry go bankrupt, so the workers stepped up and said they will give up their cost-of-living adjustment to help save this industry.

In reality though, it is 2023, and those workers' wages in real terms are 10 percent less than what they were making in 2008 and 2009. They just want their wages to keep up with inflation.

Workers need to be able to support their families. I have talked to these workers. I am in their halls. I am not just going because suddenly there is a strike. I am in a union hall every single weekend. These workers are working overtime shifts just to support their families.

It is not fair that someone is a temporary worker for 8 to 10 years and is not making benefits. It is not right that someone is on the line doing the exact same job somebody else is doing but being paid less because they are a different tier.

Everybody in our country benefits when our workers are paid well and paid their value. Autoworkers deserve a decent wage and benefits. By the way, when they do well, it raises all people's wages.

We cannot forget that there are many things that we enjoy today, like

a 40-hour workweek, benefits, sick days, pensions, nurse-to-patient ratios, teacher-to-student ratios, safe working conditions, that were negotiated by a union so that we would all benefit.

I want a competitive auto industry. I am not going to let China or any other country beat us. I am going to work hard for a competitive auto industry. We need to make sure, as the industry goes through this transition, that we are protecting the workers, that their livelihoods are safe and they are not left behind.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, before the gentlewoman leaves, I would engage in a colloquy with her for a couple of minutes.

I know she has been on the picket lines with workers. She has talked to striking workers. Can she tell us some of what she is hearing about what people have been giving up, just in terms of their own security, their own ability to take care of their families?

Mrs. DINGELL. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JAYAPAL. I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, as I said, the workers were telling me in the halls this weekend how much overtime they have been working just to keep up, but there also have been chemical spills that are happening in nonunion plants. We have to talk to the occupational health and safety people about what is happening. There are people who are worried.

I mean, there really are workers who have been temporary, so they are getting paid, but they are not getting any benefits. There are a lot of issues.

By the way, they don't want to see the companies destroyed. They need a competitive auto company so their jobs are safe. What they want is just to be paid a fair wage for the work that they are doing.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for her leadership, and I thank her for sharing that.

I think it is really important to remember that these are the workers who actually saved the auto industry by giving up defined benefit pension plans, by giving up salary increases, wage increases, benefit increases at that very time when we needed them to because they care so much about making sure that we have a competitive auto industry. I know that that has been everything that the gentlewoman has worked for, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), who is also on our executive board for the Congressional Progressive Caucus and also has been a champion for workers and for justice throughout her career. We are so delighted she is now here in Congress to do that work.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, earlier in committee, we were talking about the economy and talking about numbers, so I want to continue the conversation on numbers.

Approximately \$25 million, that is the amount reported that was earned by the Stellantis CEO in 2022, which is a 77 percent increase over the former CEO's salary in 2019.

Nearly \$21 million is the reported earnings of the Ford CEO, and that was up 21 percent from the salary of the former CEO in 2019.

Approximately \$30 million is the paycheck of General Motors' CEO, which is an increase of 34 percent compared to 2019.

Not long ago, a CEO defended their paycheck by saying, "Ninety-two percent of it is based on performance of the company."

You see, I, too, believe that when a company does great financially, the ones who worked to make it a reality should see the fruits of their efforts.

When we say that a record-high salary raise is due to the record-high performance of a company, we should ask ourselves: How was that performance made possible?

The truth is that there is only one answer. The answer is that nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are out on the streets today urging these companies for parity are the reason for this performance. They are urging their companies for their earned benefits. They are urging their companies for stronger protection and a place in the industry's future, the clean energy economy.

Mr. Speaker, as the proud daughter of hardworking immigrant parents who worked long hours at minimum wage jobs—my mother still today a home care worker—which they did just to put food on our table, a roof over our heads, and keep the lights on, it is my honor to stand here in full support of UAW workers and every single worker fighting for their future. Workers are the backbone of our middle class and our economy, and we know that when they thrive, we all thrive.

Time and time again, workers are demonstrating to us that the power we hold when we come together to bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions is a benefit for all of us. I know that we will succeed again.

Today, I stand with autoworkers in their fight to secure the contract that they deserve. It is time that we give our autoworkers the parity and support they need and have already earned.

Know that in me you will always find someone who stands ready to protect and support all workers' rights to fair wages, safe and dignified working conditions, universal healthcare, and democracy in the workplace. It is what the Congressional Progressive Caucus stands for. It is what I stand for. It is why I am so honored to be able to speak today in this Special Order hour.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), a colleague who serves on the Education and the Workforce Committee with me and has been, again, at the forefront of championing labor issues.

□ 1530

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues and the 150,000 members of the United Auto Workers fighting for fair pay and safer working conditions. In high cost-of-living areas, like the area I represent, the bay area, cost-of-living adjustments are necessary to ensure that workers have a livable standard in their community with their job.

Over the past decade, the Big Three automakers almost doubled their profits, much of it with the help from the United States Government. These profits totaled \$250 billion. The CEOs' pay increased almost 40 percent just in the last 4 years. Unfortunately, pay for the workers hasn't come near to following suit. Though the strikes are currently ongoing in three States, their outcome will have impacts on and provide benefits to the quality of life for autoworkers across the country.

As a member of both the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am especially aware of the implications these negotiations will have on the electric vehicle transition. As a former union member myself, I believe we need to ensure strong labor protections for this new and fast-growing industry which provides a historic opportunity to both support workers and provide for a just and sustainable economic transition.

I thank the UAW members for their sacrifice and their commitment. I thank them nationwide for standing up for what is right, and what is right not just for their members but for the future of this country.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DESAULNIER for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus executive board, somebody who has truly seen around the world the plight of workers and the need for justice.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with UAW members across the country fighting for a fair contract.

As we stand here today, over 12,000 autoworkers are striking in Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio. Over 100,000 more UAW stand ready to do what is necessary to secure better wages, benefits, and working conditions. Their priorities are not extreme.

In the past decade, the Big Three automakers made an astronomical \$250 billion in profits. During that same time, CEO pay at these companies has increased 40 percent while workers' wages have increased only 6 percent. These record profits were built on the backs of workers.

Today, UAW members are demanding that they receive their fair share of this record windfall. This is not extreme. It is what these workers are entitled to.

The Big Three automakers must recognize this and negotiate with UAW in good faith to resolve the standoff with justice and fairness.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I will take a minute, just in case anybody who is out there listening has been interested in the concept of strikes.

I think it is important to say that striking is not an inherently bad or inherently good thing. It is not a failure of our system. In fact, it is a tool that is used to rebalance power between employers and workers.

Employers don't have any right to pay unsustainable wages. They don't have any right to put forward unsustainable benefits. They don't have a right to keep families unstable by filling their workforce with workers that they just name as temporary, even though sometimes they work for 8 or 10 years. They don't have any right to put the burden of a worker's retirement on families or on governments, particularly when so many of these autoworkers have spent generations working for these companies and building these companies. Employers have no such rights.

Striking is actually the noble way that workers can reset the power dynamic so that they and their families can get what they deserve. They make the decision to strike very soberly. If you listen to many of the autoworkers that are on the picket lines today, they talk about how they have been saving, preparing for this moment. They have not been going to movies. They have not been spending on things that they might otherwise spend on, because they know that in striking, what they are doing is fighting not only for their wages and benefits and working conditions, they are actually fighting for the wages, the benefits, and the working conditions of generations of workers to come, perhaps even their sons, their daughters, their children, their grandchildren, to be able to have good jobs.

I think that is a really important thing to think about. For us, our job, I think, is as a community of those workers to support that decision, especially when inequality is hurting our society so badly.

Here in Congress, I think our job as Members of Congress is to make sure that we strengthen the right to collectively bargain and to organize, to make sure that workers have that power, to work with management.

In many parts of the world, it is not an adversarial relationship, and it is not an adversarial relationship because both management and workers understand that a company can do better when management supports workers, when workers are paid well. Of course, by the way, when workers' wages go up, they spend more. When they spend more, their communities do better, their businesses do better, and everyone does better.

The tragedy of the last many decades really, accompanied by policy that has forced these changes, is that trickle-

down economics doesn't work. What actually happens in trickle-down economics is a few people at the very top get rich and everybody else loses out. That is why we have the highest inequality in our country in half a century. It is why not just income inequality, but wealth inequality is at its highest. It is why in the wealthiest country in the world, we have 130 million people who are poor and low wage.

When workers are striking, it is a reflection, a consequence of bad policy choices that have not furthered the goal of equity and equality and fairness, and it is also a rebalancing of power.

I was interested, so as I was thinking about this Special Order hour, I looked up how many strikes we have seen recently. Just since the beginning of this year, there have been 247 strikes so far that involve 341,000 workers.

When you look at what has happened out of some of the big contracts we have seen, from the port contracts to the graduate students and the research students in my home State of Washington, the UPS workers, what you are finally seeing with collective bargaining is the ability to move wages in the right direction. Of course, if that doesn't happen, then the tool of a strike is always on the table as a way to force people to listen to the demands of workers.

I think today, as we think about the situation that we are in, everybody understands how important the auto industry is to us in this country. We all understand that we have competition from other countries around the world and that the way that we are going to make sure that we keep our industry strong is to bring back manufacturing to the United States. That is exactly what Democrats and President Biden have been pushing for with the bipartisan infrastructure bill, with the Inflation Reduction Act, with all of the bills that we have passed, with the CHIPS and Science Act.

The reality is that we are trying to bring back jobs to the United States and to make sure that they are good union jobs. Unfortunately, there are people who are cynically using the UAW strike to try to say that they stand up for workers, like our former President. He is saying that he is going to go to Michigan, he is going to suddenly appear to speak to the autoworkers. I would just remind anybody who is watching that under the former President, we lost hundreds of thousands of jobs that were offshored. We didn't make the American economy more competitive. We didn't bring back good union jobs.

In fact, my colleagues across the aisle have opposed us almost unanimously. We have some Republicans who have stuck with us on the PRO Act to advance collective bargaining. We have tried to move forward increases to the minimum wage. We have done all of the things on the Democratic side with very little, if any, Republican support, depending on the bill,

to make sure that we are strengthening the middle class and the bottom, creating a bottom-up and middle-out economy that benefits all of us.

Nobody is against people earning profits. What is wrong is to earn those profits at the cost of the workers who actually make those profits for you. That is wrong. That is why we are so proud to stand in solidarity with the autoworkers, with the United Auto Workers.

We thank the president, Shawn Fain for his strength of negotiating and for his clarity of vision, for his moral call for everybody to do better, because when everybody does better, everybody does better. When only a few people at the very top do better, everyone suffers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the striking autoworkers across the country know that the Congressional Progressive Caucus and that House Democrats stand with them in this very difficult time. We promise that we will continue to protect workers, to protect collective bargaining, to expand collective bargaining, and to make sure that workers everywhere enjoy the rights and the dignity that they deserve.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9 a.m.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 615. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-203, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1245. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-204). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1726. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-205, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 764. A bill to require the Sec-

retary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Rept. 118-206). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5110. 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 for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports; with an amendment (Rept. 118-207). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1726 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 615 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 5581. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants for demonstration projects to support mothers and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period by increasing access to short-term child care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 5582. A bill to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 5583. A bill to establish an advisory panel to study the development of a climate-friendly certification for agricultural products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5584. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide clarification with respect to the liability of third party payers for medical assistance paid under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 5585. A bill to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. IVEY):

H.R. 5586. A bill to protect national security against the threats posed by deepfake technology and to provide legal recourse to victims of harmful deepfakes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to

the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5587. A bill to reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5588. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferment on the repayment of loans for borrowers who are victims of sex-based harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAULO (for herself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5589. A bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 5590. A bill to require an officer or employee of the Federal Government who is required by law to appear on a regular basis to give oral testimony at a hearing of a committee of Congress to remain at the hearing until each member of the committee has been provided with the opportunity to question the officer or employee; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5591. A bill to establish a direct spending safeguard limitation on any direct spending program without a specific level of authorized spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5592. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds from preventing a State from implementing their own laws with respect to psilocybin; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 5593. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to exempt from the Generalized System of Preferences certain tire articles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 5594. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a 5-year post-employment ban on lobbying by former senior executive branch personnel and to prohibit such personnel from lobbying at any time on behalf of foreign governments or entities controlled by foreign governments, and for



other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5595. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 5596. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve congressional oversight and public transparency of military construction contract awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. LAHOOD:

H.R. 5597. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the "Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 5598. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to reauthorize a youth prevention and recovery initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 5599. A bill to establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level independent agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 5600. A bill to establish certain grants; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BALINT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 5601. A bill to decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Ways

and Means, Small Business, Natural Resources, Oversight and Accountability, 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. OGLES:

H.R. 5602. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Chairman of the Board to address interest rate risk when appearing at semi-annual hearings before the Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5603. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to establish or improve world language or dual language programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5604. A bill to require original equipment manufacturers to make available certain documentation, parts, software, and tools with respect to electronics-enabled implements of agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5605. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 5606. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the emission of any greenhouse gas in any quantity from any new electric utility steam generating unit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5607. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow both spouses to make catch-up contribution to the same health savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 5608. A bill to allow individuals to elect to receive contributions to a health savings account in lieu of reduced cost-sharing under health insurance obtained through a health insurance Exchange; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 5609. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for security protection for the former Director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Diseases who served between January 1984 and December 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILD, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5610. A bill to establish the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 5611. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for permanent payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 5612. A bill to change the calendar period of the Federal fiscal year; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 5613. A bill to require a review of whether individuals or entities subject to the imposition of certain sanctions through inclusion on certain sanctions lists should also be subject to the imposition of other sanctions and included on other sanctions lists; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 5614. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H. Con. Res. 65. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Congressional Sneaker Caucus Shoe Drive for the Homeless Community; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of a coordinated and effective international response to the crisis in Ukraine and in support of the use of reparations paid by Russia for Ukrainian recovery and reconstruction efforts while ensuring that, to the extent possible, the burden of funding Ukraine's reconstruction does not fall on United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 704. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the

House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H. Res. 705. A resolution electing the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CLINE:

H. Res. 706. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the appropriation of funds for the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government who is convicted of contempt of Congress; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. VARGAS):

H. Res. 707. A resolution commemorating the lifetime legacy of Alejandro “El Potrillo” Fernandez for his continued contributions to Mexican music and Latin culture internationally; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H. Res. 708. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 18 through September 23, 2023, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, 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 Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK (for herself, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 709. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2023, as “National Cholesterol Education Month”, and September 30, 2023, as LDL-C Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H. Res. 710. A resolution honoring the Thai-American garment workers who opened the country's eyes to sweatshop conditions in the United States and, against all odds, expanded rights for immigrant workers and survivors of human trafficking while holding corporations responsible for the conditions in which their clothes are made; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H. Res. 711. A resolution expressing support for the designation of an “American Patriotism Month”; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 4494.

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

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 informs the Congress that the primary authority to set election law and to administer federal elections rests with the States and not with the Congress.

Article I, Section 5, Clause 1 “Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members[.]”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 “To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States[.]”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: “[The Congress shall have Power . . . ] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

The Tenth Amendment confirms that the Constitution assigns only enumerated powers to the Congress and that the States and the people retain the remainder.

Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Third, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill promotes election integrity, voter confidence, and faith in elections by removing Federal impediments to, providing State tools for, and establishing voluntary considerations to support effective State administration of Federal elections and improving election administration in the District of Columbia.

By Ms. McCLELLAN:

H.R. 5581.

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

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Maternal Health

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 5582.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation proposes measures to rejuvenate white oak forests, promote biodiversity and support the industries that rely on them.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 5583.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Food policy

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5584.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for clarification with respect to the liability of third party payers for medical assistance paid under the Medicaid program

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 5585.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making a federal crime to fail to yield to law enforcement.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5586.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Technology

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5587.

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

U.S. Const. art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Withholds Member of Congress pay in es-crow during a government shut down.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5588.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Loan Deferment

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5589.

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 legislation would increase and improve the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) procurement of fresh fruits and vegetables.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5590.

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

Art. I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Oversight

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5591.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution grants Congress the power to “pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fiscal Responsibility

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 5592.

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:

pcilocybin reform

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 5593.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

GSP import-sensitive list.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5594.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits senior Executive Branch employees from lobbying for entities that are subject to the direction, ownership, control or influence of a foreign entity for life and imposes a five-year ban on Executive Branch employees from lobbying.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5595.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establish the Retrospective Review Commission to review federal regulations and recommend repeals, streamline the repeal process for Congress to consider rules the Commission recommends for repeal, and require federal agencies to implement cut-as-you-go for new rules.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 5596.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

Put Our Neighbors to Work Act

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 5597.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution—Congress has the power “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the “Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 5598.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 5599.

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

Pursuant to the clause 3(d)(1) of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

emergency management

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 5600.

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

Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security is directed to establish a \$2,000,000 grant available to Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5601.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Marijuana

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5602.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Federal Reserve to report on risks to the financial system.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5603.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5604.

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

Article I of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Right to Repair

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5605.

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

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill imposes requirements and standards related to the care of aliens in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5606.

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

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the emission of any greenhouse gas in any quantity from any new electric utility steam generating unit, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5607.

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 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow both spouses to make catch-up contribution to the same health savings account.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5608.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow individuals to elect to receive contributions to a health savings account in lieu of reduced cost-sharing under health insurance obtained through a health insurance Exchange.

By Mr. STRONG:

H.R. 5609.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for security protection for the former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases who served between January 1984 and December 2022.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5610.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a commission to conduct a fact-finding investigation on the impact of discriminatory policies in the Uniformed Services on LGBTQ servicemembers and veterans; and to make recommendations to Congress for a path forward that various government agencies, service providers, and the Uniformed Services should follow to ensure equity and redress for impacted individuals

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5611.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is: to expand access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 5612.

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

Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To change the calendar period of the Federal fiscal year.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 5613.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Sanctions

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 5614.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 60: Ms. TLAI.  
H.R. 105: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 329: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 542: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 619: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. FROST.  
H.R. 807: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 902: Ms. TLAI.  
H.R. 953: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 987: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 1005: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1025: Mr. BRECHEEN.  
H.R. 1082: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1105: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
H.R. 1117: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 1146: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1167: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
H.R. 1198: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 1200: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 1250: Ms. LETLOW and Mr. LUETKE-MEYER.  
H.R. 1294: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 1322: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1378: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 1388: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1389: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1390: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 1436: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 1437: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 1453: Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 1465: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 1631: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 1668: Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 1699: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 1719: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. CASTEN.  
H.R. 1724: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 1782: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1831: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 2390: Ms. TLAI.  
H.R. 2400: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. SCANLON.  
H.R. 2402: Mr. NEGUSE and Mrs. PELTOLA.  
H.R. 2413: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 2418: Ms. TLAI.  
H.R. 2447: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2454: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 2630: Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. PORTER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 2665: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EZELL, and Mr. FROST.

- H.R. 2667: Mr. STRONG and Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 2673: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 2742: Mr. PETERS and Mr. BERGMAN.  
H.R. 2753: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 2766: Mr. FALLON.  
H.R. 2867: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.  
H.R. 2873: Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 2891: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 2957: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 2992: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 3005: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 3009: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3021: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 3029: Ms. VAN DUYNE.  
H.R. 3037: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. PRESSLEY.  
H.R. 3073: Ms. PETTERSEN.  
H.R. 3083: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
H.R. 3312: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 3332: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 3347: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Ms. STRICKLAND.  
H.R. 3393: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3433: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3470: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 3489: Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 3497: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 3563: Ms. VAN DUYNE.  
H.R. 3608: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 3680: Ms. SCHRIER and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 3774: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SELF, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 3790: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 3792: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 3859: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 3870: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 3881: Mr. SABLAN.  
H.R. 4006: Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 4077: Ms. SCHRIER.  
H.R. 4157: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4189: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PANNETTA, and Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 4259: Mr. BEAN of Florida.  
H.R. 4277: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 4363: Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
H.R. 4438: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. ESPAILLAT.  
H.R. 4519: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4534: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
H.R. 4541: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4563: Mr. SANTOS and Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 4564: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.  
H.R. 4572: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 4581: Mr. BACON and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4612: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 4619: Mr. KILMER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4721: Mr. WALTZ and Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 4731: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4745: Mr. SMUCKER.  
H.R. 4769: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4774: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
H.R. 4779: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. SEWELL.  
H.R. 4787: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 4818: Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 4829: Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 4844: Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 4856: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 4870: Mr. FROST.  
H.R. 4875: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 4886: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4942: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Ms. PLASKETT.  
H.R. 4945: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 5023: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 5027: Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 5085: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 5086: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 5119: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 5134: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
H.R. 5140: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 5203: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 5322: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. FROST.  
H.R. 5341: Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 5361: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.  
H.R. 5383: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5399: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CASTEN.  
H.R. 5403: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 5406: Mr. MOONEY.  
H.R. 5419: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5433: Mr. THANEDAR and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
H.R. 5465: Mr. BABIN, Mr. STRONG, Mrs. BICE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 5468: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 5482: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 5485: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 5486: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 5500: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5530: Mr. FINSTAD.  
H.R. 5535: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 5555: Mr. BUCSHON.  
H.R. 5561: Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 5572: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 5573: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.  
H.R. 5578: Mr. LYNCH.  
H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. COSTA.  
H. Con. Res. 37: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H. Con. Res. 56: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RYAN, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. PETTERSEN.  
H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H. Res. 204: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. FROST.  
H. Res. 409: Mr. LAWLER.  
H. Res. 616: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H. Res. 627: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. ROUZER.  
H. Res. 674: Ms. CHU, Mr. RYAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H. Res. 688: Mr. LAWLER.  
H. Res. 691: Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Res. 697: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. LAWLER.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

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No. 152

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the fountain of all goodness, thank You that You have us in the place where You want us to be.

Teach our lawmakers to take seriously their role in solving the problems of our times, that they may fulfill Your plans for their lives. Continue to inspire them and to bless others through their work. Use Your sovereign wisdom to bring about good results from their decisions. Lord, give our Senators the courage to tell us what we need to hear so that Your truth will set us free. Make them willing to take judicious risk when it leads to justice and truth.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 20, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report.

The 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.

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.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 12:15 p.m. be for debate only. At 12:15 p.m., we have a vote on the cloture motion on moving forward on the mini-bus.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 4366

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, Senators from both sides of the aisle will have a chance to affirm that bipartisanship still rules the day in the Senate appropriations process.

In a few hours, we will hold a cloture vote on the suspension of rule XVI, to override the stall tactics of one Member who objected last week to waiving rule XVI. It is yet another reminder that, in both Houses, a small group of hard-right Republicans is dead set on grinding the gears of government to a halt. For MAGA Republicans, it is as if chaos is a virtue and cooperation a crime, but I do not believe that this is the view of most Members in this Chamber, Democrats or Republicans.

The appropriations process has been a true bipartisan success story to date. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for regular order, and we have worked with them to ensure we have done just that, just as we did on the NDAA bill. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for amendments, and we have worked with them to consider amendments.

We worked side by side with our Republican colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to bring these three bills to the floor: MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD. It has taken a lot of hard work. We have had plenty of disagreements, as both sides normally do, but we have worked through them. It is a reminder that,

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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even in divided times, it is the hard work—hard work—of achieving bipartisanship that produced results.

Today, we have a chance to make sure all the good work of the appropriators is not wasted. Whether the Republicans give us cloture or not, we on this side of the aisle are going to do our best to ensure that the minibus gets done. We have come very far, and there is no good reason to turn back.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Now, Mr. President, on the CR, every day we get closer to September 30, one truth becomes clearer and clearer: There is no scenario for avoiding a government shutdown without bipartisan ship.

A government shutdown would be a terrible and unnecessary outcome for our country. Millions of Americans who count on government services would have their lives disrupted. It could impact the pay of our service members, who so bravely serve us. Air traffic controllers and TSA employees would have to work without pay. FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund—needed by so many—could dry up.

A shutdown would be disastrous. A shutdown would be unnecessary. Make no mistake, a shutdown is certainly avoidable. Yet, with each passing day, House Republicans seem less interested in avoiding a shutdown and more interested in catering to the hard, hard, unreasonable, adamant, and stubborn hard right.

A few days ago, House Republicans released what they claimed was a deal for a CR—a slapdash, reckless, and cruel bill that everyone knew had no chance—no chance—of passing in the Senate. It would have cut 8 percent to virtually all nondefense spending. It would have cut investments to the Social Security Administration. It would have meant cuts to law enforcement, to NIH funding for cancer research, to nutrition assistance, to protections for clean water, for small business loans, even for the people protecting the border. Still, it wasn't extreme enough for the hard right.

House Republicans rejected their own extremist bill, and by rejecting it, that is a dead giveaway they are not serious about avoiding a shutdown. They seem more interested in just finding the lowest common denominator—finding something, anything, that can appease the hard right no matter how extreme, no matter how unrealistic, no matter how cruel, and no matter how unseriously this would be taken by the country and by this body. This is not a serious way to solve the crisis.

Look, I sympathize with the Speaker. I know his task isn't easy, as he has a lot of very, very difficult Members to deal with. But we all have—including the Speaker—a responsibility to the American people. Real lives would be disrupted in a shutdown.

The answer to avoiding a shutdown is right in front of Speaker MCCARTHY, and he knows it: bipartisanship. Speaker MCCARTHY says he wants to avoid a

shutdown. He says nobody wins in a shutdown. Well then, he should reach across the aisle to find an agreement that actually has the votes to pass both Chambers. That is the only way—the only way—this crisis gets resolved.

When Members of your own side operate in bad faith, when has appeasement ever worked? If he gives in to them now, they will want something more tomorrow and the next day and the next day. Some of them have stated boldly that they want a shutdown. The Speaker has an obligation not to let those people who want a shutdown have their way.

Chasing the lowest common denominator won't ever solve the Speaker's problems. The hard right will just keep demanding more extreme things. It is the pattern we have seen play out all year long, and that approach will only lead to one outcome: a MAGA government shutdown. This has been the problem with MAGA extremism from the start. It is not serious about governing. It hates governing. "Chaos" is the only word in their playbook.

We have Members of the hard right who openly say—bragging—they want a shutdown. Well, it doesn't have to be this way, and it shouldn't be this way. Those few who want a shutdown should not control the House. Speaker MCCARTHY doesn't have to pretend like a MAGA bill is the only option. Again, there are real people who will be hurt if the government is shut down. They like to see us work together so their lives don't get disrupted.

Today is September 20. House Republicans have less than 10 days to figure this out. If Republican leadership chooses to work with Democrats, we can avoid a shutdown very quickly, but if they continue to appease the MAGA hard right, we all know exactly how this is going to end.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, next week, America's world-leading medical innovation sector will face their first deadline in the Biden administration's push for prescription drug socialism.

Under Washington Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the companies behind certain major treatments for seniors, for everything from arthritis to diabetes, to cancer, will have to choose, by the end of next week, whether to enter into a so-called "negotiation program" run by Federal bureaucrats, pay an excessive fine, or take their drugs off the market.

Well, the devil is in the details. Unsurprisingly, Democrats intend for this "negotiation" to be anything but. It turns out, the IRA empowers the Biden administration to reject any counteroffer during the process and, thus, arbitrarily set the maximum price to whatever number the bureaucrats choose.

Now, the Biden administration claims that this policy will save consumers money and lead to cheaper treatments, but this couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, this so-called "negotiation" with unelected bureaucrats will ensure that fewer lifesaving treatments make it to the markets in the first place.

I was very proud to have worked alongside then-Vice President Biden on his Cancer Moonshot Initiative and the 21st Century Cures Act back in 2016. Unfortunately, by one estimate, the Biden administration's own price-fixing scheme would destroy nearly nine times as much funding for cancer research as that legislation, back in 2016, provided by eliminating incentives for drug companies to invest in R&D. Already, several companies announced last year that they were discontinuing research into treatments for cancer and other diseases due to concerns about the impact of Washington Democrats' regulations.

The Biden administration wants to dry up the world's most prolific pipeline of lifesaving cures. The American people deserve better than prescription drug socialism.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. President, now, on another matter, yesterday, President Biden told the world we would support Ukraine's fight "as long as it takes." Unfortunately, for all of his lofty rhetoric about Ukraine, the President's actual approach to Russia's escalation—his passive, indecisive leadership—has risked prolonging the war and jeopardizing public support for our efforts. In some cases, his open fretting about escalation and "World War Three" has contributed to the hesitation of allies like Germany.

Like most Republicans, I have been clear-eyed about the threat of Russian aggression since long before Putin's so-called "little green men" seized Ukrainian territory back in 2014, long before the last Democratic President mocked realism about Russia to score points in a political debate. And I have urged the administrations of both parties to take steps to help Ukraine deter Russian aggression before it escalated—like the previous administration's decision to send the lethal weapons that President Obama had found too provocative.

When President Biden took office, he focused on lowering tensions with Moscow with giveaways like the 5-year extension of the New START Treaty, rather than shipping lethal weapons to Ukraine to help shore up their defenses. As Vladimir Putin massed forces on Ukraine's border over the



winter of 2021, I urged the President to move quickly to provide critical military capabilities like Stingers and Javelins and to build the logistical infrastructure needed to support Ukraine should Russia escalate. Ah, but President Biden delayed. He dithered for months before approving shipments of advanced air defense systems or medium-range rocket systems like HIMARS. And he anguished for over a year about authorizing F-16s and Abrams tanks.

Eventually, under duress from both parties in Congress, the Biden administration provided each of these capabilities, but the President's hesitation kept our allies, who follow American decisions very closely, from unlocking similar capabilities of their own sooner.

At every step of the way, President Biden's decisions on support for Ukraine have been slow, his actions have been tentative, and his caution has been debilitating. Unfortunately, the President's public messaging has been similarly insufficient. He has an obligation to speak to all Americans, but most of his messaging about lofty and abstract principles seems tailored to Washington think tanks.

President Biden and his administration need to explain to the Nation in practical terms that our Nation has a fundamental interest in Ukrainian victory and European security, that our support for Ukraine isn't distracting from competition with China but contributing materially to it, that Europe has turned a corner on collective defense and burden sharing and is actually contributing more to Ukraine than the United States, that U.S. assistance is subject to rigorous oversight and accountability protections, that most of the security assistance is actually being invested in America's own—our own—defense industrial base, and that pulling the plug would be far more ruinous than our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I sometimes get the sense that I speak more about Ukraine matters than the President does. Well, I hope his administration will use this evening's classified Senate briefing to begin making his case more forcefully.

I am encouraged by reports that the United States may finally provide ATACMS, a capability that could have made an impact on the battlefield sooner. And I hope we will learn why this decision, like those preceding it, has taken so long.

Tomorrow, I will join colleagues in welcoming President Zelenskyy to the Capitol, and I will continue to make the case myself for sustained support of the Ukrainian cause—not out of charity but out of primary focus on America's interests. But until President Biden takes on his responsibility to actually lead the case publicly here at home, his administration's timid leadership will continue to speak volumes, both at home and abroad.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, most Americans agree that the cost of prescription drugs is too high. Most Americans agree that President Biden has done the right thing by reducing the monthly cost of insulin to \$35 so that millions of people facing diabetes can afford their medication. Most Americans agree that it is almost impossible to explain why American drug companies sell the same drugs in Canada for a fraction of the cost they charge American consumers. Most Americans agree that the pharmaceutical companies should be able to take advantage of basic research by Agencies like the National Institutes of Health but, when it comes to their profit-making, they ought to be reasonable with the American taxpayers, who started them down the road to a successful product.

Most Americans also agree that the No. 1 driver in the cost of health insurance premiums is the cost of prescription drugs. BlueCross BlueShield of Chicago has told me as much. It stands to reason.

That is why it is very difficult to understand the statement just made by the Republican leader in the Senate, who is suggesting that the idea of negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies so that Medicare, for example, doesn't pay the highest price for drugs isn't a reasonable thing.

What I heard from the Republican leader was this was prescription drug socialism—socialism—that we would go to the private sector and say: Life-saving drugs should be affordable. You are entitled to a profit, but you are not entitled to rip off taxpayers or consumers across America.

That seems like a reasonable approach. In fact, it seems so reasonable that someone suggested we do that for our veterans years ago. The Veterans' Administration has been negotiating prescription drug pricing for years.

What the Senator from Kentucky refers to as “unelected bureaucrats” are the officials of the Veterans' Administration who, on behalf of the veterans and their families, sit down at a table and negotiate a reasonable cost so that veterans will always have those drugs available to them and the government will pay not the highest price but a reasonable price for the product.

That has been going on for decades, and I don't recall any Republican—or Democrat, for that matter—who stood before the Senate or the House and said: That is a bad idea. The Veterans' Administration ought to pay a much higher price for drugs, and taxpayers ought to foot the difference.

The reason you don't hear that is it doesn't make sense. We should be able to negotiate reasonable pricing for pharmaceutical drugs in Medicare, just as we do in the Veterans' Administration. That is what President Biden has suggested.

If you took a look at the top 10 drugs that the Medicare system is buying across America, not surprisingly, these

drugs, which have tongue-twister names, are familiar to most Americans. Why?

The pharmaceutical companies have put so many ads on television for the drug Xarelto that we can not only pronounce it but we can spell it. And Xarelto, of course, is a drug that appeals to many people but certainly to senior citizens.

Now, for the record, there are only two nations in the world that allow television advertising of pharmaceutical drugs: the United States and New Zealand, of all places. So why do the pharmaceutical companies spend more money on television advertising and marketing than they do on research to find new drugs and cures? Well, they do that because they make money at it.

They are trying to reach American consumers—in this case, senior citizens—and convince them, the next time they go for a doctor's appointment, to ask for one of these drugs.

Now, the doctor may decide to counsel the person that that drug is not appropriate for the challenges of the medical situation they face. He may say there is a generic that is much cheaper, and he may try to talk them out of the idea. But, after some time, the doctors usually give in to the patients. They have a limited amount of time to debate with them, and they have got to move on to another patient. And so the high-priced prescription drug advertised on television is then sold to the senior citizen. And as a result, the taxpayers, through Medicare, pay for a large portion of that high-priced drug. That is an unfortunate system, but it is very profitable for the pharmaceutical companies.

So to call this socialism is to ignore the obvious. We want Americans to have access to affordable, effective drugs, whether they are buying them as private citizens or through programs like Medicare and Medicaid. What the President has said is: I should take my authority as President, given to me by Congress with a measure that received only Democratic votes, and negotiate drug prices down to an affordable level—for the government and for individuals.

Some may call that “prescription drug socialism.” I call it common sense. We should protect American consumers from high-priced prescription drugs. Why the Republican leader takes the opposite position is his business, but I think most Americans believe it is a reasonable approach.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, on a separate issue, I rise today to discuss the critical role that U.S. attorneys play in keeping America and our communities safe. Unfortunately, this is not the first time I have come to the floor to request unanimous consent to take up and confirm U.S. attorney nominations.

Across the United States, men and women are chosen to head U.S. Attorney Offices through the Department of

Justice. It is a major responsibility. I have seen many U.S. attorneys in my lifetime and my time in the Senate, and I know them to be carefully screened before they reach this level. They go through background checks—extensive background checks—to make certain there are no questions about their background before they are appointed to this position. They then go through the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, which I chair, carefully screened by both Democrats and Republicans. Then they are voted on in the committee and sent to the floor here for approval.

Unfortunately, we have run into an obstacle. Last year, we went through an exercise twice when a Republican Senate colleague refused to allow the Senate to confirm nearly 12 Justice Department nominees by voice vote, which is the typical approach used under Presidents of both political parties. Thankfully, the Senator involved in that particular issue lifted his objections in time for these 12 to be appointed to U.S. attorney posts across the United States.

We were able to get the U.S. attorneys and marshals confirmed and in place so they could go to work. And, thank goodness, we did.

Unfortunately, here we stand again today, finding ourselves in a position where a single Senator objects to the timely confirmation of U.S. attorney nominees.

In short, one Senator—one Senator—is making it more difficult for us to put women and men in the position of U.S. attorney for the prosecution of violent criminals, tracking down fugitives, and protecting Americans from gang violence, cyber crime, terrorism, narcotics, and fraud.

It is an awesome job to be U.S. attorney because of the possibilities of all of the vulnerabilities of American citizens.

Remember when extreme voices were crying out “defund the police”? We knew better as Americans. Sure, reform is appropriate, but we need the police, just as we need prosecutors—criminal prosecutors. Now, we have one Senator who has decided to stop this effort at criminal prosecution by these new U.S. attorneys.

It is worth taking a moment to think about what U.S. attorneys do. The position of U.S. attorney is nearly as old as the Nation. It was created as part of the Judiciary Act of 1789, which was passed by the first Congress and signed into law by President George Washington.

U.S. attorneys are empowered to prosecute all Federal criminal offenses; and we have recognized, since the founding of America, that they are an integral part of our justice system.

U.S. attorneys play a critical role in enforcing the law, promoting public safety, protecting our communities. Blocking the confirmations of U.S. attorneys threatens public safety and puts many Americans and their fami-

lies, including the most vulnerable among us, at greater risk.

Why would we knowingly want to put our families that we represent in States across America at greater risk by holding up the employment of U.S. attorneys?

Now, we have heard a lot of tough talk about law and order from a lot of Senators. But when it comes to law and order, we shouldn't allow one Senator to prevent us from confirming well-qualified law enforcement nominations today.

This Senator has vowed to “grind the Department of Justice to a halt.”

Let me repeat that.

This Senator has vowed to “grind the Department of Justice to a halt.”

And all of this because of why? He is upset that special counsel Jack Smith has indicted the former President of the United States on multiple felonies. This is a protest, a political protest, for an action taken by a special counsel. But he is doing it at the expense of families all across America.

Let me repeat that.

A Member of this body is undermining our government's efforts to prosecute violent crimes, terrorism, and crimes against children because he does not like it that one of his political allies is being held accountable for his actions. He is doing so despite the fact that these are exceptional—exceptional—nominees for U.S. attorneys, and there is no principled basis to delay their confirmation.

Let me describe some of these U.S. attorneys who are being held up by this one Republican Senator.

Todd Gee, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, is dedicated to the rule of law and longtime career in public service. A native of Vicksburg, MS, Mr. Gee attended George Washington University and Tulane Law School. He spent several years as an assistant U.S. attorney right here in the District of Columbia. He prosecuted homicides, carjackings, and gun crimes. In one case, he was the lead prosecutor in securing the convictions for seven members of a deadly street gang that had been indicted for multiple murders. Since 2018, Mr. Gee has served as Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section at the Department of Justice. He is a dedicated public servant with significant experience as a Federal prosecutor. He is the person for the job of U.S. attorney in Mississippi.

Don't take it from me, take it from both Mississippi Senators, both Republicans, who approved his nomination. And yet he is being held up.

Tara McGrath, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California, devoted her legal career to keeping America safe. Ms. McGrath attended Boston College and the University of Michigan Law School before beginning her career as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate with the U.S. Marine Corps. She was honorably discharged after 6 years of service in the Marine

Corps and then began serving as Federal prosecutor in the Southern District of California.

During her time with the U.S. Attorney's Office, she received awards for her work on crime prevention and prisoner re-entry and handled drug importation, human trafficking cases, and gang prosecutions.

Notably, Ms. McGrath led the investigation of a large-scale racketeering and drug-trafficking operation run by the Mexican cartels in San Diego County that resulted in 51 indictments against 40 defendants.

How many times have we heard Members from the other side of the aisle talk about the scourge of fentanyl in the United States, the narcotics that are killing too many Americans every single day? What is going to stop that? A lot of different things. But one thing that has to be part of the equation is a criminal prosecutor who knows how to bring them to court and hold them responsible for the deadly narcotics and deaths across America.

Why in the world would we stop Ms. McGrath from becoming a U.S. attorney in California, where she has a proven record of doing just that? By holding up her nomination for no specific reason, we are jeopardizing the safety of so many people who innocently expect us to do our duty.

These are individuals—the ones she has prosecuted—responsible for drive-by shootings, child abduction attempts, meth distribution. Thanks to Ms. McGrath, they are off the streets.

She recently returned to her military roots, served as a lawyer for the Marine Corps in Okinawa in Japan since 2019. She has represented America admirably. She will be an outstanding U.S. attorney.

A third U.S. attorney nominee who is being held up by this Senator is Rebecca Lutzko. This one is interesting. She was nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, the home State of the Senator who is holding up her nomination.

She is a longtime Federal prosecutor. She attended Boston University and Georgetown University Law before clerking on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

After 7 years in private practice, Ms. Lutzko joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, handled cases involving prescription drug trafficking, gun crimes, and corruption. She eventually became Appellate Chief of the office's Criminal Division.

For nearly a decade, Ms. Lutzko was the lead counsel in prosecuting an online pill-mill organization that illegally distributed well over 4 million pain pills to customers in all 50 States. She secured convictions on all 12 defendants in the case, and the organization was forced to surrender \$4 million to the U.S. Government in criminal proceeds.

She has served her office with distinction. She would be an outstanding U.S. attorney.

April Perry, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, has significant experience in the private sector and as a Federal prosecutor.

She attended Northwestern University and the Northwestern Law School and then clerked on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Then she served as Federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Illinois for over a decade, where she handled narcotics, gang violence, public corruption, and fraud cases. Notably, Ms. Perry specialized in child exploitation prosecutions and spent 6 years in the office as Project Safe Childhood Coordinator.

As an assistant U.S. attorney, she investigated a former police officer who was convicted of raping a person he had arrested, and she secured the conviction of a former priest who was accused of sexually abusing more than 20 children.

Ms. Perry has since served as Chief Ethics Officer for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and is currently working as the GE Healthcare a senior counsel for Global Investigations and Fraud and Abuse Prevention.

She has the qualification and leadership abilities to serve as U.S. attorney with distinction.

The interesting thing about all of these nominees that are being held up by one Senator from the other side of the aisle is the extraordinary records they have already written in their lives as criminal prosecutors. That is why Senators from both political parties in the U.S. Senate have said they are entitled to a promotion and entitled to an opportunity to lead these U.S. attorney's offices.

By keeping these posts vacant, by refusing to give us a vote in the Senate on their nominations, we are jeopardizing the efforts of U.S. attorney's offices to control narcotics and crime.

These men and women are on the frontline of keeping us safe in America. To hold up their nominations without any specific complaint about any one of these nominees is just unacceptable.

We have a responsibility here to keep America safe. We can't keep them safe by using a political reason to hold up the nominations of these well-qualified people. If you are truly for law and order, if you are truly for law enforcement, if you want the prosecutors across America to keep us safe, then, for goodness' sake, lift the hold on these nominations.

Mr. President, I am prepared to make a unanimous consent request at this point.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 129, No. 266, No. 314, and No. 315; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President

be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The Senator from Illinois knows well, I cannot and will not give consent to the confirmation of new officials at the Department of Justice.

My objection is not specific to the qualifications or the particular individuals that have been nominated. My objection is, instead, to the fact that we live in an era where the Department of Justice is used for politics as much as justice. And that is unacceptable.

The DOJ is, and always has been, defined by its most consequential investigations and prosecutions. This DOJ is thus defined by its selective prosecution of the leader of the opposition—the man running against Joe Biden to become President of the United States. Of course, I am speaking of Donald Trump.

Now, this unprecedented double standard selectively prosecuting Donald Trump, leaving the President and his family completely untouched, is a reason why the Department of Justice's public confidence has completely collapsed.

A recent NBC News survey showed that 35 percent of the American people approve of the Department of Justice, which is a radical decline from where it was just a couple of years ago.

It is the constitutional duty of this body to provide advice and consent to high-level DOJ nominees. My real fear here—I don't want to be here, I don't want to be objecting to these nominees—but what I like much less is the fact these nominees will be used by the Attorney General for politics over justice.

My colleague might say—and he might say this to Senator TUBERVILLE, who has a similar hold on Department of Justice nominees—that this is extraordinary, that what we are doing as Republicans in objecting to the unanimous consent of these nominations is extraordinary. And I agree it is extraordinary. But what is more extraordinary is this moment in time where the leader of the opposition is being prosecuted by the President of the United States, and the Department of Justice again and again and again is using its powers to go after people from pro-life activists to members of the community who are just exercising their rights.

I would love to live in a country where the Department of Justice does not engage in selective prosecution. I would very much like if the Department of Justice focused on the work of law enforcement instead of politics. Until it does, I will object to these nominations.

I will object to giving unanimous consent. For these reasons, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my colleague says he is holding up these critical law enforcement positions because former President Trump is being treated unfairly. He promises to grind the Department of Justice to a halt in loyalty to his political ally.

President Biden has continually demonstrated his respect for the Justice Department's independence. He has never interfered in any investigation into himself or his family. In contrast, President Trump treated the Justice Department as his personal law firm for 4 years, and he continues to undermine the rule of law by repeatedly threatening and making baseless accusations against judges, prosecutors, grand jurors, and witnesses.

Former President Trump has been indicted four separate times—once, of course, a State indictment in Georgia. As the criminal charges mount, President Trump is becoming even more reckless in threatening judges, prosecutors, jurors, and witnesses. That is what inappropriate interference in our judicial system looks like.

Instead of directing his concerns there, the Senator from Ohio is attacking law enforcement officers who want to keep our families and communities safe. In fact, one of the nominations that he is holding up, in argument that the Department of Justice has become a political tool, is a nomination which he notified the Judiciary Committee he supports—from his home State of Ohio. If this person is a political tool, why did he support this person for this nomination? He is holding him up today for political reasons.

Despite the tough talk from the Senator of Ohio about crime in America and all the references I have to put up regularly with the other party making references to crime in the city of Chicago, I can't think of a better way to fight crime and protect communities than by confirming all these qualified nominees, especially one for the Northern District of Illinois.

While the Senator from Ohio stands in the Senate talking about crime in my home State and other places, Ms. Perry could be leading Chicago's Firearms Trafficking Strike Force in cracking down on the illicit flow of illegal guns from other States into Chicago.

The Chicago Police Department recovered more than 10,000 guns every year from criminal investigations for the last 2 years—10,000 guns taken off the streets. Ms. Perry could be helping to coordinate these efforts with ATF and other law enforcement agencies.

Instead, thanks to my colleague's political position, our law enforcement agencies and U.S. attorneys are missing key officials who would otherwise be leading these efforts.

If you are for law and order, if you are for safety in the streets, if you want to reduce gun violence, how in the world can you rationalize stopping the nominations of U.S. attorneys, the

lead criminal prosecutors of the U.S. Department of Justice?

I would like to give them the help and leadership they need, but the Senator from Ohio blocks it. These offices and the safety of the public they serve should not be subject to politics. These are highly qualified nominees who deserve to be swiftly confirmed. Until we do so, our law enforcement agencies in Ohio, Illinois, Mississippi, and California are going to be limited on how they can fight crime.

I really am saddened that this has become the new standard for Senate Republicans. One Senate Republican has stopped 300 military promotions for 6 months or longer. Deserving men and women, many of whom risked their life for our country and have served us so well, are being punished because of a political item on the agenda. As important as it may be, you have chosen the wrong targets to take your political revenge.

The same thing is true when it comes to these nominees. For goodness' sake, give the Department of Justice the tools it needs to stop the spread of fentanyl and narcotics in the United States, to stop and slow down violent crime in the United States, to do something to protect children from being trafficked. To stop these nominations is to turn a blind eye to the reality that faces crime in our country. I can't explain it. I won't even try to.

I just beg the Senator from Ohio to think twice. Grinding the U.S. Department of Justice to a halt, as you have promised, is nothing to be proud of. We will not be safer as a nation; we will not be better off in terms of the safety of our children; and this political strategy is, unfortunately, ill-intended and is going to have a result which is going to hurt a lot of innocent people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday, the Democrat leader came down to the floor to discuss the continuing resolution the House proposed, and he criticized it for, among other things, making "no attempt to reauthorize the FAA."

Making "no attempt to reauthorize the FAA."

Well, apparently it slipped the Democrat leader's mind that the Senate is currently making no attempt to reauthorize the FAA either. That is right. It has been 97 days since the Democrat chair of the Commerce Committee halted consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization at the beginning of the scheduled markup because the Democrat leader

objected to a bipartisan amendment that Senator SINEMA and I planned to offer—an amendment to improve aviation safety by implementing a structured, rigorous training program for prospective airline pilots.

Current training requirements for airline pilots require 1,500 hours of flight time, primarily in the cockpit, although military pilots and those with a bachelor's or associate's degree in aviation can receive credit for some of those hours.

I recognize the value of cockpit experience and see time in real aircraft as an essential part of training airline pilots, but those 1,500 hours alone are not always the ideal preparation for flying commercial jets or training truly well-rounded pilots.

For starters, the majority of the 1,500 hours are generally completed in small, single-engine aircraft, which have very little relevance to regional or large jetliners in terms of flight characteristics and instrumentation. Little to none of the currently required flight hours, which aspiring airline pilots must seek out and complete on their own, are accumulated in the type of aircraft these pilots will be flying should they get a job with an airline. In fact, current rules would theoretically allow some of those hours to be completed in a hot air balloon—not exactly preparation for flying a 787 across the ocean.

To address these deficiencies and to better prepare pilots for airline jobs, 7 years ago, the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee—a body of industry, labor, and safety representatives who meet regularly under the auspices of the FAA's Office of Aviation Safety—developed and recommended the implementation of an Enhanced Qualification Program that would create a structured pathway for pilots to obtain intensive training.

That is exactly—exactly—the type of program our amendment would create. Following the recommendations of the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee, our amendment would implement a 2-month Enhanced Qualification Program, designed and audited by the FAA and administered by air carriers, that would give aspiring airline pilots intensive training both in the classroom and in simulators with experienced air carrier pilots and other experts. Individuals who successfully completed the program would be given a 250-hour credit toward their restricted airline transport pilot license, similar to the credits currently given for undergraduate work in aviation.

The Enhanced Qualification Program in our amendment would significantly improve pilot training and passenger safety. As I said, intensive training in the kind of air carrier environment where prospective airline pilots will be flying is something that is largely missing from current training. Getting the chance to work closely with seasoned pilots would help turn out highly

qualified pilots who are better prepared for flying commercial jets.

In addition, our program's use of simulator training, whose proven value has resulted in its extensive use by our military, would give prospective airline pilots exposure to the cockpits of the jets they would be flying and, crucially, allow them to experience what it is like to handle challenging and dangerous situations in those cockpits.

For obvious reasons, standard flight training hours don't involve deliberately flying into perilous weather conditions or dealing with things like fires or engine failure, but simulator training offers prospective airline pilots a chance to deal with all those situations and more and deal with them again and again until their response to these situations is fine-tuned.

You don't have to take my word for it. A bipartisan group of former FAA Administrators and former presidents of the Air Line Pilots Association recently sent a letter to the chairs and vice chairs of the relevant House and Senate committees wholeheartedly endorsing the kind of simulator training our amendment would provide. Let me just read a little bit from that letter, and I am quoting here:

[F]acilitating the adoption of new technologies that enhance safety should be a bedrock principle for government and industry alike. . . . Since the tragic crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 almost 15 years ago, there have been significant advances in technology that are incorporated into a pilot's training upon an airline hiring them, but these technologies have not improved the 1,500-hour path to becoming an airline pilot. Modern, state-of-the-art airline flight simulators accurately recreate the experience of flight operations in a fully immersive experience, forcing pilots to encounter aircraft malfunctions, including rare events like rapid decompressions, emergency descents, high-speed rejected takeoffs, dual engine failures, severe icing conditions, flight control malfunctions and full stalls, all without placing any lives in danger.

He goes on:

Simulators also present the opportunity to incorporate actual accident and incident scenarios into training. . . . Like training for an athletic endeavor, a high volume of repetitions of high-quality exercises improves performance and "muscle memory." Requiring the repeated practice of the prevention of and recovery from myriad real-world accident scenarios in full-motion flight simulators will make better pilots.

Again, that comes from former FAA Administrators and presidents of the American Air Line Pilots Association.

So, as I said, that is the message that was sent to the relevant chairs and vice chairs by a bipartisan group of former FAA Administrators and Air Line Pilots Association presidents, a letter that clearly demonstrates the value of the kind of program that Senator SINEMA's and my amendment would establish for improving pilot training and passenger safety—precisely what we are talking about here with respect to our amendment.

I suspect that if put to a vote in the Commerce Committee or on the Senate

floor, for that matter, there is a good chance our amendment would pass, which is presumably why the Democrat leader is blocking any chance for a vote. It is less clear why the leader is opposed to the substance of our legislation. Does he really think that we can't improve upon the 1,500 hours of training largely undertaken in a single-engine prop plane? That is the way it is today. As I said before, that is not exactly the ideal preparation for flying a commercial jet.

A program that better prepares prospective airline pilots for the planes they will be flying seems really to me like a no-brainer. But regardless—regardless—the Democrat leader has every right to oppose our amendment. What is inappropriate is not his opposition but the fact that he is using his position as majority leader to block committee debate on this amendment, which has had the practical effect of blocking the entire bill.

The Commerce Committee and the Senate as a whole are set up for debate and amendment. That is what we do here, and we take votes here. If you don't want to take hard votes, don't run for the U.S. Senate. This place is not set up with the intention of having a single individual determine legislative outcomes.

When I was chair of the Senate Commerce Committee—and I chaired that committee for 4 years—bipartisan debate and amendment were the order of the day. That is how we did things, and it helped produce a lot of strong pieces of legislation, including, I might add, the longest reauthorization of the FAA since 1982.

The last time we did an FAA reauthorization, I chaired the committee, and we brought a bill to the floor that enjoyed broad bipartisan support, which is what we ought to be doing with the legislation this time around. And if the Democrat leader would loosen his hold and stop trying to engineer the legislative outcome that he wants, we would get another bipartisan FAA reauthorization bill out of the committee and onto the Senate floor.

As the leader correctly indicated, the FAA reauthorization is—is—an important piece of legislation. So I encourage him to allow it to proceed through the committee and come to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The Senator from Kentucky.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to put the leadership of the House, the Senate, and the President of the United States on notice. I will not consent to any expedited passage of any spending bill that provides any more American aid to Ukraine.

It is as if no one has noticed that we have no extra money to send to Ukraine. Our deficit this year will exceed \$1.5 trillion. Borrowing money from China to send it to Ukraine

makes no sense. It is not as if we have some sort of rainy day fund sitting around with trillions of dollars, a pot of money, and we are just going to send it to Ukraine. We are going to borrow it. When we borrow it and create new money to pay for that borrowing, we create the inflation that is plaguing our economy.

Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine, the American taxpayers have provided Ukraine with \$113 billion. Over the 583 days of war, between February 24, 2022, and the end of the month, that averages \$6.8 billion per month or \$223 million per day. There are a lot of things that we need to fix in our country before we borrow money to try to perpetuate a war in another country.

When will the aid requests end?

When will the war end?

Can someone explain what victory in Ukraine looks like?

President Biden certainly can't. His administration has failed to articulate a clear strategy or objective in this war, and Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive has failed to make meaningful gains in the East. With no clear end in sight, it looks increasingly like Ukraine will be yet another endless quagmire funded by the American taxpayer.

That is why public support for the war is waning. A CNN poll from August shows that a majority of Americans now oppose Congress authorizing additional funding to Ukraine. Now, there are those in the Senate who would refuse to listen to these voices, voices coming from a war-weary nation, and who would hold the Federal Government hostage by inserting \$24 billion more for Ukraine. They are talking about saying the only way government stays open—the only way we avoid a shutdown—is by shoveling more American taxpayer dollars to Ukraine. They are going to link keeping the government open with more money to Ukraine, and I am here to say that I am not going to agree to it, and I will not let them shut down the government simply because they want to send more of your hard-earned tax dollars to Ukraine. Either the American people fund an endless war in Ukraine or the “uni-party” threatens to shut down the government.

This is a clear dereliction of duty, and I will not stand for it. Colleagues, as representatives of the American people, you should not stand for it either. The bill that comes before us should be about funding our government, not somebody else's government. I will not give consent to a bill that includes funding for Ukraine in keeping our government open.

As elected officials, we have an obligation to pursue a foreign policy that advances the security and prosperity of our country. Funneling billions of dollars that have to be borrowed into the meat grinder of eastern Ukraine does neither. The longer this conflict continues, the greater the risk that mis-

calculation or purposeful escalation draws the United States into direct conflict with Russia. Russia's military may have a bloody nose, but Moscow still maintains the largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Let's not pretend that the U.S. involvement in this war comes without risks.

If that is not bad enough, we lack effective oversight mechanisms to ensure that the hard-earned American tax dollars don't fall prey to waste, fraud, and abuse. For over a year now, I have been asking for a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money. We have had one in Afghanistan, and his team of economists and technicians have overseen and found billions of dollars' worth of waste that they have saved. We need the same thing in Ukraine, a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money.

When that has come before a vote in the Senate, the majority party here says: No, we just want to spend the money. We don't care. Some Republicans have gone along with this as well, and they have voted against an inspector general. It is a terrible abuse of our spending authority to spend money overseas in a war and not make sure that they are not stealing it.

So in addition to the colossal cost of the war, we end up paying a corruption tax. Ukraine is one of the most corrupt countries on the planet—maybe second only to Russia. Corruption runs deep through Ukraine, and there is plenty of evidence that it has run rampant since Russia's invasion.

As President Zelenskyy landed in New York earlier this week, we learned that corruption concerns in Ukraine's Ministry of Defense resulted in the firing of six Deputy Defense Ministers. This comes 2 weeks after the firing of Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov, who was removed after it was discovered that the Ministry of Defense had mishandled military contracts.

Last month, Zelenskyy fired all 24 regional military recruitment chiefs because they were “involved in illegal activities, including enrichment.”

Last October, we learned that U.S. shipments of grenade launchers, machineguns, rifles, bulletproof vests, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were ending up in the hands of criminal gangs and weapons traffickers posing as humanitarian organizations. And what did the Senate do? They voted against a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money.

What are we doing? Is this fair to the American people?

Millions of Americans are struggling each day to make ends meet. Millions of Americans are struggling to provide for their families and put food on the table.

Can we honestly look our constituents in the eye and tell them that this is a good investment of their dollars?

Some say the war in Ukraine is a fight to save democracy, but those who

say that need to be honest with themselves. Ukraine is far from a shining example of democracy. And while the strain of war can make for questionable government actions, we have to live with them when the war is over.

For all the platitudes about America supporting democracy and making the world safe for democracy—the Woodrow Wilson advocates among us—the biggest recipient of American welfare, Ukraine, canceled its next Presidential election. You are telling me we are sending \$100 billion to a country that is not going to have elections? We are going to send \$100 billion to a country that now has, what, a President for life?

They say: Well, we could, but it is difficult.

Does anybody remember the American Civil War, where 600,000 people died and yet we didn't miss an election?

They canceled the Presidential election. We should cancel our aid as a response.

This is not the only concerning development in Ukraine. Despite Zelenskyy's charm offensive this week, his actions also deserve scrutiny. Citing national security concerns, Zelenskyy has banned Orthodox churches oriented toward the Russian Orthodox Church and has ordered Ukrainian law enforcement to raid churches and arrest priests.

He has banned the political opposition. How do you have a democracy if you are not going to have elections and you ban the opposition? He suspended 11 political parties, including the Opposition Platform—For Life, the second largest party in Ukraine's Parliament and the one which held 44 seats.

He has attacked free speech by banning opposition media and increasing his government's regulatory power over journalists. It hardly sounds democratic to me.

Earlier this year, he signed into law a bill that allows Ukraine's state broadcasting council to regulate all media in Ukraine. The council can impose mandatory orders, fines, restrict content from search engines, and even outright suspend media outlets without a court decision. It hardly sounds very democratic to me.

If these actions sound like the actions of an authoritarian regime, if you suspect these do sound like an authoritarian regime, you are right.

This past July, a Swiss intelligence report observed "authoritarian traits" in Zelenskyy, as he tries to push the mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, out of contention for Ukraine's 2024 Presidential elections. Citing martial law, Zelenskyy stated that those elections will not take place.

Martial law, no elections, banning opposition parties, this is where your \$100 billion has gone, and they are not done.

We don't have the money. The money is being borrowed. We borrow the money from China to send it to Ukraine.

In 2021, Zelenskyy fired multiple government officials, including his Prime Minister, for investigating a Ukraine oligarch who just happened to be a key backer of Zelenskyy's Presidential campaign. The United States placed sanctions on this oligarch for his involvement in significant corruption, and earlier this month, he was finally arrested. Clearly, Ukraine and the regime are not paragons of democracy.

But this is not just about what Ukraine is or is not with respect to government. This is about American interests in our national security. Every day this war continues is another spin of the roulette wheel with another chance of it stopping on Armageddon, and we are paying for the privilege.

We cannot continue with business as usual. We cannot continue to put the needs of other countries above our own. We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the U.S. economy, and we certainly cannot save Ukraine by fighting a war with Russia.

As we go further and further into debt, we become weaker. It is not just that this is not helping our national security; the very threat to our national security is our debt. The more we send money overseas, the more we deplete our munitions, the worse things get.

No matter how sympathetic we are to the Ukrainian people, we must put the American people first; and to that end, I encourage my colleagues to oppose any effort to hold the Federal Government hostage for Ukraine funding.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, by my watch, today is September 20. The fiscal year for the U.S. Senate and for the U.S. Government ends in 10 days. Congress, which is required to fund the government by passing appropriations bills, has not passed a single appropriations bill 10 days before the end of the fiscal year.

The obvious point is that, unless Congress acts to fund the government in the next 10 days, the government will be without funds, and large portions of the Federal Government will shut down; notwithstanding the fact that some people think maybe that is a good idea and that we are spending too much money here, so let's just shut it down. Well, tell that to the members of the U.S. military and their families. Tell that to the men and women who serve bravely as members of the Border Patrol and of the Customs and Border Protection, who are responsible for processing the goods that enter into our country from our trading partners who create millions of jobs. Tell that to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. Tell them that they will have to work and not get paid. Programs that support our seniors, veterans, children, and some of the most vulnerable Americans will be para-

lyzed, and a range of services from passport processing to opioid treatment will be delayed. Good luck if you want to take a vacation and need your passport renewed.

Well, as may be obvious from my statements, I am not a fan of government shutdowns. I have noticed from my experience that when that happens, the same problems that caused you to shut down the government are still there staring you in the face when the government reopens, and it creates a lot of collateral damage and a lot of collateral expense. It doesn't actually save money; it actually costs more money because of the disruption. And shutdowns harm innocent people and create needless uncertainty for our economy.

I don't need to tell Members of the Senate that our economy is in a precarious position right now. Inflation is at a 40-year high—or it has been at a 40-year high—and the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates in order to try to deal with inflation. One of the largest autoworker unions in the country, the UAW, is currently on strike; and we don't know how long that strike will last or how far it will spread. So notwithstanding the fact that President Biden likes to talk about the virtues of Bidenomics, I think if you ask most people whether they are feeling good about the economy and their personal and family prospects, they will tell you they are a little nervous—and with good reason.

I mentioned that shutdowns are not a useful tool nor do they provide leverage for negotiations. I know, here in the Senate, we are always looking for leverage to try to persuade people to do what we want or to vote for the things we like or to vote against the things we don't like. Leverage is part of the way we operate. But shutting down the government does not provide leverage, certainly not to the people who, ultimately, contribute to that shutdown. But, sadly, that seems to be the direction we are heading in.

It has been pretty clear for a long time now that the Senate majority leader—the only person who can actually bring bills to the floor and schedule them for a vote—is trying to play the old Washington blame game: It is not my fault. It is somebody else's fault. In this case, he wants to put the blame solely on the shoulders of the House of Representatives and the Republicans who have a thin majority there.

Before the August recess even ended, Senator SCHUMER began pointing the finger at House Republicans, referring to their desire to secure spending cuts—the horror of trying to save money, of trying to reduce the debt and annual deficits. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is 100 percent. We have been writing checks here in Washington that somebody is, ultimately, going to have to cover, and it probably won't be us. It will probably be our children and grandchildren. So I applaud the House



of Representatives for trying to find ways to save money.

But the Senator from New York, the majority leader, called those—the angling for spending cuts—political games. Over the past few weeks, he has continued to try to sell this narrative to the press. Unfortunately, he has found some traction. Some of the press is saying: Oh, it is all the Republicans in the House. He even called the process here in the Senate the “gold standard.” The “gold standard.” We are in big trouble. If the way that the majority leader has handled this appropriations process is the gold standard, we are in big trouble. He has even gone so far as to call it a MAGA shutdown.

Well, Senator SCHUMER is in a very powerful position as the majority leader, but that power comes with responsibilities, which he has completely abdicated. The majority leader sets the schedule in the Senate, as I mentioned. He determines which bills come to the floor, whether they will receive a vote, and how many amendments will be considered. That is a lot of power in one person, and that is the benefit of being the majority leader—being able to set the schedule, to schedule votes, and decide who gets to vote on amendments and the like. It also comes with responsibility—and I don’t mean just a responsibility to the Senate; I mean a responsibility to the American people and to the institutions that work for them, like the Senate, like the House.

So the Senate can only take up and pass legislation when Senator SCHUMER is on board, and when it comes to funding the government, it is obvious he is clearly not on board.

I see the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee on the floor. I want to just, once again, commend her and the ranking member, Senator COLLINS, and all 14 of the Senate Appropriations Committee members for doing their job and doing it on a timely basis.

I think all of us sort of hoped maybe this would be the beginning of a crack in the broken system and that maybe we could get the Senate to work again as it is supposed to. Well, it was a great plan. As I said, they did their part. The committee passed all of its 12 appropriations bills by the end of the summer—or, actually, by the end of July—marking the first time that has happened in 5 years. Each bill passed with bipartisan support—some of them unanimously. That is impressive, and I know that Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS worked hard to achieve that.

But the committee’s productivity was no accident. The chair and the vice chair of the committee promised a return to the regular way we have been appropriating money for time immemorial, consistent with the rules of the Senate. They followed through on their promise. They used the power that they have as the Appropriations Committee, and they also embraced their responsibilities. I applaud them for it.

They gave the majority leader exactly—exactly—what he needed in order to restore the Senate appropriations process to its normal function, according to the rules. But you can’t do that by not passing a single appropriations bill in the U.S. Senate 10 days before the end of the fiscal year.

Despite the fact that the Appropriations Committee began passing funding bills on June 22, the majority leader did not even attempt to put the first funding bill on the floor until mid-September. I think it was 18 days before the end of the fiscal year. Now it is 10 days, and we still haven’t voted on a single bill. He could have tinkered with the Senate’s 2-week recess for the Fourth of July. He could have said: Well, instead of 5 weeks for an August break or a summer break, let’s make it 4 weeks, because this is important. We need to get our work done. But he did none of those things. He could have adjusted the priorities as the majority leader.

All we have been doing here—it is not like we have been voting on legislation. All we have been doing is doing nominations. When you are doing nominations, it is not that they are unimportant, but you are not using that time—which is coin of the realm here in the Senate, which is floor time—in order to pass legislation.

Well, it is pretty obvious—it should be obvious—to everybody that the majority leader has decided to run out the clock. He has orchestrated this crisis here in the U.S. Senate. I say “crisis” because of the disruption that it will cause, the unnecessary disruption this shutdown will cause, if it occurs, but he allowed months to pass without making any effort—any effort—to move appropriations bills.

So the majority leader can criticize our colleagues across the Capitol as much as he wants. He does it a lot. He tries to shift the blame from himself to them. Again, this is a world-class sport here in Washington, DC. It is called the blame game. Years ago, someone said, “Well, whoever has got the best narrative wins in Washington, because the press will go along with it, and they will ignore the real or, at least, the whole story,” which is the complicity of the majority leader in creating the circumstances that we find ourselves in now.

We find ourselves with an impossible task given this heel-dragging by the majority leader. We cannot get these appropriations bills passed through the Senate. We cannot get a bill that the House will agree to. We cannot get a Presidential signature before the deadline. It is impossible, and the majority leader knows that. He created the problem. He orchestrated it. This was intentional.

So the Senate is rushing to pass some appropriations bills, this so-called minibus, but there is no scenario—none at all—in which the Senate will pass all 12 appropriations bills before September 30. There is just not enough

time. Again, I am confident that this truncated timeline was no accident. It was all part of the majority leader’s plan.

Now, you might ask me: Why in the world would he do something like that?

Well, when he basically undermines the work of the Appropriations Committee on a bipartisan basis, when he doesn’t give all 100 Members of the Senate an opportunity to participate in the process by offering amendments, debating those amendments, and getting votes on those, it actually increases his power and influence. We saw that last December when, basically, three or four people negotiated an omnibus appropriations bill. And he likes that because it enhances his power, but we should not be asked to like it, because that means we are unable to do our job on behalf of the constituents we represent—in my case, 30 million Texans.

Over the last few months, back when the debt ceiling vote occurred, it sounded like Senator SCHUMER was on board with what Chairman MURRAY and Ranking Member COLLINS were trying to do. He applauded the bipartisan work of the Appropriations Committee and talked about the importance of working together in good faith. But here is another lesson I have learned here in Washington: Don’t just listen to what people say. Watch what they do.

When given the opportunity to restore the Senate appropriations process to its customary function and put individual bills on the floor in a timely manner, he took a pass. He let months go by without even attempting to put a funding bill on the floor.

I know, after the minibus came to the floor, there has been an attempt to try to get this thing going, and we are still working on that. But this is all entirely predictable if you wait until the last minute to try to do the work you should have done months ago.

We are just months away from a potential government shutdown, something that I am hopeful we can avoid. But, of course, what is the majority leader’s tune? Not my fault.

He called the process here in the Senate the “gold standard.” If this is the gold standard, we are in big trouble.

The majority leader bears responsibility for the Senate’s failure to pass a single appropriations bill so far. The Appropriations Committee gave Senator SCHUMER exactly what he needed in order to do his job on a timely basis. The fact that Senator SCHUMER fumbled the ball is no one’s fault but his own. This is not a “MAGA shutdown.” This is a Schumer shutdown. He ignored his own commitment to return to regular order.

I wasn’t privy to the conversations the majority leader had with the chair and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, but, based on what they did, my impression is that they held the hope that, somehow, we would have an orderly and timely process. I know that is what they want.

That is what I want. But Senator SCHUMER made sure that was not possible. And, ultimately, he will carry much of the blame if the government shuts down next Saturday.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

H.R. 4366

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, last week, an overwhelming 91 Senators voted to begin debate on the bipartisan appropriations package—a package of bills that each passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously. But then a few Senators decided to object to a run-of-the-mill procedural request, threatening to derail our months of hard work, halt our return to regular order, and prevent the full Senate from having a chance to debate and offer amendments and vote on our appropriations bills.

The senior Senator from Maine and I have been working hard to make sure we have a robust amendment process with amendments from Democrats and Republicans. And so many Senators have been working with us in good faith so we can debate their ideas for how to make these bills stronger. That is how this process should work.

But in the wake of continued obstructions from a very small handful of Senators, we can't get started discussing those amendments without this vote on a motion to waive rule XVI.

So I hope all of our colleagues who voted to move forward last week will join us for cloture and for this motion so we can avoid an omnibus and keep our bipartisan process on track, because that is really what this vote is. It is a vote to keep us on track, and that should be a really simple choice.

Do you want to continue our return to regular order and move forward with the appropriations bills that we have all spent months putting together in an open, bipartisan way, or do you want to halt the Senate's appropriations bills and essentially set up another massive 12-bill omnibus at the end of the year?

I have heard the complaints from a very small handful of Members who are trying to derail this process, but I have not heard any—any—realistic alternatives from them for us to pass the Senate's funding priorities in a more open and bipartisan process than what the senior Senator from Maine and I have worked so hard to provide.

We held nearly 50 hearings in the committee. We televised those mark-ups for the first time ever so people back home can follow along—complete with debate and amendments—and see what we are doing here. We were trans-

parent. Our doors have been open the whole time—in fact, they still are—for Members who have ideas on how to make these bills stronger.

The vice chair and I went through great pains to give every single Senator the chance to weigh in on them. And I am pleased to say a lot of our colleagues took that opportunity. You shared your thoughts, your ideas. You shared the needs, the concerns of your families back home—all of which helped to make all these bills stronger.

That is why, even though the Appropriations Committee has everyone, from strong liberals to staunch conservatives, all 12 of our funding bills passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, every bill in the package before us passed the committee unanimously.

That is a very different process from where we ended up in the past few years and from what we will end up with again if we can't keep these bills moving forward.

To everyone who wishes these bills came to the floor even sooner—and I think we all understand how it feels to wish things moved faster around here—I hope you will vote with us today to prevent any further delays that will derail this process and would lead us, then, of course, to an omnibus. After all, wishing the Senate was faster is no reason to slow us down now.

And to those saying the bills spend too much money, these bills are written to the bipartisan deal that was struck by the President and Speaker MCCARTHY that we all voted on just a few months ago. These aren't the bills I would have written. They enact cuts across so many of the programs that I care deeply about. But that was the deal that the President and the Speaker shook hands on. If you don't like them, vote no on the bill.

I have heard from so many colleagues, including in speeches given right here on the Senate floor, about how they hate getting jammed at the end of the year with a 12-bill omnibus, about how we have got to return to regular order. And I have worked really hard with the senior Senator from Maine, with all of our chairs and ranking members on the Appropriations Committee, all of our committee members on both sides of the aisle, and every Member of this body who has come to my door to get us moving in that direction, to keep up our return to regular order.

I think we can get there. And I think moving forward with this package will show the American people we are serious about getting there. But it depends on this vote because if, after all the work we have done over the last months to make sure every Senator can have their voice heard, moving all 12 appropriations bills through our committee in an open, bipartisan way and having 91 Senators vote to move forward with this package—if after all of that—we let a handful of Senators toss out months of hard work to move

us closer to regular order, abandon an overwhelming bipartisan effort to do something as basic as funding our government, and cause chaos that puts us all on a collision course for another omnibus, well, frankly, I think that sends a very bleak message for the future of this body and whether we will ever be able to truly break through the pattern of dysfunction and partnership that we all hate.

We have got to get back to regular order. We have got to get back to bipartisanship. We have to get back to helping people in solving problems, just like we all came here to do.

This vote is our chance to break that pattern, to avoid another omnibus, and to make sure the Senate and all of its Senators and all the people we represent have their voices heard and concerns addressed in our Nation's funding bills.

So I urge my colleagues who joined me in putting this bill together, all of my colleagues who voted with me last week to get started with debate and amendments, to join me in pushing back against a small handful of Senators who are objecting to moving forward and who want to stop us dead in our tracks.

I hope everyone votes for cloture, votes for the motion to suspend rule XVI, and keep us on track.

I ask unanimous consent to begin the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to suspend the rules under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to substitute amendment No. 1092 to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2023.

Patty Murray, Susan M. Collins, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tom Carper, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Charles E. Schumer.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to suspend the rules under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to substitute amendment No. 1092 to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2023, 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 New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Leg.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Schumer
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

#### NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
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(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 48.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 282.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 282, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 281.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 281, Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8043: to be General, Gen. Eric M. Smith.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 249, Gen. Eric M. Smith for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8043: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 20, be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the senior Senator from Alabama, Senator TUBERVILLE, for more than 6 months, has continued his brazen, reckless hold of hundreds of routine, nonpolitical promotions of senior military officers.

Democrats have said all along that these promotions should move forward together as these nominations have for decades in the past. They should have happened a long time ago. They should have happened the way these promotions have been done in the Senate until Senator TUBERVILLE arrived. They should have been done quickly and in a bipartisan way.

Instead, the Senator from Alabama decided he would take the unprecedented step of holding up these promotions because he held a political position on abortion that doesn't have the votes to pass the Senate and is opposed by the Commander in Chief and the Secretary of Defense. This poorly conceived tactic has also been opposed by the Senate Republican leadership. Leader MCCONNELL and Senator THUNE have both voiced grave concerns about the path that Senator TUBERVILLE is taking. And Speaker MCCARTHY, when asked about it this week, demurred and said: I am the Speaker of the House.

Senator TUBERVILLE's tactics have been opposed by top Republicans in Congress. It has been opposed by Republican Presidential candidates. It has been denounced by military families from one end of America to the other, and it has been denounced by veterans groups. Polls show that the American people strongly oppose what Senator TUBERVILLE is doing. A recent poll showed that even 58 percent of Alabama voters believe Senator TUBERVILLE should allow the promotions to go forward.

Simply put, besides the most extreme elements of the Republican Party, no one thinks this is a good idea. In the face of that opposition, it seems that Senator TUBERVILLE is becoming more and more desperate to get out of the box he has put himself in. He is desperate to shift the responsibility onto others, but I have made it clear that we will not allow anyone to shift this onto Democrats. The blame—the blame—falls squarely on the shoulders of the senior Senator from Alabama.

I offered to give him a vote to get the Department of Defense to do what he wants on abortion in the NDAA. He never—never—took me up on that vote. When Democrats tried to move all of the nominations—because Democrats don't want to leave anyone in our military behind—Senator TUBERVILLE objected. And now, in a further act of desperation, Senator TUBERVILLE is seeking to use a procedural step to overcome his very own holds. Yes, you heard that right. Senator TUBERVILLE is seeking to undo his own holds. The man who is holding everything up is trying to obfuscate things by playing this ruse on the floor.

Senator TUBERVILLE is essentially trying to make himself the gatekeeper of which officers are promoted and who sits and waits. Instead of just getting out of the way and allowing the Senate to approve the promotions that these decorated military officers deserve, the Senator from Alabama, unfortunately and wrongly, is using them as pawns.

What Senator TUBERVILLE is doing will set the military and the Senate down a path to vote on every single military promotion. It will make every single military officer's promotion subject to the political whims of the Senate and even of one Senator. It will change the nature of our nonpolitical military. It will hamstring the Senate and further bog down this body and make it harder for us to legislate. It will take away time from appropriations. It will make it harder to get things done to benefit the American people. The decision by the senior Senator from Alabama will have long lasting repercussions that may not be apparent right away but that we may come to regret. I believe we will come to regret them.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances of Senator TUBERVILLE's reckless decisions, Democrats will take action. It is not the path the vast majority of Senators on either side of the aisle wants to go down, but Senator TUBERVILLE is forcing us to confront his obstruction head on.

I want to make clear to my Republican colleagues: This cannot continue. We cannot continue down this path. It threatens the ability of the Senate and the leadership of both sides to work together to get things done for the American people, and it threatens the nonpolitical nature of our military servicemembers. Senator TUBERVILLE's obstruction is pushing the Senate down this road, and where it goes from here will depend on all of us.

The Senate runs on unanimous consent, and we depend on each other to ensure this institution functions smoothly. That is how we make things happen around here. If everyone objected to everything to get leverage for their pet priorities, it would grind this body to a halt. Either we choose a different direction or we continue down the road of more and more obstruction.

It is my hope—indeed, it is my prayer—that we find a better way. Our mili-

tary deserves better. We cannot allow Senator TUBERVILLE to set us on a path that no Senator wants to travel. We cannot allow Senator TUBERVILLE to decide which of our dedicated and brave servicemembers get promoted and which get to languish, which military families are able to settle in their new posts and which must remain in limbo. We cannot and we should not allow that to be the case.

So I have just filed cloture on the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Army Chief of Staff. These men should have already been confirmed. They should already be serving in their new positions. The Senate should not have to go through procedural hoops just to please one brazen and misguided Senator, but this is where we are.

In the end, the Senate will overwhelmingly vote to overcome Senator TUBERVILLE's blockade of these three nominees by voting for cloture. Then the Senate will overwhelmingly vote to confirm them, and these three honorable men will finally be able to assume their positions. And the abortion policy that Senator TUBERVILLE abhors will remain in place. Senator TUBERVILLE will have accomplished nothing, but the harm he is doing to the military and their families remains and, unfortunately, continues for hundreds of others.

For the information of all Senators, now that I have filed these motions, I will request consent to collapse the time and hold these votes later this afternoon. I hope Senator TUBERVILLE does not object, but if he does, Senators should expect votes on Friday and possibly Saturday to finish the consideration of these nominations. Again, I will shortly move to speed up the votes on these amendments this afternoon, and I hope the Senator will not object, but if he does, we will stay until we get them done.

Finally, Senator TUBERVILLE's unprecedented disrespect of the men and women who lead our military has unsurprisingly caused many of our colleagues to discuss ways to change the way we process military nominations. They recognize that the Senate process is being abused and that Senator TUBERVILLE's reckless actions are harming hundreds of military families.

Once again, I wish we were not in this position. I wish my Republican colleagues who do care deeply about keeping our military strong were able to prevail on Senator TUBERVILLE to completely change his tactics. They clearly made some progress, which forced him to vainly attempt a procedural play, but this is not a sustainable path. Senator TUBERVILLE's continued abuse of his privilege will continue to disrupt the lives of hundreds of our Nation's finest and most dedicated military officers and their families. While we Democrats didn't choose this fight, we are ready to put an end to this sooner rather than later.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on a different subject, that of the minibus and the vote that just occurred, the outcome of this vote on the minibus is wholly disappointing and undermines months of hard work appropriators have done to move appropriations bills through regular order. Senators MURRAY and COLLINS have done herculean work as have the members of their committee.

Democrats have worked cooperatively with Republicans on every step of this process. We pursued regular order. We are willing to allow votes on amendments, and we are partnering with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring this minibus to the floor.

Senate Republicans have asked us to work with them, and we have worked with them. Until now, we were making progress, but now a few select Republicans who seem to think they are Members of the House Freedom Caucus have thrown a wrench into the process and for no other reason than the pursuit of gridlock itself.

So the outcome here is disappointing, but it is not the end of the process. I filed a motion to reconsider this vote. Democrats want to reach an agreement with our Republican colleagues that will pass the minibus and make up the time lost because of Senator JOHNSON's obstruction. My Democratic colleagues and I will do our very best to get the minibus done. We have come very far, and there is no good reason for us to turn back now.

With that, I yield the floor to the great President pro tempore, chair of the Appropriations Committee, my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from the great State of Washington, Mrs. PATTY MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the majority leader.

Let's be clear. The three bills in that package are not partisan bills. This was not some secretive process. We drafted these bills through an open, bipartisan process. We held hearings. We held markups for the first time in years. We kept our doors open to any Member with thoughts or concerns. So it is very frustrating to see that this bipartisan effort got derailed today despite all of that work and despite the overwhelming consensus last week that we wanted to all get started on this package.

All of our colleagues and their staffs who spent long hours working on these bills in good faith deserve better. More importantly, all of our constituents who sent us here to advocate for them, to work together, and to solve problems deserve better.

I will keep fighting to make sure we do right by our constituents and keep our regular appropriations process moving here in the Senate. As my colleagues know, I don't give up easily, and I am not going to give up here either. I am going to keep pushing with everything I have got to pass the

spending bills that so many of us have spent so much time working on to get our communities the resources they need.

Yet I do have to say today that I am deeply disappointed. I am not new to politics. I am not new to tough votes or setbacks. I know that this work is never easy, but it is really unfortunate that this overwhelming bipartisan process and this package of bills that passed unanimously has been stymied by the objections of just a few Senators. That is upsetting, and it is pretty hard to square with a lot of the talk that we hear all the time about wanting to work together, wanting to break the pattern of partisanship, wanting to help people, wanting to solve problems, to say nothing of how some of our loudest complainers who have been talking big about their commitment for us to return to regular order and who have been railing against these omnibus bills at the end of the year have led the effort to halt our best shot in years of actually getting closer to regular order and, instead, possibly setting us on a collision course for another massive omnibus.

While this full package may not be moving forward right now through this process, I will not stop working to return this process back to regular order and keep things moving. I will keep talking to colleagues about how we get all 12 of our bipartisan spending bills across the finish line here in the Senate. I will keep working to see if we can get that consent agreement that will allow us to move forward on this package.

As we get closer to September 30, I am working hard to make sure we chart a bipartisan course for a CR and supplemental funding package so that we can avoid a damaging and completely unnecessary shutdown and reject the devastating cuts from the House Republicans that would gut everything from heating assistance to FAA funding, to the Social Security Administration, and so much more, and that will provide critical resources for things like disaster relief and wildland firefighters and our allies in Ukraine.

I came to Congress to help people and solve problems. That is what gets me up every day in the morning. It is what I am focused on at every meeting I have, in every bill I write, and in every vote I take. And while this vote a few minutes ago sent a disheartening message about the state of things, it will not be the last word, because I won't let it be, and I know many of my colleagues will not either.

One thing I have seen over and over again in my time here is, if you want progress, you don't leave the table, and you keep working. So I am going to stay at the table. I will keep working. Right now, we have to get a bipartisan CR and a supplemental package done. That is a priority.

But I hope and I believe, through the work that we do, that we will show the

American people there are still Senators on both sides of this aisle determined to get our work done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, in the mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor has left over 100,000 ethnic Albanians cut off from the world—deprived of the food, the water, fuel, and medical care that they need to survive.

Last week, one resident made a plea. She asked:

How many more people will have to die before the world takes notice?

Today, that question carries new meaning as the Armenian people not only confront dwindling resources but heavy bombardment. On September 19, Azerbaijan violated the fragile peace and began attacking Nagorno-Karabakh. While a cease-fire was announced this morning, we cannot ignore the violence, and we must stand with the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh.

This conflict systematically targets the Armenian people. It is cruel; it is calculated; and it is inhumane—further demonstrating that the Armenian people are facing an existential threat. Experts from the International Criminal Court say there is reason to believe it amounts to an act of genocide. That word would always sound an alarm, but it creates a particular weight with the Armenian people and evokes a devastating chapter of their history.

The government of Azerbaijan has orchestrated a humanitarian disaster, only to further their political and their territorial claims. The blockade of the Lachin corridor has kept essential supplies out of the region since June. Pregnant women are being forced to walk miles to a medical clinic. Fuel shortages have shut down schools and sidelined emergency vehicles. People get sick from untreated water and then visit pharmacies with empty shelves.

Food shortages run rampant. Officials in Nagorno-Karabakh estimate that 95 percent of residents are suffering from malnutrition. Starving citizens are lining up for bread in the streets and wondering how they will find their family's next meal. The use of military force by Azerbaijan will only further endanger citizens who have already endured so much.

The Biden administration has provided some crucial assistance, and the Azerbaijani Government has announced a theoretical agreement to open the Lachin corridor once again. But that deal has yet to bring the Armenian people out of harm's way. The

bombardment began after it was reached, and this increasing military aggression has only deepened the humanitarian crisis.

The Aliyev regime has now demanded that Nagorno-Karabakh's government be dissolved and the ethnic Armenian troops be removed. The Azerbaijan Government has made it clear their goal is to erase the historic presence of Armenians in this region.

Until it is proven that this cruel campaign has ended, we must be vigilant. Until the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have what they need to survive and to walk freely in their home once again, we cannot stand to the side.

In the midst of these unthinkable conditions, residents have taken to the streets, calling for an end to the blockade. We must join their chorus—shedding a light on Azerbaijan's actions and addressing the immediate threat of ethnic violence. And I encourage the Biden administration to remember these crimes against humanity when considering where to send aid and to apply diplomatic pressure.

If we continue to let this crisis devolve, then we are complicit in the violence. I call on my Senate colleagues and the Biden administration to stand against the cruelty of the Azerbaijan Government and stand by the side of the Armenian people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 3:30 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Brown nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 6:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from New Hampshire.

#### AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss the urgent need for Congress to provide relief for recent agricultural disasters.

I appreciate that circumstances around the appropriations process have changed somewhat since we prepared these remarks, but what I really want to do this afternoon is to highlight the

devastating experiences of New Hampshire growers this year and explain why it is so urgent for them that Congress provide disaster relief.

In New Hampshire, our growers have faced an unprecedented difficult year. A late frost on the evening of May 18 caused enormous damage to fruit crops across New Hampshire but especially to our apple orchards.

These photos really depict what happened to most of the apple crops in New Hampshire. You can see that these almost look like chestnuts as they are so small and stunted and brown. In this, you can barely make out that it is an apple, and you can see the size of them based on the impact from the frost.

This event followed an extreme freeze in February that wiped out virtually 100 percent of our peach crops and other stone fruits.

My office has been hearing from apple growers who lost 80 to 100 percent of their crops this year as well as from New Hampshire growers who lost up to 100 percent of other crops, such as peaches, pears, plums, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, and cherries.

For people who think "Well, you don't have that many orchards in New Hampshire," we have the largest apple orchard of New England in New Hampshire.

This is a big concern for our farmers in the State, and they make up a considerable percentage of our small businesses. What we have seen is total crop losses for some growers and near-total losses for others.

The business impact of such catastrophic damage goes way beyond the direct cost of damage to the crops because, in New Hampshire, we have a strong tradition, as I know they do in other States, of families who visit their local orchards every year to "pick your own" apples and other fruit. For local farms, these visits aren't just about that actual apple picking; it is an opportunity to showcase everything their farms have to offer, to display other products for families to purchase—vegetables that have grown during the season, baked goods, apple cider, applesauce. Everything that can be made from apples is available at those farm stands.

Apple picking marks the start of autumn in New Hampshire. We are currently well into September and what should be apple-picking season. This past weekend should have seen busy crowds at farms across New Hampshire, with families apple picking, eating cider doughnuts, and sipping apple cider, but, sadly, this was not the case.

I heard from growers like Trevor Hardy from Brookdale Fruit Farm in Hollis, who called his counterparts at Meadow Ledge Farm in Loudon, at Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, and other orchards to learn that it wasn't just his farm that lacked the usual bustling energy of children and families on the farm. Local growers across the State, like Windy Ridge Or-

chard in North Haverhill, are concerned that families won't come this season for their annual farm visits, and the total resulting revenue losses will be enormous.

For a lot of families—and my family is no exception—going to the local pick-your-own orchard to get whether it be apples or pumpkins or vegetables is an annual event. My daughter and her four children have had pictures taken in the pumpkin patch in the nearby farm every year that those kids have been home.

I had a chance to meet with a number of farmers last Friday. One of the things they talked about was the concern that they have longtime customers who are not going to be able to enjoy their farms this year because of the impact from the frost. New Hampshire growers are estimated to be facing as much as \$20 million in disaster-related impacts from these freeze events. This estimate doesn't even include the ongoing impacts to vegetable growers and forage crops from flooding and excessive moisture. The total cost for that is still being tabulated.

This is the Brookdale Fruit Farm, which is the biggest orchard in New Hampshire. It is in Hollis. It is the biggest orchard in New England. We can see this is a rainstorm that happened about 2 weeks ago, and you can just see the water cascading through the orchard because of the flooding. The impact that this is having on next year's crop, on vegetables, is really still being tabulated but is excessive across the State.

I am hearing from longtime New Hampshire growers that they have never seen crop damage this bad before. Last week, when I visited with farmers, I went to Apple Hill Farm in Concord along with a number of apple growers from different regions in the State. Chuck and Diane Souther, who own Apple Hill Farm, showed me the severe losses their apple crops have suffered this year. They showed me apples that looked very much like these apples. They told me about the devastating effects of the late frost on their orchards and how they stayed out all night on May 18, during the freezing-cold temperatures, to try to protect their crop and save as many of their trees as they could. They told me in heartbreaking detail about the impact on their businesses and how disappointed they are not to be able to provide apples to their annual customers.

I hope that families in New Hampshire will still visit their local orchards. Some still have some apples to pick, and they still have other products to buy and other activities for kids to enjoy. In a year like this, we need to support our local farmers more than ever.

Before I close, I want to read some comments from a letter that was shared with my office from Ken Merrill, who is an apple grower in Londonderry, NH. His family owns and operates Oliver Merrill & Sons, which is a



fifth-generation farm in Londonderry. They specialize in growing apples and other kinds of fruit as well as other products. I think his comments here really show the experience of so many growers in New Hampshire this year.

Ken says:

I am writing you this letter on Labor Day 2023. Labor Day weekend is usually a busy time on the farm. The farm stand is packed with people buying apples, peaches, and other fruit. Some years Pick-your-own apples is beginning and people are coming to the orchard for outings.

Not this year.

I am sitting in my office, writing this letter, because there are no peaches or other stone fruit, pears, and few apples.

At least 95 percent of the apple blossoms were killed by a severe frost on May 18, 2023. The peaches and stone fruit were killed by an unusually cold night in February.

The consequences of these weather events are dramatic. The farm stand is operating at a reduced level selling the few vegetables we grow.

Most years we hire three to five people for the harvest season to pick, pack and help sell the crop. This year, we have to tell the people that have worked for us for many years that there were not jobs for them.

We have had to cancel all our wholesale contracts with supermarkets, no apples.

We have had to stop selling to other farm stands we have sold to for years as well as telling the New Hampshire Food Bank that we had nothing to sell them this year.

This is the first time in more than 50 years, since I have been associated with the family business, that we have not had an apple crop.

Ken's experience reflects that of almost all of our growers in New Hampshire.

In July, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a Federal disaster for New Hampshire growers as a result of the frost. However, for agricultural disasters, as the Presiding Officer knows, there is no Federal relief that is automatically triggered even after the Secretary of Agriculture has declared a Federal disaster.

Instead, Congress must specifically appropriate funds. There is plenty of precedent for this. In 2023, Congress provided \$3.7 billion for agricultural disasters that had occurred in calendar year 2022, and in 2022, Congress provided \$10 billion for agricultural disasters that occurred in 2020 and 2021.

Federal disaster relief is particularly urgent for farmers like those in New Hampshire who are underserved by existing Federal agricultural programs. In fact, many of our apple growers don't even have crop insurance because they have found that it doesn't really work for their businesses the way it is currently structured.

I hope we can come together to support appropriations bills, but I hope we can also come together to provide the urgently needed relief funding for our farmers—those who have been so affected in New Hampshire and New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort and to ensure that agricultural disaster relief is enacted promptly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 282, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

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 Executive Calendar No. 282, the following named officer for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

### YEAS—89

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Brown
Barrasso	Booker	Budd
Bennet	Boozman	Cantwell
Blackburn	Britt	Capito

Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Carper	Johnson	Rosen
Casey	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Rubio
Collins	Kennedy	Sanders
Coons	King	Schatz
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lujan	Shaheen
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Sinema
Daines	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	McConnell	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Sullivan
Ernst	Merkley	Tester
Fetterman	Moran	Thune
Fischer	Mullin	Tillis
Gillibrand	Murphy	Van Hollen
Graham	Murray	Warner
Grassley	Ossoff	Warnock
Hagerty	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wicker
Hirono	Ricketts	Wyden
Hoeven	Risch	Young

### NAYS—8

Braun	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Hawley	Schmitt	

### NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 8, and the motion is agreed to. The Senator from Alabama.

### NOMINATIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, 2 hours ago, Senator SCHUMER announced that we will be voting on the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Army Chief of Staff, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It is about time. I have called for individual votes on these nominees for almost 6 months. Instead of voting, Democrats have spent months complaining about having to vote. They want to use floor time for things like liberal judges, like the one we confirmed a couple of hours ago.

Senator SCHUMER could have confirmed these nominees a long, long time ago. We have had more than 80 days off this year in the Senate, not including weekends. Yet Senator SCHUMER is outraged that we are voting on these nominations.

As I have noted before, the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was given a floor vote in 2018. The current nominee for that position, General Brown, was given a floor vote for his current position not long ago. Despite what Senator REED and others have said, there is nothing wrong with a floor vote on these nominations.

I ran for Senate so I could vote on behalf of the people of the State of Alabama. I didn't come up here just to outsource my job to the Pentagon or the White House. Yet that is exactly what Democrats want to do. That is the current position of Senate Democrats.

The Constitution says we make the laws here in Congress, not in the Pentagon and not in the White House. So this is not about me. It is about the Senate and the Constitution. This is a win today for the legislative branch of government. Voting gives all Senators a voice for their constituents.

The Constitution says that the Senate is to "advise and consent" to the President's nominations. Over the last 6 months, Democrats in this Chamber have actually complained that the Senate has too much power. Senator SCHUMER made reference this afternoon to proposals by Democrats to make the Senate weaker. Senate Democrats have been more than happy to go along with executive overreach when a Democrat is in the Oval Office.

Democrats have spent the last 6 months attacking me for standing up to an illegal and immoral new policy. Many of these attacks have been wrong on the facts. First, they said I was leaving important jobs open. That is false.

Then they complained that we have acting officials in many important roles. They claim that generals and admirals just can't do the job as an acting official.

Senator REED came to the floor 2 weeks ago and said we "have no effective military leadership" in several branches of the military right now. One member of the House said the military is "paralyzed."

I don't even think the Pentagon would defend these accusations. Democrats still have never shown me one fact to show that we were behind on readiness. It is just not true.

Just last week, GEN Charles Flynn, our top Army general in the Pacific, said he hasn't noticed any challenges because of the hold—not any. Over the weekend, the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley, said our readiness is better than it has been in years.

This hold is not affecting readiness.

If Democrats want to complain, then they should look in the mirror. I don't control the Senate floor; the Democrats do.

In a typical week, we work 3 days. Those aren't the kinds of hours people are working back in my home State of Alabama. This is one of the least productive Senates in our lifetime.

Democrats can't have it both ways. Either they can confirm these nominees through regular order or they can stop complaining about acting officials.

Democrats say there is a large backlog of nominees. They say it would take a long time. Well, I agree. It has been a big backlog. But, again, CHUCK SCHUMER allowed the backlog to build up over 6 months. It is his fault.

We could have been confirming one or two a week over the last 200 days. It would have taken us just 4 hours of voting each week.

But we didn't do it. We took another angle of just sitting back and watching. CHUCK SCHUMER refused again and again and again.

We don't have a lack of leadership in our military. We have a lack of leadership right here in the U.S. Senate.

Despite the lack of leadership, Senators are perfectly capable of voting. Voting is our job. That is why we were sent here.

So to be clear, my hold is still in place. The hold will remain in place as long as the Pentagon's illegal abortion policy remains in place. If the Pentagon lifts the policy, then I will lift my hold—easy as that. That has been my position from the very beginning.

I am not afraid to vote on these nominees or on all of these nominees. I came here to this Chamber to vote, and I reserve the right to seek another cloture petition on the nominees in the future.

So that is where we stand today.

I yield the floor.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 6:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:01 p.m., recessed until 6:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WHITEHOUSE).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

### VOTE ON BROWN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown nomination?

Mr. KAINE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

### YEAS—83

Baldwin	Cornyn	Hoeven
Barrasso	Cortez Masto	Hyde-Smith
Bennet	Cramer	Kaine
Blackburn	Crapo	Kelly
Blumenthal	Daines	Kennedy
Booker	Duckworth	King
Boozman	Durbin	Klobuchar
Britt	Ernst	Lankford
Brown	Fetterman	Lujan
Budd	Fischer	Manchin
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Markey
Capito	Graham	McConnell
Cardin	Grassley	Menendez
Carper	Hagerty	Merkley
Casey	Hassan	Mullin
Cassidy	Heinrich	Murphy
Collins	Hickenlooper	Murray
Coons	Hirono	Ossoff

Padilla	Schatz	Van Hollen
Paul	Schumer	Warner
Peters	Scott (FL)	Warnock
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Ricketts	Shinema	Welch
Risch	Smith	Whitehouse
Romney	Sullivan	Wicker
Rosen	Tester	Wyden
Rounds	Thune	Young
Sanders	Tillis	

### NAYS—11

Braun	Lee	Schmitt
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Hawley	Marshall	Vance
Johnson	Rubio	

### NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Moran	Scott (SC)
Feinstein	Murkowski	Stabenow

The nomination was confirmed (Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be notified of the Senate's actions.

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 281, Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

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 the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

#### YEAS—92

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Thune
Coons	Lummis	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Tuberville
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Cruz	Menendez	Warnock
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Moran	Welch
Durbin	Mullin	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	

#### NAYS—1

Lee

#### NOT VOTING—7

Cotton	Paul	Stabenow
Feinstein	Schatz	
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, and the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA MERRILL

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Georgia Merrill of Brentwood as August's Granite Stater of the Month. For the past 8 years, 14-year-old Georgia has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the New Hampshire Food Bank through her Peach Project initiative.

When Georgia was 6 years old and driving in a car with her grandmother, she saw a homeless person on the side

of the road holding a sign that read, "I'm hungry." It was a moment that stuck with her and inspired her to give back to her community. She went home and asked her mom if they could set up a bake sale with proceeds going to people like the man she had just seen on the road.

Georgia—along with her mother Erin, her dad Josh, and brothers Owen and Miles—started holding bake sales, with sales going to the NH Food Bank. Georgia's nickname is Georgia Peach, and so they decided to name the initiative the "Georgia Peach Project." Georgia's parents were touched by their daughter's commitment to helping those in need and worked with Georgia to take the project even further. Georgia started new projects, and they spread the word about them on social media and got other families in their community involved.

Now, the project's various initiatives include making and selling bracelets with proceeds going to the NH Food Bank, holding a food collection, passing out cards to classmates at school encouraging them to donate, and hosting a community holiday concert. In addition, every year, they organize a holiday stroll partnering with local organizations and families who commit to decorating a part of the walk. The event also includes a bake sale, a silent auction, and live entertainment—with all donations from the night going to the NH Food Bank.

Since the start of the Peach Project, Georgia has raised more than \$66,000 for the NH Food Bank. Her commitment to serving her community at such a young age is an inspiration for all of us. After she saw a neighbor in need, it was clear to her that she needed to bring her community together to do whatever it could do to help. Georgia's ability to think about the needs of those around her and then act to address them exemplifies the Granite State spirit of generosity, and her work demonstrates that you can always make a difference by getting involved in your community.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:15 p.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. 112. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to 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, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the

Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Rogers of Alabama, Wilson of South Carolina, Lamborn, Wittman, Austin Scott of Georgia, Ms. Stefanik, Messrs. DesJarlais, Kelly of Mississippi, Gallagher, Gaetz, Bacon, Banks, Bergman, Waltz, Johnson of Louisiana, Mrs. McClain, Mr. Jackson of Texas, Fallon, Gimenez, Mses. Mace and Greene of Georgia, Messrs. Smith of Washington, Courtney, Garamendi, Norcross, Gallego, Moulton, Carbajal, Khanna, Keating, Kim of New Jersey, Mses. Houlahan, Slotkin, Sherrill, and Escobar.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. Turner, Wenstrup, and Himes.

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: Ms. Foxx, Messrs. Owens and Scott of Virginia.

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: Messrs. Carter of Georgia, Pfluger, and Pallone.

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: Messrs. McHenry and Luetkemeyer, and Ms. Waters.

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, 1085, 1302, 1397, 1399B, 1399D, 1399E, 1399F, 1399I, 1399J, 1399K, 1399L, subtitles H–K of title XIII of division A, secs. 1634, 6031, 6242, 6293, division F, and secs. 11104 and 11105 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. McCaul, McCormick, and Meeks.

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: Mr. Issa, Ms. Lee of Florida, and Mr. Nadler.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, 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: Mr. Carl, Ms. Hageman, and Mr. Grijalva.

From the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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: Messrs. 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: Messrs. Mike Garcia of California and Collins, and Ms. 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: Messrs. Molinaro and Alford, and Ms. 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: Messrs. Graves of Missouri, Webster of Florida, and Larsen of Washington.

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: Messrs. Bost, Luttrell, and Takano.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1418. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3935. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

#### 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-2161. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Update to OMB Approval Table for Paperwork Reduction Act" (GSAR Case 2022-G518) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05, Introduction"

(FAC 2023-05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2023-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2164. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2017-014, Use of Acquisition 360 to Encourage Vendor Feedback" (RIN9000-AN43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2165. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2023-004, Small Disadvantaged Business Threshold" (RIN9000-AO52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2166. A communication from the Deputy Controller Performing the Duties of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for Grants and Agreements" (Docket No. OMB-2023-0004) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2167. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2168. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2169. A communication from the Solicitor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Federal Labor Relations Authority, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2170. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2171. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2022 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2172. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2173. A communication from the Deputy Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Privacy Office 2020 and 2021 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2174. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2023 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2175. A communication from the Chief of Staff of External Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2176. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act) of 2002 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2177. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2178. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2179. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-179, "Green Housing Transition Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2180. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-185, "St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2181. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-186, "The Volunteers of America, Inc. National Service Center Relocation Tax Exemption Amendment Act of 2023"; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2182. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-178, "Association Meeting Flexibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2183. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-180, "Virtual Open Meetings Authority Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2184. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-181, "Friendship Heights Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2185. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-182, "Golden Triangle Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2186. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-183, "Children's National Hospital Research and Innovation Campus Equitable Tax Relief Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2187. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-184, "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2188. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a legislative proposal that would establish two new sub-accounts within the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2189. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2190. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the use and distribution of the Chinook Judgment Funds in Indian Claims Commission Docket 234 for congressional consideration and approval received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2191. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Election Administration and Voting Survey 2022 Comprehensive Report"; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2192. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Persons Eligible for Burial" (RIN2900-AR80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2193. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presumptive Service Connection for Respiratory Conditions Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter" (RIN2900-AR25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2194. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2195. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Implement Provisions of the Trademark Modernization Act of 2020; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN0651-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2196. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transfer of Electronic Prescriptions for Schedules II-V Controlled Substances Between Pharmacies for Initial Filling" ((RIN1117-AB64) (Docket No. DEA-637)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2197. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2014" ((RIN1117-AB81) (Docket No. DEA-481)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2198. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation" (CPCLC Order No. 003-2023) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2199. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the March 2023 calendar session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2200. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Sequestration Update Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; Joint Committee on Taxation; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2201. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report rel-

ative to violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

## 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-65. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to work with the President of the United States to authorize assigning the City of Eastvale an independent ZIP code; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, The City of Eastvale was incorporated on October 1, 2010. Located in the County of Riverside, before incorporation Eastvale was predominantly dairy farms and agricultural land; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service uses Zone Improvement Plan, commonly known as ZIP Codes, to route mail and deliver packages. ZIP Codes assist the United States Postal Service's obligation to provide quality mail delivery to the American public at reasonable prices; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale shares the ZIP Code 91752 with the City of Jurupa Valley. The ZIP Code is coded as the former Mira Loma community, which was annexed by the Cities of Eastvale and Jurupa Valley. Additionally, the City of Eastvale also shares the ZIP Code 92880 with the City of Corona; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale has grown exponentially in the last two decades and currently has a population of over 71,000 according to 2021 census information; and

Whereas, Since its incorporation, the City of Eastvale has experienced various challenges because it shares ZIP Codes with neighboring jurisdictions; and

Whereas, It is difficult for certain businesses to expand in the City of Eastvale because commercial developers and businesses evaluate expansion decisions based on trade areas that are analyzed by ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, Because the City of Eastvale does not have its own ZIP Code, its population demographics and economic data are inaccurately represented in various Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms that entities utilize to inform commercial attractiveness, insurance payment rates, and sales tax distribution decisions; and

Whereas, Eastvale residents and visitors experience navigational and mail delivery challenges because many addresses in the City of Eastvale are incorrectly identified as being located in Corona, Jurupa Valley, or Mira Loma; and

Whereas, Having an address improperly associated with another city has led to increased insurance rates for Eastvale residents due to being grouped with other jurisdictions; and

Whereas, Lack of a definitive ZIP Code causes confusion with voter registration, misdirected property, possible decreased sales tax revenue, and decreased property values because comparable sales are mixed with adjacent communities and are not exclusive to the City of Eastvale. Thus, the continuity of property values is disrupted; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale is also concerned about possible delays in response efforts in the event of a large-scale emergency such as wildfire, which has become fairly common; and

Whereas, Eastvale residents' eligibility for sport league participation is impacted because many associations and sport entities

set team limits and restrictions based on ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale's independent ZIP Code advocacy efforts have been widely supported by federal, state, county, and local community members, including United States Senator Alex Padilla, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, United States Representative Ken Calvert, United States Representative Norma Torres, Riverside County Supervisor Karen Spiegel, the City of Chino, the City of Corona, the City of Norco, and the City of Ontario, the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Eastvale Chamber of Commerce, the Eastvale Chinese American Association, the Eastvale Kiwanis Club, Norco College, and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department; and

Whereas, United States Representatives Ken Calvert and Norma Torres have introduced federal legislation granting the City of Eastvale a new and independent ZIP Code; and

Whereas, Granting the City of Eastvale a new and independent ZIP Code would address its emergency management, public safety, business attraction and retention, and insurance coverage challenges caused by factors that are outside of its control; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to work with President Joseph R. Biden to authorize assigning the City of Eastvale an independent ZIP Code; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-66. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to pass H.R. 412, designating the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1343

Whereas, United States Representative Monica De La Cruz introduced a bipartisan bill, H.R. 412, on January 20, 2023, to designate the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; and

Whereas, On December 7, 2022, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Raul H. Gonzalez of Edinburg was engaged in a high-speed chase when his ATV crashed; he was transported to a hospital but died of his injuries that day, at the age of 38, leaving two children, Sebastian and Camila Gonzalez, and a large extended family, as well as numerous bereaved colleagues; and

Whereas, Agent Gonzalez was a graduate of Economedes High School in Edinburg and the Border Patrol Academy; deeply patriotic, he demonstrated great dedication over the course of a career that spanned more than a decade with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is within the Department of Homeland Security; he was assigned to the Rio Grande Valley Sector McAllen Station; and

Whereas, Committed to the important mission of the U.S. Border Patrol, Agent Gonzalez lost his life in the line of duty, and it would be most fitting to recognize his exemplary service and supreme sacrifice by naming the post office in McAllen in his honor; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass H.R. 412, designating the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-67. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee expressing strong support for completing the southern border wall and urging the United States Congress to immediately take action to fund the construction necessary for completion; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, the security of our nation's borders and the safety of our citizens are paramount to protecting the American way of life; and

Whereas, it is essential to the welfare of our nation that illegal immigration cease; and

Whereas, the United States government began to secure our borders through the construction of a physical border wall, but completion of the wall was halted under the Biden Administration; and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants continue to enter the United States of America each year through our nation's southern border; and

Whereas, the members of this General Assembly have consistently taken steps to address illegal immigration within the borders of our great State and now wish to urge the United States Congress to address illegal immigration by supporting and funding the completion of the southern border wall: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring,* That we strongly support completion of the border wall along our nation's southern border, and we strongly urge the United States Congress to immediately take action to fund the completion of said border wall without delay. Be it further

*Resolved,* That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

POM-68. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Texas requesting that the United States Congress fully reimburse the State of Texas for 9,927,000,000 dollars in expended funds that were used or will be used to meet federal obligations to secure the southern border; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 678

Whereas, The Texas Senate finds that border security is a federal responsibility; and

Whereas, Due to the lack of action by the federal government, the State of Texas has been forced to continually appropriate funds to secure the southern border of the United States; and

Whereas, Texas has taken these actions not just for the people of Texas, but to help

maintain safety and security across the United States; and

Whereas, The human costs of sex trafficking, human trafficking, drug proliferation, and the expansion of vast criminal enterprises cannot be easily quantified; and

Whereas, The financial cost that the State of Texas has paid or will pay to combat these criminal acts has totaled more than \$9,927,000,000; and

Whereas, The state has spent the following amounts on border security in each of the most recent biennial state budgets:

2016-2017—\$800,000,000

2018-2019—\$800,000,000

2020-2021—\$800,600,000

2022-2023—\$2,926,400,000; and

Whereas, Texas plans to spend \$4,600,000,000 to secure the border in the 2024-2025 biennium; now, therefore, be it further

*Resolved,* That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby respectfully request that the Congress of the United States fully reimburse the State of Texas for \$9,927,000,000 in expended funds that were used or will be used to meet federal obligations to secure the southern border; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That Texas is not seeking reimbursement for additional costs associated with securing the southern border, including the additional strains that have been placed on the state's healthcare and education systems, and the impacts on local law enforcement or private property damage; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the secretary of the Senate forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE, from the Committee on the Budget:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities of the Committee on the Budget during the 117th Congress" (Rept. No. 118-99).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Tobin John Bradley, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Nominee: Tobin Bradley.

Post: Guatemala.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

Self: None.

Spouse: N/A.

Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.



Nominee: Nathalie Rayes.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Croatia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Planned Parenthood Action Fund PAC: \$1,000, 12/19/2022, Nathalie Rayes; Planned Parenthood Action Fund PAC: \$1,000, 12/15/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Lorena Gonzalez: \$500, 05/10/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Alfonso Lopez: \$250, 03/31/2021, Nathalie Rayes; People First Future: \$250, 02/18/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Hoo-siers for Hale: \$600, 10/21/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Ricky Hurtado: \$500, 10/14/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$350, 10/12/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Janet Diaz: \$250, 10/12/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Jon Santiago: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Andy Vargas: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Adam Gomez: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Damali Vidot: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Democratic National Committee: \$4,400, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden Victory Fund: \$10,000, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Michelle for Kansas: \$500, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$500, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Candace for 24: \$500, 06/19/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Mara for Congress: \$500, 06/01/2020, Nathalie Rayes; People for Ben: \$1,000, 05/11/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$2,800, 11/13/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Melissa Mark-Viverito: \$2,800, 09/30/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Debbie for Congress: \$500, 06/28/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 06/25/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$850, 03/22/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$2,800, 08/24/2020, Tarek Samad; Albert Mata: \$500, 05/03/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Melissa Cabello Havrda: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Phyllis Viagran: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Marina Alderete Gavito: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Maria Quinones: \$1,000, 04/04/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$500, 04/03/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Chuy Garcia: \$10,000, 01/30/2023, Latino Victory Fund; John Lira: \$1,000, 10/28/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Salas: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catherine Cortez Masto: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabe Vasquez: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Robert Menendez Jr.: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Sandra Jauregui: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Nancy Brune: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Adrian Fontes: \$5,300, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Karla Hernández-Mats: \$3,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Guillermo Smith: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Maria Peterson: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Susana Mendoza: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabriel Acevedo: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Torrez: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Laura Montoya: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cynthia Borrego: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tara Jaramillo: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rodolphe Martinez: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Willie Madrid: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Shamaine Daniels: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Veronica Escobar: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Vallejo: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Frank Ramirez: \$1,000, 10/25/

2022, Latino Victory Fund; Elva Curl: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jimmy Gomez: \$1,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Mike Levin: \$5,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$5,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$1,000, 10/15/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lisa Cano Burkhead: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cisco Aguilar: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Annette Taddeo: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Eunice Ortiz: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janelle Perez: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catalina Cruz: \$500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Gonzalez Rojas: \$500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Hurtado: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabe Vasquez: \$2,500, 09/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$5,000, 09/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Nathalia Fernandez: \$1,000, 08/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlina Rivera: \$5,000, 08/19/2022, Latino Victory Fund; David Arreola: \$1,000, 08/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Lujan Grisham: \$10,400, 07/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Eunice Ortiz: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janelle Perez: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Guillermo Smith: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; A.J. D'Amico: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tom Perez: \$2,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Maxwell Frost: \$2,500, 06/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Annette Taddeo: \$2,500, 06/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Linda Hidalgo: \$2,500, 06/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rick Chavez Zbur: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Marina Torres: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Hilda Solis: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Ruiz: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Robert Garcia: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Salas: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lisa Cano Burkhead: \$2,500, 06/03/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 05/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Ina Minjarez: \$1,000, 05/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cassandra Garcia Hernandez: \$1,000, 05/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jason Esteves: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jason Esteves: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Olaleye: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Olaleye: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Schreiner: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Schreiner: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Deja Alvarez: \$1,000, 05/16/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Padilla: \$5,800, 05/05/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Brian Colón: \$2,500, 05/03/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rochelle Garza: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Cisneros: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tom Perez: \$4,000, 04/15/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Daniel Hernandez Jr.: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,000, 02/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rochelle Garza: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; John Lira: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Cisneros: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Greg Casar: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Alexandra Giuo: \$1,000, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catherine Cortez Masto: \$2,500, 02/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jennifer Gutierrez: \$1,000, 10/29/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alfonso Lopez: \$2,500, 10/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$50,000, 10/13/2021,

Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Guzman: \$10,000, 10/13/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Carmen de la Rosa: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Shaun Abreu: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Pierina Sanchez: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Amanda Farias: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$5,000, 06/03/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Canek Aguirre: \$500, 05/27/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alfonso Lopez: \$2,500, 05/21/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$40,000, 05/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Guzman: \$20,000, 05/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Tara Wilson: \$1,000, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Adam Bazaldua: \$1,000, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Ana Sandoval: \$500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Roberto Treviño: \$500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Jana Lynne Sanchez: \$2,500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Padilla: \$2,500, 02/05/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Natalie Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/28/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Gallinar: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eric Holguin: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lujan Victory Fund: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Antonio Delgado: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cisneros for Congress: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Christina Hale: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Family and Friends of Jane: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Francesca Cesti-Browne: \$1,000, 10/27/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cesar Blanco: \$1,000, 10/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Linda Serrato: \$1,000, 10/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Raquel Teran: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sierra: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Adrian Fontes: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Brianna Buentello: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Stephanie Dominguez Walton: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lucia Baez-Geller: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eliseo Santana: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Felipe Perez: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Anibal Acevedo Vilá: \$2,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Diaz: \$3,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Celina Montoya: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Brandy Chambers: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Joanna Cattanaach: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ana Maria Ramos: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eric Holguin: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Natali Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Victoria Neave: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Wendy Jauregui-Jackins: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Noemie Martinez-Parra: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Gallinar: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Daniel Corona: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Nora Vargas: \$2,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Adelita Grimalva: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$5,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gabby Salinas: \$1,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Mike Levin: \$2,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Felicia French: \$1,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Deborah Gonzalez: \$2,800, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Maureen Porras: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Luisa Santos: \$1,000,

10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,800, 09/29/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 09/28/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Soto: \$2,500, 09/26/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 09/22/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gil Cisneros: \$2,500, 09/18/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ben Ray Lujan: \$2,500, 09/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 09/15/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Victor Torres: \$1,000, 08/04/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Will Knight: \$2,000, 08/04/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Andres Cano: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Diego Rodriguez: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Joanna Mendoza: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Krstine Reeves: \$2,000, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Javier Fernandez: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jose Javier Rodriguez: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cindy Polo: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Dolores Guzman: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Junquera: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Amy Mercado: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Barrio: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Samuel Vilchez Santiago: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 07/01/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$5,000, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Ruiz: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Oz Vazquez: \$2,500, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica González-Rojas: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Catalina Cruz: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jon Rivera: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,500, 06/08/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Christina Hale: \$5,000, 05/13/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Melissa Mark-Viverito: \$5,000, 05/13/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Romero: \$2,000, 05/12/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 04/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 04/02/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ben Ray Lujan: \$2,500, 04/01/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 03/26/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gil Cisneros: \$2,500, 03/05/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez: \$2,800, 02/24/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$5,000, 02/21/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,800, 02/11/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Mara Candelaria Reardon: \$2,800, 02/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Angelo Castillo: \$2,000, 02/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund.

Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Haiti.

Nominee: Dennis B. Hankins.

Post: Republic of Haiti.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:  
Self: \$100, August 2019, Tulsi Gabbard.  
Spouse: None.

James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2855. A bill to modernize and streamline the permitting process for broadband infrastructure on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2856. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures relating to gifts and contracts from foreign sources; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2857. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to provide greater access to in-State television broadcast programming for cable and satellite subscribers in certain counties; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 2858. A bill to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2859. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2860. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2861. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 2862. A bill to amend the Food for Peace Act to restore the original intent of commodity transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2863. A bill to establish the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2864. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on all detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2865. 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 Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2866. A bill to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2867. A bill to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2868. A bill to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2869. A bill to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2870. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2871. A bill to advance Federal Government innovation through the implementation and use of multi-cloud computing software technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2872. A bill to defer student loan payments for survivors of sex-based harassment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2873. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the Women-Owned Small Business program in the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement hierarchy of small business preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2874. A bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 353. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as “National Estuaries Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 354. A resolution congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 176

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase civil penalties for, and improve enforcement with respect to, customs fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1780

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1780, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts with Tribal organizations to carry out the authority of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2018 and the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2090, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2811

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2811, a bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make unlawful acquisitions that would create monopolies, and for other purposes.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2846, a bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”.

S.J. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 42, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to “Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing-Policy Update”.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese

military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Eyvin Hernandez, a United States citizen and Los Angeles County public defender, who was wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan regime in March 2022.

AMENDMENT NO. 1115

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1115 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1264

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1264 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. 1268

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1268 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 353—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 353

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 2.6 percent in 2019, compared to the national average employment growth of 1.4 percent;

Whereas estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 88,000 new jobs between 2018 to 2019, employed 3,500,000 people, and contributed \$351,000,000,000 in gross domestic product;

Whereas employment in the ocean economy has increased by 25 percent from pre-recession levels in 2007, 3 times the rate of recovery of the United States economy as a whole;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 1,700,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$253,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$117,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$10,200,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported over 594,000 jobs, generated \$98,028,000,000 in sales across the economy, and contributed \$54,962,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;

(2) water quality;

(3) balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zones of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 28 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 354—CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 354

Whereas, on Monday, June 26, 2023, the Louisiana State University (referred to in this preamble as “LSU”) Fighting Tigers baseball team won the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I College World Series, defeating the University of Florida Gators by a score of 18 to 4;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers won their seventh NCAA Division I Baseball Championship;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers scored 18 runs with 24 total hits in the championship game;

Whereas head coach Jay Johnson became the first coach to win an NCAA Division I baseball title before their third year at a school;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers finished the season with 54 wins and 17 losses;

Whereas 13 LSU Fighting Tigers players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft, the third highest number in NCAA history;

Whereas teammates Paul Skenes and Dylan Crews were the first and second overall Major League Baseball draft selections,

marking the first time in the history of Major League Baseball that players from the same school were drafted first and second;

Whereas LSU pitcher Paul Skenes broke a Southeastern Conference (referred to in this preamble as the “SEC”) record for most strikeouts in a single season, surpassing the record set by LSU Fighting Tiger Ben McDonald in 1989;

Whereas Paul Skenes was named the Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series, was named the 2023 SEC Pitcher of the Year, and was awarded the 2023 Dick Howser Trophy, becoming the second LSU baseball player to win the award;

Whereas Dylan Crews was named to the 2023 American Baseball Coaches Association Gold Glove team, was named the SEC Player of the Year, and was the 45th recipient of the Golden Spikes Award, the highest honor for an amateur baseball player;

Whereas LSU pitcher Ty Floyd set an LSU record for the most strikeouts in a game at the College World Series and tied the NCAA record for the most strikeouts in a 9-inning game; and

Whereas Coach Jay Johnson was named the 2023 NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements, teamwork, and tenacity of the coaches, players, and staff of the Louisiana State University baseball team;

(3) recognizes the fans and the entire State of Louisiana for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Louisiana State University baseball team, Jay Johnson;

(B) the president of Louisiana State University, William F. Tate IV; and

(C) the athletic director of Louisiana State University, Scott Woodward.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1269. 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.

SA 1270. Mrs. BRITT 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 1271. Ms. SINEMA 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 1272. Mr. MORAN 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 1273. Mr. LANKFORD 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 1274. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be pro-

posed 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 1275. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) 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 1276. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) 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 1277. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1269. 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 in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7. (a) No funds made available under this Act shall be used to assess or collect user fees under section 919 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387) with respect to premium cigars.

(b) In this section, the term “premium cigar” means a cigar that—

(1) is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf;

(2) contains a 100 percent leaf tobacco binder;

(3) contains at least 50 percent (of the filler by weight) long filler tobacco (such as whole tobacco leaves that run the length of the cigar);

(4) is handmade or hand rolled, without the use of machinery other than simple tools, such as scissors to cut the tobacco prior to rolling;

(5) has no filter, non-tobacco tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece;

(6) does not have a characterizing flavor other than tobacco;

(7) contains only tobacco, water, and vegetable gum with no other ingredients or additives; and

(8) weighs more than 6 pounds per 1,000 units.

SA 1270. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain

available until expended, for cooperative agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations to expedite research using plant genomics to develop drought- and disease-resistant peanut varieties and other crops.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary” in title I for the Office of Communications shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

SA 1271. Ms. SINEMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF STUDY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON PATIENT RESPONSES TO PHARMACEUTICALS BASED ON THEIR GENETIC PROFILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the feasibility, advisability, and cost estimate of undertaking a study to record patient responses to pharmaceuticals based on their genetic profile, which shall include the elements specified under subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—The elements specified under this subsection are—

(1) providing a patient with a pharmacogenomics test;

(2) using the results of that test, through an integrated application programming interface platform, and mapping those results against—

(A) the medical condition or conditions of the patient;

(B) the medications currently prescribed to the patient; and

(C) different therapeutics or medications that are widely prescribed to treat such condition or conditions;

(3) providing the treating physician of the patient with easily understood, actionable, digitized information to utilize in making a decision about the course of medication or medications that would yield the greatest benefit to the patient and limit the risk of potential harm or adverse events based upon identified drug-to-gene and drug-to-drug interactions; and

(4) including an analysis on cost saving to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the patient.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1272. Mr. MORAN 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. \_\_\_\_\_. STUDY ON MODIFICATION OF PAYMENTS TO STATE HOMES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on—

(1) the feasibility of adjusting criteria for priority for payments for State homes in a manner that would—

(A) eliminate priority of payments for limited or high-need States; and

(B) prioritize payments for limited or high-need regions;

(2) the feasibility of increasing the State cost-sharing requirement for each State home project that is a new construction project that seeks to receive higher priority to receive payment from the Department; and

(3) the relevance of the allocation criteria of the Department of Veterans Affairs in place as of the date of the enactment of this Act for payments to State homes and the feasibility of updating such criteria based on the findings of such study.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 1273.** Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, insert the following after section 119G:

**SEC. 119H.** The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shall ensure that any amounts made available under this Act for providing matching funds to commercial entities that contract with FAA-designated unmanned aircraft system (UAS) test sites to demonstrate or validate technologies that the FAA considers essential to the safe integration of UAS into the national airspace system (NAS) are also available to test sites that are not designated by the FAA, including tribal test sites.

**SA 1274.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) 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 287, line 19, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act to fund expenses associated with the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation under chapter 69 of title 40, United States Code, pursuant to authorization under section 6910 of title 40, United States Code.”.

**SA 1275.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr.

CARDIN) 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 283, line 24, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for a grant to Union Station Redevelopment Corporation to rehabilitate and repair the Washington Union Station complex.”.

**SA 1276.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) 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 paragraph (3) of the matter under the heading “COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND” under the heading “COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT” in title II of division C, strike “except that the formula shall use age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths for 2021” and insert “except that the Secretary shall use the average of age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths and the average of national overdose mortality rates for 2019, 2020, and 2021”.

**SA 1277.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 104 of the amendment, line 11, insert “, and of which \$750,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for invasive catfish control” before the semicolon.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have eight 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:45 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY**

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE**

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER**

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Allison Arbuthnot for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3935**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the



Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

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EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AS "NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 353, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 353) expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as "National Estuaries Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 354, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 354) congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 354) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be

approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the George nomination postcloture and that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Smith nomination, all postcloture debate time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11 a.m.

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CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 20, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REAPPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 152 AND 601:

*To be general*

GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF U.S.- BULGARIA RELATIONS

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate 120 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

I will always cherish serving as an International Republican Institute election observer welcomed to Sofia by Professor Stefan Stoyanov for the first post-communist election on June 10, 1990. Arriving in communist Bulgaria was shocking to step back into the 1930s of pathetic economic development and now it is energizing to visit modern Bulgaria with opportunities for all succeed.

Today, the U.S. Department of State issued the following statement:

"On September 19, 1903, John B. Jackson, Minister to Greece, Romania, and Serbia, presented his credentials to serve as the first U.S. Diplomatic Agent to Bulgaria—six years prior to Bulgaria's proclamation of full independence from the Ottoman Empire. Today, we celebrate the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of that act and the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two great nations. Our relationship as bilateral partners, and our friendship as members of the transatlantic family of nations, has never been stronger.

"The United States and Bulgaria work closely together on a multitude of issues. Our shared commitment to provide military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in the face of Russia's brutal war of aggression remains firm. We continue to deepen our collaboration on vital regional and global security issues as NATO Allies, working side by side in the NATO battlegroup hosted by Bulgaria and training together on a regular basis. Our nations are expanding cooperation on economic and energy issues to increase prosperity . . . and reduce Bulgaria's reliance on Russian energy sources. Together, we are working to strengthen the rule of law and to boost democratic resilience against state-sponsored disinformation and malign influence. We also partner to promote innovation and economic opportunity through academic and professional exchanges and robust commercial relationships.

"People-to-people ties have been the bedrock of our a Bulgarian-American, began serving as the first U.S. Consular Agent in Bulgaria in 1912. Today, there are nearly 250,000 Bulgarians living in the United States, and nearly 90,000 Americans living in or traveling to Bulgaria every year. The warm relationship between our nations, based on shared transatlantic values, relationship since even before Asen Kermekchiev common interests, and family and cultural ties, continues to grow. We look forward to another one hundred and twenty years of friendship."

Bulgaria is a valued ally in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism and now, sadly with the murderous invasion by war criminal Putin of Ukraine, Bulgaria is a stalwart for Democ-

racies Rule of Law opposing Dictators with Rule of Gun.

There is a bipartisan appreciation of Bulgaria where I am grateful to co-chair the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus with Representatives BRAD SCHNEIDER (IL), RICHARD NEAL (MA), and NEAL DUNN (FL). Bulgaria has been professionally represented by talented ambassadors such as Elena Poptodorova, Tihomir Stoytchev, and now Georgi Panayotov.

America wants the best for Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov and President Rumen Radev for the citizens of Bulgaria.

### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES P. COSE

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Commander James P. Cose of Sneedville in Hancock County for his extensive service in the United States Navy. His military career began with his enlistment in September of 1969, where he volunteered for Nuclear Power Training and the Submarine Force.

After his training, he deployed to the U.S.S. *Holland AS-32* in Rota, Spain as a Fire Control Ballistic Third-Class Petty Officer, but was soon transferred to the U.S.S. *Thomas A. Edison SSBN 610*, which made strategic missile patrols in the Mediterranean Sea. His next assignment was to the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral, Florida, where tests on the Polaris and Trident Fleet Ballistic Missiles were conducted. PO Cose then transferred for more strategic missile patrols on the U.S.S. *Sam Rayburn SSBN 635*, where he was commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer and sent to Officer Training School (OTS). After OTS, he deployed to the *Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617* for more strategic missile patrols out of the North Atlantic, then transferred to the Officer Submarine Training Facility in New London, Connecticut, where he instructed Perspective Commanding Officers on weapons systems onboard the Nuclear Submarines. His next transfer was to the Naval Submarine Support Facility in New London, Connecticut to build torpedoes, as well as teach thousands of service members small-arms firearms training, as part of American nuclear weapons security.

His last command was to Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet (COMSUBLANT), at Norfolk, Virginia, where he served as a Chief Nuclear Weapons Inspector for all Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines in the Atlantic Fleet. He retired with nearly 25 years of exceptional service in the U.S. Navy, rising through the ranks from an enlisted recruit all the way to Lieutenant Commander.

Please join me in thanking American patriot, Lieutenant Commander James P. Cose for his

leadership and lifetime of service to our great Nation.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF BETSY BINA

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate Betsy Bina as she embarks on her richly deserved retirement after decades of devoted public service. While we will miss her, she leaves the Legislative Branch with a noble legacy of accomplishment and will remain an example of excellence for all who follow.

Betsy and I worked closely together when she served as Clerk of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee during my tenure as both its Chairman and Ranking Member. The MilCon/VA bill speaks to our nation's most cherished values: supporting our nation's heroes when they serve when they join the ranks of veterans, and when they spend eternity in their final resting places. Betsy deeply understood this and brought her tremendous talents, outstanding work ethic, and commitment to superb work to every challenge she encountered.

Over the years, I relied on her sage advice and counsel as we navigated the often-choppy waters of supporting the many critical responsibilities shouldered by Congressional Appropriators. Betsy distinguished herself with her keen understanding of the nuances of intricate funding policies, the priorities of both the military and veteran communities, as well as the needs of member offices. She was a consensus builder extraordinaire who deftly managed a staff of committed professionals, bringing out their best as they worked tirelessly to craft legislation to support our warriors and veterans.

While Betsy isn't tired of the privilege of public service, she knows that everything has its season. But stepping away from work won't give her much idle time as she remains an active and committed world traveler, cherished friend, and mentor.

Retirement marks not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. As Betsy Bina embarks on this new chapter of her life, I thank her for her exceptional work, remain grateful for our friendship, and wish her the very best.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HONORING THE MASSACHUSETTS  
GOLD STAR MOTHERS' TRIBUTE  
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023,  
AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fourth annual Massachusetts Gold Star Mothers' Tribute at Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester, Massachusetts on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

The celebration will honor the families of servicemembers who lost their lives while serving the United States military. The tribute joins together several families from across the state to cherish the memories of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, these veterans paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of this country. We are each forever indebted to their service to keep us safe at home. However, it's far too easy to forget to cherish the family they left behind.

That's why Cecelia M. Mason will gather these families in Worcester on Sunday. She knows that, through community, we can all feel the legacy of these servicemen and women. We can join them to thank and remember the families these heroes left behind. I am deeply thankful for the tireless work she has done to bring these families together.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the lives of our fallen neighbors and cherishing the Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, and Families who never cease celebrating the legacies of their loved ones. I thank the Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester, Massachusetts in advance for holding such a beautiful event and reception.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW BUREAU  
COUNTY CIVIL WAR MONUMENT  
RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-  
TIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SOLDIERS

**HON. DARIN LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of a new Bureau County monument dedicated to the contributions of the 45 African American soldiers who served honorably in the Civil War, and whose service, up until now, was not recognized alongside other soldiers from Bureau County who had their names listed on the Bureau County Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Located in the historic district of Princeton, Illinois, this new monument pays tribute to Civil War Veterans from Bureau County who were members of the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry and 8th and 13th U.S. Colored Artillery units. The contributions made by these units supported military efforts in multiple battles, including but not limited to the Battle of Appomattox. These men include Jack Allen, Robert Atkins, George Baker, James Blake, Robert Bland, Horan Brown, William Cofield, John Coleman, John Connor, John Cummings, Joseph Davis, John Edwards, Abram Harrison,

Thomas Heckley, James Henry, Thomas Houston, King Howard, Henry Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Dennis Johnson, Jacob Johnson, Samuel Johnson, John Jones, Franklin Lindsay, Andrew Manly, Lewis Masters, Charles Moses, Wesley Patterson, Henry Prosson, Robert Rhodes, Joseph Sanders, Jesse Smith, Richard Smith, Hamilton Stokes, Alexander Thomas, Libby Thompson, Washington Turner, William Washington (Concord Township), William Washington (Westfield Township), Aaron Wellcome, Charles West, John Williams, Thomas Williams, James Wilson, and James Winson.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and sacrifices of these 45 Civil War soldiers from Bureau County and expressing my thanks to those who made it possible for this monument and long overdue recognition to happen.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT  
OF CENTRAL OREGON

**HON. CLIFF BENTZ**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans from the Honor Flight of Central Oregon who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of Richard Watson Gilder who said, "Better than honor and glory, and history's iron pen, was the thought of duty done and the love of his fellow-men." These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery all on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the Record their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: Thomas Adams, USAF; Lloyd Albright, Army; Donald Beckett, USMC; James Carmean, Army; Robert Carter, USCG; LeRoy Chu, USAF; David Cupp, Army; Harold Darcey, Navy; Kenneth Delzer, USAF; Thomas Doughtie, Army; Ralph Dow, Navy; David Gentry, Navy; Kenneth Hauge, Navy; John Heriza, Navy; Lee Houston, Army; LeRoy Johnson, Navy; Arland Kunz, USAF; Kenneth Lawler, Navy; Thomas McCall, Navy; Richard McDonnell, Army; Roger McGrady, USMC; James Mills, Navy; Gerald Newcomb, Navy; David Pete, Army; Robert Seidenberg, USAF; Murray Turnbow, Army; Herb Waits III, Army; and Jerry Wilken, Army. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers. I would also like to recognize the volunteer's, guardians, and those who have also served our country: Randy Albright; James Anderson; John Baldwin; Kaylie Boschma; Matthew Carter, Navy; Kylie Cross; Don Deland; Georgia Edwards; Rodney Edwards; Tiffany Grimsley; Samuel Houston; Joshua Kimzey; Samantha Kimzey; Judith L'Homme; Jose Lopez III, Army; Jennifer Mays; Megan Marino; Clint McAuliffe; Rosalie McGaugh; Krista McKnitt; Jessica Meyer; Zachary Mills; Dane Prevatt; Craig Reed; Cody Rheault; Kevin Scoggin, USAF; Megan

Silvey; Colby Keith Sime Jr., USMC; Wendi Schmid, Army; Wendy Stauffer; and Michael Woll, Army.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1988 Veterans Day address President Ronald Reagan said, "We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of these brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

HONORING SUSAN GLAWE

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Susan Glawe, who we lost at the age of 80 on August 14, 2023.

Sue moved to Phoenix in 1962, where she began her career at the Arizona State Legislature and the Chamber of Commerce before finding her true calling at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, where she remained until her retirement. It was through her work at BCBS that many of us came to know her—as Vice President of Community Relations, she redefined effective, compassionate corporate giving. The causes she championed were deeply impactful in Arizona, touching all corners of the state.

Sue was never one to do anything halfway. In addition to her deep professional involvement, she managed to chair, sit on the board, and hold membership in dozens of nonprofit organizations in her personal capacity. She was a deeply respected and trusted advisor and mentor to a generation of non-profit leaders—and quite a few political leaders as well. Sue understood government and civic space better than anyone. She held elected leaders to the same standard she held herself: to deliver results, but always to do so with integrity.

Sue lived by a motto to wake up every morning and do something good for someone else. But despite her remarkable accomplishments, she was always humble when it came to accepting praise. In fact, the most you would ever hear her talk about herself would be when she was talking about her family. She's survived by her beloved sons, Mike and Chris, and grandchildren Phoebe, John, and Thomas.

I thank Sue for her years of counsel and friendship. Godspeed.

HONORING ROBERT M. "MIKE"  
DUNCAN

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary Kentuckian, Robert M. "Mike" Duncan. Mike was born in Oneida, Tennessee but came to Kentucky as a boy, where his father was a storekeeper in McCreary County. He is a graduate of the University of the Cumberlands and, in 1974, earned a degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Mike Duncan has a distinguished list of professional, political, and personal accomplishments. People that know Mike Duncan will agree that he is an honorable man with a genuine love for his fellow Kentuckians and for this great Nation.

Mike has served as Chair, President, and CEO of the Inez Deposit Bank. He has served as president of the Kentucky Bankers Association and as a Director of the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank's Cincinnati Branch. He is chair of the Board of Trustees of Alice Lloyd College. Always passionate about education, Mike has been a mentor to numerous students over the years. He has served as chair of the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY and as a trustee of the Christian Appalachian Project. In 2012, he became the President and CEO of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a non-profit advocacy group.

At the federal level, Mike served our country as Assistant Director of Public Liaison under President George H. W. Bush. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him to the President's Commission of White House Fellows. Bush also nominated Mike to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board where he served as chair in 2009 and 2010. He also served as a member and former chair of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service beginning in 2018.

Mike began his political career as a driver for Bob Gable. He has gone on to serve in numerous political campaigns and has been a delegate to 10 Republican National Conventions. He served the Republican National Committee as treasurer and general counsel from 2002 until 2007, when he was elected as Chairman. He was first elected as Kentucky's National Committeeman to the RNC in 1992, a position that he has held since that time.

Mike Duncan has been a leader in banking, in education, in federal service, and in the political arena. He is a man who leads with dignity, character, and selflessness. Mike Duncan is a true servant leader and I am humbled to honor his contributions to Kentucky and to the Nation before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
DONALD WOODFIELD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Donald Woodfield.

Sadly, Mr. Woodfield passed away on September 3, 2023, at the age of 81.

Donald Woodfield was born in Buffalo, New York on November 24, 1941. A lifelong patriot, Mr. Woodfield joined the U.S. Air Force, where he proudly served for 8 years, including during the Vietnam War. Among his many awards were the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Shortly after leaving the military, he was called again to a life of serving others and he pursued his passion of being a teacher. He served as an educator for over 30 years, both teaching and coaching at B'Nai Shalom, Ballinger Academy, Greensboro Day School in Greensboro, and finally The O'Neal School in Southern Pines.

Mr. Woodfield had a profound love of teaching and mentoring young people, a notion that carried into nearly every aspect of his life. He was an avid golfer, pickle baller and active member of the local Southern Pines Veteran of Foreign Wars Post No. 7318, serving as quartermaster and holding numerous roles in the Military Order of the Cooties. Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Woodfield was a man of faith, who loved God and his family above all else.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life of Donald Woodfield and to offer our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KO-  
REAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLI-  
NOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 20, 2023, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 20th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Ronald P. Aleo; Terry J. Baldwin; Henry J. Balkema; Robert W. Becker, Sr.; Robert A. Bernacchi; Robert G. Blackwell; Peter I. Boer; Dennis M. Bolsega; Daniel L. Bridy; Kenneth W. Bruzek; William Bruzek; Carl J. Capolillo; Henry P. Castillo; Donald A. Chivas;

Robert Ciesiel; Thomas J. Cogozzo; Lidio S. Cordero; Leon K. Dahlberg; Terry L.

Davis; Leavy Deal, Jr.; Harry W. DeBruin; John H. DeGroot; Richard A. DeHeer; Roger A. Dexter; Frank P. Disler; Charles M. Doane; Arnold W. Domin; Richard Dublin;

Mark R. Dykstra; Donald J. Ferrone; Ralph E. Fisher; John F. Fitzpatrick; Joseph J. Gallagher; Don J. Garrett; Larry G. Garza; Dennis J. Gawczynski; Albert Giuliano; Kenneth M. Gray; Eric A. Greene; David E. Grote; Frederick P. Guerrero; Vince Gugliuzza; Robert J. Hahn; Robert A. Hudik; Charles E. Hughes, Sr.; Gerald E. Ilc; James M. Inendino; James M. Jacob; Richard E. Jensen; Donald L. Johnson;

Raymond Jubera; James G. Karones; Jesse Kimp; George N. Koch; James L. Koeling; Henry F. Kohut; Richard W. Kostecki; Larry A. Krog; Donald J. Kucera; Charles A. Lazzara; Joseph V. Lombardi; Frank S. LoPresti; Joseph Lubovich; Tommie T. Lymon; John L. Maisura; Michael S. Malinowski; James P. Mammoser; Leonard F. Marak; Glenn D. Marrs; Richard J. Martin; Edward R. McCabe;

Walter T. McCarthy; Robert W. McKee; Richard A. Meister; Frank H. Michalek; Edward S. Moy; Dennis C. Northrop; Patrick G. O'Connell; John E. Painter, Jr.; Howard M. Parker; Joseph A. Pesch, Jr.; David W. Piekarczyk; Richard S. Pincuspy; Dennis C. Polakowski; Charles E. Pryor; Joseph R. Racine; Carl A. Razor; Gerald L. Reese; James L. Riforgiato; Leo J. Roberts; Ignacio Rodriguez;

Robbie L. Rollins, Jr.; Laurence D. Rolph; Herbert R. Rosen; James L. Rossbach; Angelo Sanchez; Glenn D. Sanders; Leroy C. Schmitz; James J. Slacanian; Patrick E. Small; Dennis L. Soszynski; Milan Stojkovic; David E. Strein; Michael J. Stumpf; Anthony J. Sutylo; John E. Thompson; Edward J. Trznadel; Ralph W. Tummond, Jr.; Richard H. Van Verst; Joseph S. Varanauski; John W. Watkins; Geary L. Weaver; Maynard O. Welch; Fontaine Winston, Jr.; Terry L. Xaverius; John T. Zick, Jr.; and Thomas B. Zimnawoda.

RECOGNIZING LAVINIA PERKINS  
MATHIS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lavinia Perkins Mathis on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Born on September 24, 1923, in Jacksonville, Florida, Ms. Mathis is the proud daughter of Camilla Bolton Perkins, a Jacksonville elementary school teacher, and Daniel W. Perkins, a prominent lawyer in Jacksonville. Ms. Mathis and her 2 sisters grew up in the Lavilla neighborhood of Jacksonville where she attended a wooden 2-story schoolhouse. She graduated from Old Stanton High School in 1942.

Ms. Mathis attended Florida A&M College (now Florida A&M University) and graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. For 30 years, she taught science in Duval County Public Schools including at James Weldon Johnson Jr. High, Stilwell Jr. High, and Northwestern Jr. High until 1977.

On June 15, 1948, she married Clarence F. Mathis, and they had 2 children Cecelia Mathis and Marcia Mathis. Ms. Mathis is also a proud grandmother of 3 and great-grandmother. A devoted Catholic, Ms. Mathis loves her family and the Lord.

She became a Catholic while at Florida A&M College and when Ms. Mathis returned home to Jacksonville, Florida she joined St. Pius V Catholic Church. While a member of St. Pius, she served on several committees including the Altar Rosary Society, the Welcome and Outreach, and All Saints Auxiliary.

Ms. Mathis is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and in 2019 she became a Diamond member of Alpha Kappa Alpha having served faithfully as a member of the sorority for over 75 years.

I am honored to recognize a dedicated servant to our community and the Lord, and I wish Ms. Mathis a wonderful 100th birthday.

## SAVING AMERICA

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Stephen Moore of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity provides a daily Hotline ([steve@committeetounleashprosperity.com](mailto:steve@committeetounleashprosperity.com)) with very informative research on economic issues facing American families. A very thoughtful analysis was distributed on September 18, 2023.

“House Budget Committee Chair Jody Arrington’s [ . . . fiscal plan] won’t solve our financial problems—but it will stop the bleeding. ‘The plan reaches a balanced budget in 10 years without a penny of new taxes,’ said Arrington. ‘We grow the economy and cut spending.’

“The Democrats and Biden are hysterical and threatening to shut down the government to keep the current runaway train of spending over the cliff.

“To get a sense of the stakes here, consider that the fastest growing component of the budget over the next decade—other than the Green New Deal—is interest on the . . . national debt. Interest payments, which will soon reach \$1 trillion, will be like a Pacman swallowing up more and more of the entire budget.

“Our ace economist EJ Antoni highlights a troubling trend. Almost \$8 trillion of low-interest-rate debt will roll over at much higher rates. Instead of paying 2 and 3% interest on bonds, we will be paying close to 5% and maybe more if the Fed has to raise interest rates again. Biden has created a fine fiscal mess, and it will take years to get out of it. Arrington is right: let’s start right now.”

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 open Biden borders.

## RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON GAS

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Washington Gas, a leading provider of energy services in the national capital region.

In 1848, Congress passed, and President James Polk signed, an Act that chartered the

Washington Gas Light Company, making Washington Gas the first congressionally chartered gas company in the country. Washington Gas was originally responsible for installing gas lights in the United States Capitol, the White House, and along Pennsylvania Avenue in the District of Columbia. Washington Gas expanded its service into Maryland and Virginia around the turn of the 20th century, and today provides energy to more than 1.2 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the national capital region.

Over the years, Washington Gas and its employees have supported various nonprofit, community, civic, and charitable organizations. This support has enhanced the quality of life for countless individuals and families in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, providing millions of dollars for vocational training, job placements, and other paths to long-term employment, including more than \$500,000 in scholarships for underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Since 2018 alone, Washington Gas’ philanthropic programs and initiatives have contributed more than \$7 million in local support. This funding has advanced programs that support healthy and safe communities.

Washington Gas employees have provided more than 140,000 hours of volunteer service since 2005 to organizations in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, including the Capital Area Food Bank, Special Olympics DC, Healthy Babies Project, The Latino Student Fund, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, INROADS, Junior Achievement, The March of Dimes, YMCA of Greater Washington, A Wider Circle, and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the Washington Area Fuel Fund (WAFF). Since 1983, WAFF has provided over \$33 million to help more than 308,000 local families heat their homes during challenging times, no matter their heating source. Washington Gas pays all administrative fees to ensure that every WAFF dollar goes to a family in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Washington Gas on its 175th anniversary and thanking Washington Gas for its service to its customers and community.

## RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A GREAT EDUCATOR AND OUTSTANDING CAREER OF DR. MATTHEW CAUSEY

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and dear friend, Dr. Matthew Causey. Dr. Causey departed this life on September 6, 2023. He was born on August 5, 1943, in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Helen Kelly Jones and Matthew Causey. For most of his childhood, he grew up in St. Charles Parish in the small town of Killona. It was there that life-long values were formed under the loving and watchful eyes of his late grandparents, Eva and Andrew Kelly, Sr., and his 7 aunts and uncles. To him, his many first cousins were more like brothers and sisters, and to many close relatives, he was known as “Snook.”

Dr. Causey’s early education preparation culminated in his graduation from George Washington Carver High School in Hahnville, LA. Thereafter, he enrolled at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), and eventually transferred to the Baton Rouge campus, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education in 1966. He began his professional career as a math teacher in Orleans Parish Public Schools at Samuel S. Green Junior High School.

Always yearning to learn more, Matthew earned a Master of Science degree in Mathematics from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1970. Continuing his steadfast commitment to education, Matthew applied and was accepted into a doctoral program in mathematics education at the University of Houston. It was there that he met the love of his life, Lynette Smith, as they were both pursuing doctoral degrees. Upon completing their respective graduate programs, they returned to New Orleans. They married in 1978. Their lifelong love lasted 45 years and was the epitome of a love supreme. Their family grew to include 2 sons with a daughter in the middle: Erik Matthew Causey, Lauren Lynette Causey, and Alan Charles Causey.

He was an exceptional husband and father, as well as a true “Village Father” who always worked to help as many children as he could. Dr. Causey sought to advance academic excellence at SUNO by teaching, motivating, and inspiring his students with a love of learning. He rose to the rank of Associate Professor, served as Chair of the Mathematics and Physics Department, was Dean of the College of Science, and served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Throughout his tenure, the defining principle underlying all his decisions was his sincere love and respect for the students and the university.

His achievements were acknowledged in 1996 when he received the Presidential Faculty Excellence Award at SUNO. After a stellar and impactful career, Dr. Causey retired with more than 40 years of service to SUNO. Dr. Causey’s involvement and contributions to education reached beyond the walls of classrooms and into the community.

One of his proudest contributions is that in 1993, he was one of three trailblazing founders of the New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School, which focused on enriching STEM initiatives for high school students. That school is still in operation today. Dr. Causey also wrote a chapter in a book, entitled *Called to Sankofa*, which was a narrative account of post-Katrina New Orleans, highlighting the importance of maintaining an education system following a disaster. His academic work and contribution extended to many professional and advocacy organizations.

Dr. Causey was a long-time judge for the Regional Mathematics and Science Fair and was a board member of the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory. In appreciation for his involvement and contribution, he received numerous honors, awards, and special recognition from peers and community organizations. He was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was active for years in the Gamma Rho Chapter.

Above all, Matthew was a man of Faith and a dedicated member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. He served as a longstanding member of the Finance Council. For his outstanding service to the church, in 2019 he was

awarded the prestigious Order of St. Louis Medallion by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Matthew loved woodworking, photography and traveling; however, cooking was his favorite special interest.

He looked forward to cooking family-favorite dishes no matter how complicated, and he took great joy in the entire process. An accomplishment Matthew was extremely proud of was the publication of a cookbook that contained his favorite pictures and recipes. Matthew met life's challenges with strength, humility, and Faith. Matthew's kindness, gentleness and unassuming nature defined him, as he showed love to all he encountered. He had a calm demeanor and was spirit-filled.

Matthew was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, and friend. He loved to learn, to laugh, to talk and to listen. He loved life and was just so easy to love. Matthew leaves to celebrate and cherish his life and legacy, his beloved wife of 45 years, Dr. Lynette Smith Causey; his devoted and adoring children: son, Erik Matthew Causey (Mowelee), Arlington, VA; daughter, Dr. Lauren Lynette Causey, Thousand Oaks, CA; son, Lt. Col. Alan Charles Causey (Traci), Ft. Johnson, LA; his precious grandsons, Andrew, Cyril, and Gabriel Causey; his brother, Arthur Kelly Jones; his sister, Dianne Jones Smith; his aunt, Carol Pearson; his brother-in-law, Kevin J. Smith; his sister-in-law, Ruth Evans Jones; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, close relatives, and very special family friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Kelly Jones, his father Matthew Causey, and his brothers, Warren J. Jones, and Lionel Jones.

The Students of Southern University of New Orleans and New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and leadership of Dr. Causey. He will be forever remembered for all his contributions to advancing their education.

#### HONORING EVER-GREEN ENERGY AND DISTRICT ENERGY ST. PAUL

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two anniversary celebrations. This month, District Energy of Saint Paul will mark its 40th anniversary, and its subsidiary Ever-Green Energy, will mark its 25th year of providing heating and cooling to downtown Saint Paul and the nearby West Side neighborhood. For years, these organizations have demonstrated a path to sustainable energy deployment by heating and cooling hundreds of buildings, from homes to hotels, offices to sports venues, and more. Their deep knowledge of energy system management has allowed them to promote energy conservation and dependable heating and cooling services to their customers and—just as important—a path forward on a climate-resilient future.

Founded in 1983 as a public-private partnership, the nonprofit District Energy works with the City of Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Port Authority, and local business leaders to benefit our community. District Energy manages the largest hot water district system in North America, featuring biomass-fired cogeneration,

thermal storage, and solar thermal technology, sending hot water and chilled water throughout their network of over 200 buildings, including commercial, light industrial, and residential areas. This approach, which is rare in the United States, was championed by Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer, as a cleaner and more price-stable alternative to natural gas during the 1970s oil crisis.

In addition to excellent service, District Energy provides great value and exemplary energy efficiency. In 2011, District Energy launched the largest solar hot water installation in the country, and in 2019, they ended their use of coal. By 2050, they plan to achieve carbon neutrality by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent annually. Even the United Nations has taken note, recognizing District Energy as 1 of just 3 American systems achieving global standards for best practices. Now, District Energy customers pay less for energy today than they did 40 years ago.

Ever-Green Energy was founded in 1998, as a for-profit subsidiary of the nonprofit District Energy. Ever-Green Energy brings District Energy's expertise to not only the management of their operations but also allows other communities to employ their expertise by hiring them as consultants for new renewable energy projects. Ever-Green Energy manages 10 utility systems, assists communities in developing plans to meet their climate and carbon reduction goals, helps optimize energy systems, and more. In addition to being good for the planet this strategy is good for the residents of Saint Paul who enjoy low rates offset by the consulting revenue that subsidizes Ever-Green Energy's local operations.

Throughout their years of operation, District Energy and Ever-Green Energy have demonstrated a spirit of innovation and relentless progress combined with true expertise and sound management. Their operations have won praise from all over the world as well as the appreciation of our entire Saint Paul community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the anniversary of 2 organizations that not only provide heating and cooling for so many in Saint Paul but also help the rest of the world to become a little greener.

#### HONORING THE HEROISM AND COURAGEOUS MILITARY SERVICE OF HASKEL JOE HILL

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vietnam Era veteran and Purple Heart Recipient, Haskel Joe Hill (1947 through 2022) for his distinguished service in the U.S. Army. Hailing from Harriman, Tennessee, Haskel Hill served in the Army from October 1964 to October 1973. He fought in Vietnam and was captured by enemy troops, being held as a prisoner of war. His bravery and heroism during the conflict and throughout his capture earned him the Purple Heart.

Haskel Hill also received the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, awarded to him by the former government of South Vietnam, in recognition of his valor in combat with the

enemy. While he safely returned to America, he passed away due to complications resulting from exposure to Agent Orange during the conflict. Haskel Hill is survived by his proud daughters, Ida L. Hendrix of Jacksonville, Florida, Helana J. Cormier of Green Cove Springs, Florida, and Alice Hill of Kingsport, Tennessee. Vietnam Era veterans and their surviving family members deserve our deepest gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and it is long past due.

Please join me in remembering American hero and patriot, Haskel Hill for his strength, courage, and bravery. We are eternally grateful to him and his valiant military service to our great country.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLACK INVESTMENTS

#### HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2023*

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the legacy of service and leadership of Michael Pollack, a resident of Arizona's 5th Congressional District, and I join him in celebrating his 50th year of business as the President and Founder of Pollack Investments.

Pollack Investments specializes in commercial restoration and renovation projects, specifically long-term investments in shopping centers and other multi-tenant locations. In his industry, many developers will look at a property that has fallen into disrepair and only see a building ripe for demolition. But, in his own words, Michael sees "each real estate project as an opportunity to enhance the fabric of Arizona's cities, one development at a time."

That's not just a catchy line. After renewing these properties to their full potential, Michael insists that they are held for many years—even multiple decades—to ensure the long-term success of their surrounding neighborhoods. Michael's foresight and unique understanding of market trends have allowed him to transform Pollack Investments into a major driver of economic development across the Phoenix metro area, and what began with Michael building a single home in 1973 has grown into a staggering portfolio, with commercial real estate assets totaling in the tens-of-millions of square feet.

Michael's expertise has allowed for success where others have fallen short, remaining profitable even in the most difficult of economic times. And it's in these times that Michael's character has shown through. Whether refusing to take advantage of those affected by the housing crash and economic downturn or working with tenants to make it through the uncertainty of the COVID era without closing their doors, Michael has always remained focused on protecting the overall economic and social health of our cities and their residents. In this mission, I'm certain of his continued success.

More importantly, however, Michael's legacy extends far past his business. His same passion for revitalization has allowed entire communities to start fresh by bringing in new development and jobs has also given hope to individuals and organizations through his philanthropy and deep community involvement. One



indicator of a man's heart and his generosity is consistency—and Michael is widely recognized as one of Arizona's most generous business leaders both in times of plenty and times of hardship. I thank Michael for his tremendous example.

Michael's enduring legacy is one of inspiration, renewal, and compassion. He has set new standards in his industry and his community, and he has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless Arizonans who work, shop, and live in the communities he has worked hard to reinvigorate. On behalf of Arizona's 5th Congressional District, I thank Michael for inspiring others by his unwavering commitment to making our communities better than he found them—one development at a time.

#### HONORING CINNAIRE FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a Lansing, Michigan-based institution that for 30 years has been dedicated to revitalizing communities across our great state and around the country. Guided by the belief that every community needs affordable housing, job opportunities, high-quality healthcare, and childcare, Cinnaire has, since 1993, strategically invested in economically and racially marginalized communities that have historically been denied access to Capital. As this vibrant non-profit organization celebrates its 30th anniversary, I applaud Cinnaire for the systemic change it is helping to bring about.

Armed with a dream and vision to change lives and transform struggling neighborhoods, Cinnaire's founder and CEO Mark McDaniel sat down in 1993 at a table with a phone and a Rolodex of names and contact information. From those humble beginnings, he launched a new tax credit fund in Michigan, which over the past 3 decades has become a nearly \$6 billion investment.

As a community development financial organization, Mark and his team, which has now grown to 130 dedicated employees, have found creative ways to leverage existing financial resources from public and private sector organizations to provide access to investment funding, lending options, and other services that support economic development in the communities they serve. The result has been profound: since 1993, Cinnaire has supported more than 1,000 housing developments, provided more than 63,000 affordable apartments, and created or retained more than 92,000 jobs.

I have seen firsthand the transformative work Cinnaire is doing in Lansing, and I am so thankful for its commitment to systemic change and problem-solving. I salute Cinnaire for a 30-year commitment to ensuring everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, can lead lives of dignity and opportunity. May the good work of this organization continue long into the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 392, YEA on Roll Call No. 393, and YEA on Roll Call No. 394.

#### RECOGNIZING LYLE TENNIS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World War II veteran Lyle Tennis' honorable service to our Nation and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

Lyle Tennis was born in Unity, Wisconsin on September 18, 1923, and resides in Racine, Wisconsin. Lyle joined the United States Navy as a Lieutenant during World War II.

During his service in the Navy, his ship was the target of frequent and deadly Kamikaze attacks. During an attack, Lyle saved his crewmates' lives by notifying the crew to abandon the ship before sinking and returning to the ship to rescue the remaining crew. Lyle was awarded the distinguished Navy Cross for his heroic actions.

In addition to his Navy Cross, Lyle was awarded a Purple Heart, American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy Unit Commendation.

After WWII, Lyle served an additional 28 years in the Naval Reserves and had a career in education for 31 years. Lyle Tennis is a genuine American hero.

On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I am honored to wish Lyle Tennis a happy 100th birthday and recognize his distinguished service to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CORPORAL DANNY K. ALLEN

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the late Corporal Danny K. Allen for his valiant military service during the Vietnam War Era. Drafted in 1970, Corporal Allen proudly served in the United States Army for 3 years, where he was assigned a tour of duty on the Korean peninsula.

He is survived by his loving daughter, Retha Allen; son, Andrew Allen; and 5 grandchildren, LeAnna, Maycan, Anaya, Clay, and Tayte. As a devoted family man, his children remember him for his kindness and down-to-earth nature. They fondly recall how attentive he was to his daughter, then only 13, when she was hospitalized for an entire month; how he would hike 3 miles through the wintry snow just to

feed the livestock; and all the fun they shared on the family's one and only camping trip. Corporal Allen was a man of few words, but his words carried weight and respect from all who knew him.

Please join me in thanking Corporal Danny K. Allen for his distinguished military service to the United States of America.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2860, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine foreign ownership in U.S. agriculture.

SR-328A

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Medicare.

SD-106

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration, focusing on examining the Federal real estate portfolio.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine the state of flood insurance in America.

SD-538

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J.

Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.		SEPTEMBER 28		China's control of critical mineral supply chains through increased mining and processing in the United States as well as international engagement and trade.	
		9:30 a.m.	Committee on Armed Services		
2:30 p.m.			To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek H. Chollet, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary for Policy, and Cara L. Abercrombie, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense.	SD-366	
Committee on Indian Affairs				Committee on Environment and Public Works	
To hold hearings to examine water as a trust resource, focusing on access in Native communities.				Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight	
				To hold hearings to examine solutions to address beverage container waste.	
3:30 p.m.		10 a.m.	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	SD-406	
Committee on Rules and Administration			To hold hearings to examine opportunities to counter the People's Republic of		
To hold hearings to examine AI and the future of our elections.					

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S4609–S4635*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2855–2874, and S. Res. 353–354. **Page 4630**

**Measures Reported:**

Special Report entitled “Legislative Activities of the Committee on the Budget during the 117th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 118–99) **Page S4628**

**Measures Passed:**

**National Estuaries Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 353, expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as “National Estuaries Week”. **Page S4635**

**Congratulating the Louisiana State University Baseball Team:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 354, congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series. **Page S4635**

**Measures Considered:**

**Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:** 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: **Pages S4609–19**

**Pending:**

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4609**

Murray Amendment No. 1205 (to Amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date. **Page S4609**

Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 (listed above) to the bill.

**Pages S4609–10**

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date. **Page S4609**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 233), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092 (listed above) to the bill. **Pages S4618–19**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Murray motion to suspend Rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092. **Page S4619**

**George Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General. **Pages S4619, S4624–25**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 236), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S4624–25**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4619**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4619**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, September 21, 2023, and that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Gen. Eric M. Smith for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C.,

sections 601 and 8043: to be General, all post-cloture debate time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.

Page S4635

**Smith Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gen. Eric M. Smith for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8043: to be General.

Page S4619

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General.

Page S4619

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S4619

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S4619

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 83 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. EX. 235), General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the U.S. Air Force: to be General.

Pages S4619, S4624

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 89 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 234), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S4623

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S4619

**Messages from the House:**

Pages S4625–26

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:**

Page S4626

**Measures Read the First Time:**

Pages S4626, S4634–35

**Executive Communications:**

Pages S4626–27

**Petitions and Memorials:**

Pages S4627–28

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

Pages S4628–30

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S4631–32

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

Pages S4630–31

**Additional Statements:** Page S4625

**Amendments Submitted:** Pages S4633–34

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** Page S4634

**Privileges of the Floor:** Page S4634

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—236) Pages S4618–19, S4623–25

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:27 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4635.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine artificial intelligence in financial services, after receiving testimony from Melissa Koide, FinRegLab, and Daniel S. Gorfine, Gattaca Horizons LLC, both of Washington, D.C.; and Michael P. Wellman, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### CHILD CARE

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine child care since the pandemic, focusing on macroeconomic impacts of public policy measures, after receiving testimony from J. Glenn Hopkins, Hopkins House—A Center for Children and Their Families, Alexandria, Virginia; Sarah Hardy, Bobbie, San Francisco, California; and Kathryn Anne Edwards, Washington, D.C.

### PUBLIC INVESTMENT

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine public investment, after receiving testimony from Benjamin H. Harris, The Brookings Institution, and Shayna Strom, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, both of Washington, D.C.; Veronica Puentes, New Flyer, St. Cloud, Minnesota; Veronique de Rugy, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia; and Tyler Goodspeed, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, who was introduced by Senator Lee, and Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, who was introduced by Senator McConnell,

each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### DROUGHT IMPACTS

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine drought impacts on drinking water access and water availability, after receiving testimony from Michael Brain, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science; Kyle Jones, Community Water Center, Sacramento, California; Jonathan Smith, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Oregon; and Albert Barker, Idaho Water Resources Board, Boise.

### DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife concluded a hearing to examine drinking water infrastructure and tribal communities, after receiving testimony from Brian Bennon, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Phoenix; Ken Norton, National Tribal Water Council, Flagstaff, Arizona; Jola WallowingBull, Northern Arapaho Tribal Engineering Department, Fort Washakie, Wyoming.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of

Haiti, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, and Tobin John Bradley, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State.

### THE ACCOMMODATION PROCESS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine restoring transparency and accountability in the accommodation process, after receiving testimony from Sean M. Stiff, Legislative Attorney, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mark J. Rozell, George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government, Arlington, Virginia; and James H. Townsend, Wayne State Law School Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, Detroit, Michigan.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving mental health and suicide prevention measures for our Nation's veterans, after receiving testimony from Matthew Miller, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, and Susan Black, Suicide Prevention Officer, Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; John Eaton, Wounded Warrior Project, St. Augustine, Florida; and Gilly Cantor, Syracuse University D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse, New York.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 34 public bills, H.R. 5581–5614; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 65–66; and H. Res. 704–711, were introduced. **Pages H4436–38**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H4439–40**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 615, to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agri-

culture, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–203, Part 1);

H.R. 1245, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–204);

H.R. 1726, to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–205, Part 1);

H.R. 764, to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from

the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (H. Rept. 118–206); and

H.R. 5110, 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 for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–207). **Page H4436**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thompson (PA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4411**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H4417**

**Committee Election:** The House agreed to H. Res. 704, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H4419**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m. **Page H4425**

**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024:** The House failed to agree to the motion to instruct 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 205 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 400. **Page H4426**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, September 18th.

**Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023:** H.R. 1530, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 401; **Pages H4426–27**

**Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act:** H.R. 3371, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; and **Page H4427**

**Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act:** H.R. 2872, amended, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act; **Page H4427**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.”. **Page H4427**

**Sergeant at Arms—Privileged Resolution:** The House agreed to H. Res. 705, that William McFarland of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives. **Page H4427**

**Administration of the Oath of Office to the Sergeant at Arms:** The Speaker administered the Oath of Office to William McFarland, Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives. **Page H4427**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, September 21st. **Page H4436**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4426 and H4426–27.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES ON DEFENSE INNOVATION AND DETERRENCE

**Committee on Armed Services:** Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Industry Perspectives on Defense Innovation and Deterrence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MERITOCRACY IN THE MILITARY SERVICES: ACCESSION, PROMOTION, AND COMMAND SELECTION

**Committee on Armed Services:** Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Meritocracy in the Military Services: Accession, Promotion, and Command Selection”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Douglas Stitt, U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1; Vice Admiral Richard Cheeseman, Jr., U.S. Navy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Personnel; Lieutenant General Caroline M. Miller, U.S. Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services; Michael Strobl, Senior Executive Service, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps; Katharine Kelley, Senior Executive Service, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Human Capital, U.S. Space Force; and public witnesses.



**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a markup on legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was ordered reported, without amendment.

**STRENGTHENING WIOA: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR JOBBEEKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND TAXPAYERS**

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Strengthening WIOA: Improving Outcomes for Jobseekers, Employers, and Taxpayers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**AMERICAN HYDROPOWER: UNLEASHING RELIABLE, RENEWABLE, CLEAN POWER ACROSS THE U.S.**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “American Hydropower: Unleashing Reliable, Renewable, Clean Power Across the U.S.”. Testimony was heard from Terry Turpin, Director of the Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; John Hairston, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; Thomas P. Smith, Chief of Operation and Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and a public witness.

**MAPPING AMERICA’S SUPPLY CHAINS: SOLUTIONS TO UNLEASH INNOVATION, BOOST ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, AND BEAT CHINA**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Mapping America’s Supply Chains: Solutions to Unleash Innovation, Boost Economic Resilience, and Beat China”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**AT WHAT COST: OVERSIGHT OF HOW THE IRA’S PRICE SETTING SCHEME MEANS FEWER CURES FOR PATIENTS**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “At What Cost: Oversight of How the IRA’s Price Setting Scheme Means Fewer Cures for Patients”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3378, the “Agricultural Security Risk Review Act”; H.R. 5409, the “Safeguarding American Farms from Foreign Influence Act”; H.R. 760, the “Chinese Military and Surveillance Com-

pany Sanctions Act”; H.R. 5472, the “FinCEN Oversight and Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 5485, the “Financial Privacy Act of 2023”; H.R. 5119, the “Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act”; H.R. 5523, the “Financial Access Improvements Act”; H.R. 5512, the “Russia and Belarus Financial Sanctions Act of 2023”; H.R. 5524, the “Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act”; H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”; and H.R. 5557, the “Combating Foreign Surveillance Spyware Sanctions Act”. H.R. 3378, H.R. 5409, H.R. 760, H.R. 5472, H.R. 5485, H.R. 5119, H.R. 5523, H.R. 5512, H.R. 5524, H.R. 5403, and H.R. 5557 were ordered reported, as amended.

**THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF MAYORKAS’ OPEN BORDER**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border”. Testimony was heard from Jonathan W. Lines, County Supervisor, District 2, Yuma County, Arizona; Joseph C. Borelli, New York City Council, New York; and a public witness.

**OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Election Commission”. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Election Commission officials: Shana M. Broussard, Commissioner; Sean J. Cooksey, Vice Chairman; Allen Dickerson, Commissioner; Dara Lindenbaum, Chair; Christopher Skinner, Inspector General; James E. Trainor III, Commissioner; and Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner.

**OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice”. Testimony was heard from Merrick Garland, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 929, the “Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023”; H.R. 934, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; H.R. 1786, the “GROW Act”; H.R. 3448, the “American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4051, the “SHARKED Act”; and H.R. 4596, the “Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2023”. H.R. 934, H.R. 4051, and H.R. 3448 were ordered reported,

as amended. H.R. 4596, H.R. 1786, and H.R. 929 were ordered reported, without amendment.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4428, the “Guidance Clarity Act of 2023”; H.R. 4984, the “D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act”; H.R. 5040, the “Cannabis Users’ Restoration of Eligibility Act”; H.R. 5527, to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes; H.R. 5528, to evaluate the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes; H.R. 599, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the “Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office”; H.R. 3865, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 8th Street in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, as the “Lieutenant William D. Lebo Post Office Building”; H.R. 3947, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 859 North State Road 21 in Melrose, Florida, as the “Pamela Jane Rock Post Office Building”; and H.R. 5034, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2119 Market Square in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, as the “Lieutenant General Samuel E. Ebbesen Post Office”. H.R. 4984, H.R. 5040, H.R. 5527, H.R. 4428, H.R. 5528, and H.R. 599 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3865, H.R. 5034, H.R. 3947 were ordered reported, without amendment.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT; UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2023; CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO, MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, FOR SUBVERTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND DEPRIVING THE CITIZENS OF NEW MEXICO OF THEIR RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act”; H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”; and H. Res. 684, condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of and H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act,

2024”, H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”, and H. Res. 684, Condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 4 and pro forma amendments described in section 5. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 5 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 4 of the resolution are waived. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 5 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1130, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in

the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 684, Condemning the actions of Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, for subverting the Second Amendment to the Constitution and depriving the citizens of New Mexico of their right to bear arms, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 684. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

#### **A BAR TOO HIGH: CONCERNS WITH CEQ'S PROPOSED REGULATORY HURDLE FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTING**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled "A Bar Too High: Concerns with CEQ's Proposed Regulatory Hurdle for Federal Contracting". Testimony was heard from Victoria Killion, Legislative Attorney, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

#### **ATHLETES AND INNOVATORS: ANALYZING NIL'S IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETES**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Athletes and Innovators: Analyzing NIL's Impact on Entrepreneurial Collegiate Athletes". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Department of Transportation's Policies and Programs". Testimony was heard from Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

#### **LESS IS MORE: THE IMPACT OF BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE ON VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Less is More: The Impact of Bureaucratic Red Tape on Veterans' Education Benefits". Testimony was heard from Joseph Garcia, Executive Director, Education Service Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

#### **VA PROCUREMENT: MADE IN AMERICA**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "VA Procurement: Made in America". Testimony was heard from Michael D. Parrish, Principal Executive Director and Chief Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **REFORMING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES TO SAFEGUARD U.S. SUPPLY CHAINS AND COMBAT CHINA**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled "Reforming the Generalized System of Preferences to Safeguard U.S. Supply Chains and Combat China". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### *Joint Meetings*

#### **CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION**

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine growing the economy of the future, focusing on job training for the clean energy transition, after receiving testimony from Courtenay Eichhorst, United Association Local Union 412, on behalf of New Mexico Building Trades, and Tracy Hartzler, Central New Mexico Community College, both of Albuquerque; and William W. Beach, Economic Policy Innovation Center, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, both of Washington, D.C.

#### **VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA**

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission concluded a hearing to examine Putin's personal prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza, after receiving

testimony from Evgenia Kara-Murza, Free Russia Foundation; and Meghan McCain.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* business meeting to consider S. 384, to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 912, to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, S. 924, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historic Park”, S. 1015, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, S. 1059, to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, S. 1088, to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, S. 1405, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1657, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, S.

1760, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, S. 2020, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, S. 2042, to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, S. 2136, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, S. 2149, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and S. 2216, to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* business meeting to consider S. 1573, to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, S. 2415, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, S. 1624, to require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, S. 2840, to improve access to and the quality of primary health care, expand the health workforce, and other pending calendar business, 11 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 11 a.m., SD-562.

*Special Committee on Aging:* to hold hearings to examine ensuring accessible government technology for people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans, 9 a.m., SD-106.

### House

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Connecting Every American: The Future of Rural Broadband Funding”, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Thursday, September 21

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Gen. Randy A. George, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gen. Eric M. Smith for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, September 21

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** To be announced.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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