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No. 17

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 30, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PETE STAUBER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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 MAYOR FRANK ORTIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride that I rise to recognize my longtime friend, Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis.

Mayor Ortis has been a resident of Pembroke Pines since 1977 and has a long history of service to our community. He was elected to the Pembroke Pines City Commission in 1996 and

elected as its mayor in 2004, serving in that position for the last 20 years.

His ties run deep, as he has served and serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Broward and Florida League of Cities; chairman of the United States Conference of Mayors Committee on Jobs, Education, and the Workforce; the United States Conference of Mayors vice chair for Sports and Recreation, Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment, and Sports; and the Broward County Workforce One Development Board.

A graduate of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, Mayor Ortis also served as president of the Florida State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and as president of the Broward County AFL-CIO.

His work to improve the lives of working families made transformative impacts throughout the Sunshine State. As a devoted public servant for more than 27 years, Mayor Ortis helped transform the city of Pembroke Pines into a world-class city to live, work, and visit.

His leadership expanded the city's arts and culture footprint, its outstanding schools, and the recreational offerings it provides to residents of all ages.

Under his leadership, Pembroke Pines was designated as an All-America City, which recognizes communities that "leverage civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation to successfully address local issues." That is a very apt description for the imprint Mayor Ortis has and continues to make.

Mayor Frank Ortis leads with his heart, and, on behalf of the people of Florida's 25th Congressional District, we are grateful for his leadership and wish him well on his retirement from public service. I will miss him. I will miss working alongside him, but our loss is his family's gain.

I wish Frank a hearty congratulations on his retirement and am grate-

ful for his invaluable work for the residents of Pembroke Pines, Broward County, and the State of Florida.

### INFLATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, inflation has risen by over 17.2 percent. The spike in prices from the gas pump to the grocery store has forced Americans to spend, additionally, \$11,000 a year just to afford basic goods.

A family can't afford repair bills that have increased due to inflation, young people cannot save money to buy a home when the price of rent has increased by 18 percent, and seniors can't afford their medications when food prices have risen by 20 percent in just 3 years.

This inflation is a tax on each and every American, and it is caused by the runaway spending of President Joe Biden's budget. American families cannot afford to carry on with business as usual. Our country cannot afford for inflation to outpace wages year after year while American families pay the price, and the Biden administration promotes continued reckless spending.

At a time when Americans are already paying high heating prices, President Biden canceled the sale of liquefied natural gas, cutting jobs here at home, and raising the cost to heat our homes.

It is time to address the inflation caused by Joe Biden's 3-year spending spree. It is time now to return to fiscal responsibility.

It is time to stop growing our deficit and borrowing money from China to subsidize far-left energy programs.

Americans are counting on us to counter this out-of-control inflation,

□ 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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and it is time that the President puts what is good for our country ahead of what would benefit him politically.

#### RESECURE OUR BORDER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past week, we learned that the Biden administration's open border policies have allowed an Al-Shabaab terrorist to live freely in the United States for almost a year.

By promoting catch and release policies that allowed this to occur, President Biden has shown that he is uninterested in keeping American communities safe.

Ending the remain in Mexico policy, reinstating catch and release, and halting the construction of our border wall have led to a record surge of illegal immigrants and a surge of illegal drugs pouring into our Nation, including deadly fentanyl.

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez was killed in the line of duty just outside of Mission, Texas, while pursuing a group of illegal immigrants. This week, it is critical that we pass the Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act to protect our border communities by criminalizing fleeing from agents or officers during a high-speed chase.

Americans deserve a border that is secure and a Nation that is safe. President Biden needs to immediately take action to resecure our border and stop the flow of deadly drugs and illegal immigrants into these great United States.

#### IN HONOR OF OFFICERS JACOB NORIEGA AND TY VESPERAS

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, our law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe.

Last month, that bravery was put on full display when first responders were called to UNLV during a horrific active shooter alert, which tragically ended in the deaths of three professors and the traumatization of countless other students and staff.

Among those first responders were metro officers Jacob Noriega and Ty Vesperas, who encountered a fourth shooting victim immediately upon arriving at the scene. With Officer Noriega applying pressure to the victim's chest wound and Officer Vesperas racing them in a cruiser to a nearby ambulance, these officers were critical in saving the victim's life. They are heroes who ran toward danger. That is why we must stand by our law enforcement. When they see an opportunity to help someone in need, they don't hesitate.

These heroic actions in the face of a deadly threat were a silver lining on a very dark day in our community. The recognition they received for their lifesaving efforts from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is well de-

served. I will continue to do everything I can in Congress to make sure our law enforcement has all the support they need to protect southern Nevada families.

#### RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his 25 years of dedicated service to Temple Beth Sholom in southern Nevada.

Before joining Temple Beth Sholom in 1998, Rabbi Goodman served as the assistant rabbi in Comunidad Bet-El de Mexico in Mexico City, one of the largest conservative synagogues in Latin America.

Rabbi Goodman has served as the senior rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom in Las Vegas for 25 years, where his charisma and dedication has made a profound impact on our community. His dedication has increased attendance at Shabbat services significantly during his tenure and transformed Temple Beth Sholom into a more vibrant, stronger congregation.

In 2013, Rabbi Goodman was selected by The Daily Forward as one of America's most inspiring rabbis among the distinguished 36 rabbis shaping the 21st century.

In the past, he has served as a member of the Chancellor's Rabbinic Advisory Committee at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a member of the executive committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, and as president of the Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his many years of dedicated service to southern Nevada and congratulating Rabbi Goodman on his 25th Anniversary Jubilee.

#### LIFE AND LEGACY OF CECIL O'BRATE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Cecil O'Brate, who passed away on January 20 at the age of 95.

Cecil was born in 1928 at the beginning of the Great Depression. Throughout his childhood, he worked countless jobs to help support his family, eventually moving from Oklahoma to Kansas to farm 3,000 acres of rented Kansas farmland with his grandparents when he was 18. There, he met the love of his life, Frances Cole, with whom he celebrated 76 years of marriage together last year.

By 1966, Cecil had invested in agricultural equipment manufacturing and, by 1984, he had become an oil and gas producer in Kansas.

At the end of his life, Cecil was the largest independent oil and gas producer in the entire State of Kansas, and he owned those original 3,000 acres that he rented in 1948, along with farmland across Kansas and Colorado—the

fruits of a lifetime of tireless work and ingenuity.

Cecil was a jack-of-all-trades. In addition to farming, equipment manufacturing, and oil and gas production, Cecil was a community bank owner, an ethanol producer, and a real estate developer.

In 2013, Cecil and Frances established the O'Brate Foundation, which has provided nearly \$7 million in college scholarships to students, many of whom grew up in poverty and in the foster care system. Cecil was also a major benefactor to his beloved Oklahoma State University, making transformational investments in the university's athletics programs.

Cecil lived by his motto, "Make it Happen." He once said, I have found no substitute for an honest day's work, an inquisitive mind, and a desire to always do more.

In all that he did, Cecil lived out the Kansas conservative values of faith, family, hard work, personal responsibility, and love for your neighbor.

Cecil was a loving father and a devoted husband who was blessed to live long enough to meet his great-great-granddaughter. His legacy of generosity and leadership will be missed dearly.

To Cecil's wife, Frances; his 4 sons, Patrick, Michael, Steve, and Mark, along with their wives; and his 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and his great-great-granddaughter, as well as his business partners and the entire American Warrior family, my thoughts and prayers are with you as you remember Cecil's legacy of love.

□ 1015

#### HONORING MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT ON JANUARY FENTANYL SEIZURE

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Minnesota heroes.

Earlier this month, the Washington County Drug Task Force, made up of law enforcement from Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties, successfully executed the largest fentanyl seizure in Minnesota history.

The officers seized over 30,000 grams of fentanyl pills and charged six individuals for their role in trafficking these drugs. It is difficult to comprehend the devastation that could have befallen these families if those pills had reached our community.

In Minnesota, we know that fighting the fentanyl crisis will require all members of our communities to do their part.

From those dedicated members of Minnesota law enforcement to the parents and advocates who have shared their stories with me, to the educators working to raise awareness about the dangers of illicit drugs, we all have a

role to play in saving lives and addressing this crisis. That is why I am working across the aisle to expand overdose prevention tools and hold drug traffickers accountable.

A grateful community thanks every member of law enforcement for the work they do every day to keep our communities safe.

#### ISRAELI HOSTAGES

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Naama Levy. Naama is just 19 years old. Before October 7, she was full of joy with dreams of helping people in need.

She was last recorded on a cell phone being dragged by her hair at gunpoint, injured and bound by Hamas terrorists in Gaza. On October 7, Naama and more than 240 other men, women, and children were kidnapped from their homes and their communities, as even more innocent people were killed, sexually assaulted, and tortured.

Naama and 135 other hostages are still being held captive in Gaza, enduring unspeakable trauma at the hands of Hamas who refuse to let them go.

I stand here today to demand that Hamas release Naama immediately with all of the other hostages, and I stand with Israel as it works to destroy Hamas and free Naama and its other citizens wrongfully held by this terrorist group.

It is past time that we bring Naama home. We must bring them all home.

#### SUPPORT FOR CREDIT UNIONS

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the more than 4,700 credit unions across the country, including 86 chartered in my home State of Minnesota.

As not-for-profit, member-owned financial institutions, credit unions work every day to improve the financial well-being of American households and communities, including the nearly 300,000 credit union members in Minnesota's Second District.

It is estimated that Minnesota credit unions have provided more than \$227 million in direct financial benefit to our State. Local branches in the Second Congressional District have done important work helping customers gain early access to their paychecks, supporting local school athletic programs and veterans' organizations, and hosting community events. Our credit unions have put community and customer trust first.

This month credit unions in Minnesota and nationwide will be represented by the newly launched America's Credit Unions to better serve the more than 140 million people who rely on them for financial well-being.

I am a proud supporter of Minnesota and America's credit unions in Congress.

#### OPEN BORDERS THREATEN AMERICAN INTERESTS

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's open-border policies have rolled out the welcome mat for illegals: for drug traffickers, for terrorists, and for foreign nationals with ties to China.

Under President Biden's watch, 302,000 illegals were apprehended at our border in December—the highest number ever recorded—which means that roughly 10,000 illegal immigrants are crossing our border every single day.

The chaos and lawlessness must end. That is why I voted for the Secure the Border Act to finish the wall and fully fund our Border Patrol agents.

That is why I introduced Sarah's Law, in honor of 21-year-old Sarah Root who was killed by an illegal immigrant who was driving while drunk. The law would detain and prosecute illegal immigrants who seriously injure or kill American citizens.

That is why I also introduced legislation to seize money from the drug cartels so that we can finish the border wall and keep deadly fentanyl out of our rural communities.

On my 36-county tour of Iowa, I have heard from countless Iowans who want to secure the border and keep our communities safe. So do I. I promise that I will continue to hold President Biden accountable for his open-border policies that are extremely reckless and destroying our country. I will vote to impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his dereliction of duties when it comes to our border. The American people and Iowans deserve nothing less.

#### AMERICAN STRENGTH MUST PREVAIL AGAINST CHINA

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, China is the greatest threat to our country and our economy. Over the last several years, China has deployed spy balloons in our airspace to surveil our military bases, bought up our farmland, unleashed the COVID-19 virus on the world, and manufactured deadly fentanyl that is pouring over our border.

We must counter China's aggression with American strength. This Congress, I have voted to impose sanctions on Chinese fentanyl manufacturers, condemn China's illegal spy balloons, and ban oil sales from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are going to China.

I am so glad that my bill to ban China from buying American farmland passed the House last March.

When I am traveling all 36 counties in my district, stopping China from buying our farmland is one of the top concerns of Iowans. That is why President Biden must sign this legislation into law to keep American farmland in the hands of the American farmer and not our foreign enemies.

While China invests heavily in their military and works to destabilize our economy, I will work nonstop to protect our families, farmers, and businesses from China.

On this mission, we cannot falter, and so as long as I am in Congress, we won't.

#### THE FUTURE OF UKRAINE AND ISRAEL AND BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it has been 112 days since Hamas' horrific attacks against Israel on October 7. It has also been 1 year and 11 months since Putin launched his brutal invasion against Ukraine.

The world is on fire with conflict, and democratic countries are under attack. For months, Ukraine and Israel aid has been held hostage by a significant number of my Republican colleagues who appear to have taken the side of Russia. Putin and Iran's Ayatollah are enjoying these political fights, which is only giving them an advantage.

These war criminals—I am talking about Putin and the Ayatollah—are seizing on opportunities regardless of the cost. Just as Iran has enabled their terrorist proxies, the Houthis are attacking our military.

Our actions today will determine the future success of democracies and free societies around the world. That is really what is at stake.

I have been to Ukraine twice in the last year. I have been to Israel many times. Democracy is critical in those parts of the world. They share our values and freedoms that we cherish.

I have been to Gaza where Hamas has oppressed the Palestinian people with poverty, violence, and a lack of opportunity. They have used them as human shields. We must help the Palestinian people out of this horrific situation starting with humanitarian aid. The Palestinians have a right to determine their own future under a two-state solution.

We need to pass a supplemental aid package to provide immediate assistance as we have before in a bipartisan effort. We need to equip Ukraine and Israel with critical security and military needs to defend their sovereignties. By the way, when we do this, we defend our democracy and democracies around the world. We do this in our own interests. We need humanitarian aid for the Palestinians and Armenian refugees removed from their historical home in Nagorno-Karabakh.

These are all part of what the supplemental package does. By the way, it provides assistance for Taiwan.

All this costs the United States less than 1 percent of our GDP without any U.S. troops on the ground. Let me repeat that: It costs less than 1 percent of our GDP. No U.S. troops are being impacted directly.

Ukraine has regained 50 percent of the land Russia originally took, and they have reopened the Black Sea to export grain.

These are the impacts on Russia: Russia has lost over 315,000 troops and two-thirds of their pre-invasion tanks. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very good deal for our adversary, Russia.

For us, the Ukrainian President has said in this Chamber 2 years ago that

this was an investment in global security and democracy.

We need to get the hostages released by Hamas. Israel has been working on that, and there are negotiations taking place right now.

We know that with the recent election in Taiwan, as a prime example, there is a new chapter in their future democracy. Be that as it may, we must send a strong message to Putin of Russia, to Xi of China, and the Ayatollah of Iran and its terrorist proxies, like Hezbollah and Hamas. These are adversaries of the United States, and, therefore, we must be together as a country and as Americans in a bipartisan fashion.

So House Republicans who are demanding border security in exchange for this package, it has been put on the table. We are negotiating it.

Nevertheless, if they are serious about border security, I think they would want to work and see the final language on the product that the Senate is working on before condemning it and criticizing it.

Democrats have put forth dozens of bipartisan bills, like the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farmworker Modernization Act, none of which have been brought forth for a vote, and many of them are bipartisan.

As the bipartisan group of Senators finalize their border deal, unfortunately, extreme MAGA Republicans and Donald Trump want to torpedo it; for what?

It is for political reasons.

The border is a problem. We agree; and we have a legislative solution before us.

It is the height of hypocrisy to say: No. We are not going to do anything right now. It really is a problem. It really is a problem, but we are going to wait 10 months.

What is wrong with us?

The American public gets this. President Biden is ready to sign this deal in its current form to address the surge of migrants, hire more Border Patrol agents, and combat the flow of fentanyl and human trafficking. He is willing to do that now. We ought to be working together and not waiting for an election after November.

Congress cannot lose sight of what is at stake. We can walk, talk, and chew gum at the same time. We can get assistance to Ukraine and Israel along with border security. That is our job. That is what we are supposed to do.

By the way, we can get a budget, too. This Congress is doing nothing, absolutely nothing. So let's stop with the politics. Our national security depends upon it. Let's get a deal done.

#### ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST SECRETARY MAYORKAS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, after nearly a year-long and thorough investigation

by the House Committee on Homeland Security, House Republicans have released Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for his willful and systemic refusal to comply with the law and breach of the public trust.

As many of my fellow Tennesseans know, for quite some time now I have fully supported the House's efforts to examine whether Secretary Mayorkas has committed an impeachable offense. Now, after an investigation into the causes, costs, and consequences of Secretary Mayorkas' actions that have exacerbated this historic humanitarian crisis at our southern border, the time has come to officially release Articles of Impeachment.

According to the House Committee on Homeland Security, DHS Secretary Mayorkas is "chiefly responsible for the chaos and devastation that has unfolded over the past 3 years" at America's borders and ports of entry.

The committee has found that Secretary Mayorkas violated his oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States by willfully and systematically refusing to comply with Federal immigration laws. He has also acted in a manner subversive of the law.

These subversive actions and willful negligence of our country's laws have led to an unprecedented level of illegal immigration at our southern border and ports of entry, a fentanyl crisis killing thousands of Tennesseans, and skyrocketing financial costs on the U.S. taxpayers.

That is why the first Article of Impeachment being released is titled, "Willful and Systemic Refusal to Comply with the Law."

The second Article of Impeachment being released is titled, "Breach of Public Trust." As a Cabinet official and someone in the line of succession to the Presidency, the American people must trust Secretary Mayorkas to say and do the right thing. Unfortunately, he has done exactly the opposite. He has knowingly made false statements about his refusal to comply with the law and the impact his decisions have had.

□ 1030

He has even obstructed the committee's work to save the American people from this catastrophe.

We must take all national security threats seriously and after a thorough, fair, and comprehensive investigation into Secretary Mayorkas, remaining in his position is a threat to our national security.

Not only has he willfully ignored his constitutional duty to defend our country and breached the public trust, but he has also demonstrated an unwillingness to change course or correct his mistakes. One could only presume that he would continue to be a threat to the health of our Nation, its security, and our Constitution.

Americans deserve better than what they are getting. Every town in America doesn't have to be a border town. We must exercise our constitutional duty and hold Secretary Mayorkas accountable to our best abilities. It is, therefore, my sad but straightforward duty to vote for his impeachment and support his removal from office.

#### END OF LIFE CARE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of our society's greatest failures is our inability to equip and inform our families at the time of greatest stress and vulnerability: the end of life.

Even though Sarah Palin lied about "death panels," I am proud to have been the foremost champion of protecting families and equipping them with the information they need to make those decisions before they are too late to inform those decisions and guarantee their wishes are respected and enforced.

No one wants to die in a hospital room but, sadly, too many people do so. Separated from their loved ones, too many are isolated from family and friends in those final hours. It doesn't have to be that way.

I fought for years to raise awareness to equip families to protect themselves and their loved ones, and to encourage doctors to have those often difficult conversations to do their part for those patients.

I led the battle for the Federal Government to put a value on those discussions. The Federal Government would spend tens of thousands of dollars for a 96-year-old woman with terminal cancer, but wouldn't pay \$150 for her doctor to have the discussion with her and her family to understand her choices, how to manage it, and how to make sure her choices, whatever they were, were respected and enforced.

I led the battle for the Federal Government to put a value on that protection by adding end-of-life conversations to the list of services eligible for Medicare reimbursement. It took longer and was made more difficult by Sarah Palin's lies about death panels but, nonetheless, we won that fight.

Now doctors have the opportunity to invest their time and energy to have those often difficult discussions. This work ultimately had bipartisan, bicameral support. I enjoyed my partnership with the late Senator Johnny Isakson and with Senator MARK WARNER.

We finally changed that policy for the Federal Government but, sadly, too few people today take advantage of it until it is too late and their loved ones face end of life at a hospital hooked up to some impersonal machine.

There are great resources and protections, but only if we help people understand how to take advantage of them.

For example, advanced directives capture the wishes of the patient and have an enforceable document, or hospice care, which is not just for the final hours of life.

Hospice care often, today, is not just the final hours. It can be many days, even weeks. President Jimmy Carter is the best example of living with hospice, a higher quality of care. Actually, many people on hospice live longer and enjoy that higher quality of life with their families.

I am proud of our progress, but so much more needs to be done to protect our families when they are most vulnerable and in need.

One other item: We all need to do our part by filling out advanced directives and making our wishes known so people don't have to guess what our wishes are. It is the least we can do for our families and loved ones.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALENE "JERRI" MILLS SUTTON

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the extraordinary life of my good friend GERALENE "Jerri" Mills Sutton. Jerri was born and raised in Greenville, North Carolina, and described herself as a daughter of eastern North Carolina.

A passionate educator, Jerri started her career with the Virginia State Department of Education. Following her tenure, she traveled the world working with the United Nations and advocating for the improvement of educational systems in developing countries. As someone who has done so much medical work in these developing countries, I have seen firsthand how desperately needed good educational systems are. Jerri saw this and put her words into action.

She returned to eastern North Carolina with an unwavering commitment to better her community and spearheaded the restoration of the Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church in Greenville, North Carolina.

After settling in Beaufort, North Carolina, a beautiful eastern coastal town, Jerri immersed herself in the vibrant, rich, and welcoming community there. She found solace in the beauty of the coastal environment and enjoyed gazing out at the sunset from the porch of her home.

In 2017, she took the role of founding trustee and president of the Maritime Heritage Foundation of Beaufort, where I served as an honorary trustee and was honored to work with her also. Her leadership played a pivotal role in establishing the Foundation's "Gallants Channel" Campaign Cabinet, which advanced fundraising for expanding the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

Under her leadership, they raised \$1.5 million for the Foundation, and cam-

paigned our legislators in Raleigh, received \$3 million funded by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Jerri peacefully passed away on January 3, surrounded by her loved ones in Durham.

Her enduring legacy of stewardship and compassion and humanitarian spirit continues to touch the lives of all those she encountered. Today, we honor Jerri for her inspiring life and the tremendous legacy of love and commitment she had.

#### RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, North Carolina, which has been named the 2024 Marine Corps Air Station of the year.

Cherry Point is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, the 2D Logistics Group, and to the Marine Corps Fleet Readiness Center, FRC East.

Cherry Point provides a steady flow of trained aviators, which is so critical in this very tumultuous time in the world today.

Established in 1942, Cherry Point has grown to become the United States' largest Marine Corps Air Station. This prestigious award is testament to the strong performance of our marines in various operational aspects, high-profile asset and project management, community engagement, innovation, administrative discipline, and unwavering teamwork.

I commend the leadership of Colonel Brendan Burks, as well as former XO Colonel Mike Huber, as well as the fine men and women stationed there who justifiably earned this distinguished recognition.

I am grateful for our brave servicemembers, as well as their families, who have sacrificed so much to protect us and this great Nation. It is my honor to represent Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and its proud community, which strongly supports our troops. Its unwavering support has played a pivotal role in the base's growth. At present time, there is close to \$1 billion in Marine Corps construction going on at Cherry Point.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate our marines and the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point on a well-deserved recognition. May God bless all of the airmen and servicemembers serving there. Semper Fi.

#### CRISIS AT OUR BORDER

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about our border.

On the first day of the Presidency of Joe Biden, he did what no other Nation's leader has ever done. He invited an invasion of our own country.

In that decision, there has been close to 10 million illegal individuals coming in this country. More than 200 individuals have been caught on the terrorist watch list. No legislation is needed to fix this absolute disaster.

Kamala Harris, the "border czar," has done absolutely nothing. We are

now facing a calamity of unrecognized proportion in this Nation's history.

Today, the President could end this disaster by doing just a few things: end catch and release; cease the exploitation of parole authority; reinstate Remain in Mexico; expand expedited removal authority; and renew building the wall.

The President has the authority today to stop this. He doesn't require legislation. He is shirking on his duty as President of the United States to end this crisis.

#### BRING AMIRAM COOPER AND ALL THE HOSTAGES HOME

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

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Amiram Cooper.

Mr. Cooper is a loving grandfather of nine. He is a poet and composer. His friends and family describe him as someone who strives for peace in every corner of the world.

On October 7, Mr. Cooper was one of the 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists. He and 135 hostages are still held captive in Gaza, enduring unthinkable suffering and trauma.

I stand here to demand today that Hamas immediately release Amiram, along with all the other remaining hostages. Those who have been released, including Amiram's wife, have shared horror stories about the inhumane conditions. We must stand with Israel as it works to destroy Hamas and free its innocent citizens who are wrongfully held captive under unthinkable conditions and torment. It is time to bring Amiram home. It is time to bring them all home.

#### 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 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

Pastor Jack Hibbs, Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, Chino, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, together we come before You in humility as a people in need of Your forgiveness, Your mercy, Your goodness, and Your grace.

For these 250 or so years, our fathers in this Congress have prayed for Your

guidance and protection. We stand here in humble petition that You today might do the same, that this Nation and its unparalleled Constitution—Your great gift to all freedom loving people—might be renewed here and across this land as a beacon of hope to all who seek peace.

I ask You today, Father, to bring to us a great awakening of righteousness and confidence in You who alone are mighty to save.

Hear my cry in this hour of great need that we might be humbly blessed before You in repentance of our national sins.

You, Almighty God, are the source of all wisdom, and there is no wisdom but that which comes from You.

So please come upon those here who are the stewards over the business of our Nation with Your wisdom which comes from above and with Your holy fear knowing that Your coming day of judgment draws near when all who have been and are now in authority will answer to You, the great judge of heaven and of Earth.

For the decisions that they make here in this place, I offer this prayer to You, Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, and our crucified Savior and resurrected Lord.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### KOREAN-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

(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, as a Korean Caucus co-chairman, I was grateful last week to participate in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program.

With prior visits it has always been inspiring to observe the phenomenal success of the talented people of South Korea. As the only Member of Congress still serving to have been on a delegation to North Korea, the contrast is astounding.

The Republic of Korea is a beacon of achievement and success of free market democracy as contrasted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reducing its citizens to despotism. Per capita annual income in South Korea is \$44,000, and in the north, it is \$967.

I appreciate being hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Minister Cho Tae-yul and meeting with National Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, the Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo, and with the National Security Advisor Chang Ho-jin.

Business leaders are dedicated with Korean International Trade Association Chairman Christopher Koo, ILJIN Group President Chairman Lee Dong Seob, Hyundai Vice President Kim Il-Bum, Samsung Corporate VP Sang Pil Chun, Hanwha Vice Chairman Dong Kwan Kim, and AMCHAM Chairman James Kim.

America is well-represented by DCM Joy Sakurai and U.S. Forces Korea General Paul LaCamera at Camp Humphreys with dedicated troops from South Carolina and Virginia.

In conclusion, God bless Korea and America who are achieving peace through strength. Freedom is not free.

#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, imagine not having access to the food that you need to keep yourself or your child healthy. For the 2,000 infants every year who are diagnosed with an inherited metabolic disorder, that nightmare is a reality.

It is why I introduced the bipartisan Medical Nutrition Equity Act with my friend, Representative JOHN RUTHERFORD, to require all public and private insurance to cover medically necessary nutrition for these individuals.

Tomorrow, advocates who have been trying to get this bill passed for almost two decades will be here on the Hill. Here are just a few of their stories:

Caroline was born with PKU and requires a strict regimen of low protein foods and medical formula.

Zola was born with PKU, and her family has fought to get insurance coverage for formula that costs \$75 per can.

Caleb has a condition called EoE. He and his family fought for access to the formula he needed to grow up healthy, and now he is a college athlete.

Mr. Speaker, no one should have to struggle accessing lifesaving foods. Let's pass the MNEA as we work to end hunger now. Let's also remember that food is medicine.

#### DAM REMOVAL ON THE UPPER KLAMATH RIVER

(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, what you see here is the environmentalists' dream coming true. Environmentalists and the State of California are celebrating the largest dam removal project which is happening on the Upper Klamath River in California and Oregon.

Actually, their work is killing endangered species, it is causing roads to slough off because the lake has gone down and is disappearing, and it is threatening homes with bank collapse. We have already seen drinking water wells going dry.

The fish they purport to be saving are dying because of the nasty water and nasty effluent coming out of those dams.

Supposedly, they are trying to save fish. They purposely have made a disaster and now are leaving the locals to figure out how to clean up their mess.

Dam removal advocates have refused to see the big picture, all these years trusting a mere questionable master's thesis over the locals who actually knew better.

So we are seeing dead fish. This picture depicts three dead deer that went out into the muck that came out of the bottom of those dams and are stuck there. Nobody could rescue them, so the Fish and Game had to shoot them from a distance and leave them there.

This is only the beginning of the many miles of muck that will be going down that river causing death, destruction, and a smell to high heaven there that all the locals are having to deal with.

There is more to come on this topic. This is not a win for the environment, fish, or anybody else.

#### SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because December marked the highest number of illegal immigrant encounters in history with 331 persons on the terror watch list entering the country since President Biden took office.

President Biden falsely claims that he needs Congress to act to give him the authority to take control over the border.

Let me be perfectly clear: President Biden has the authority to close the border today. He can simply direct his staff to enforce existing laws and reverse the 61 executive actions he has taken to worsen the border crisis since coming to office.

I will continue using every single tool at my disposal, including the power of the purse, to force President

Biden to enact meaningful border security reform, such as the provisions we passed in H.R. 2.

Any action short of securing our border leaves our Nation in peril and our citizens in jeopardy.

#### LNG EXPORTS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden opened another front in his ongoing war against American energy by halting all pending approvals of liquified natural gas, or LNG, export terminals based on the so-called climate crisis.

When President Biden takes such drastic action to kneecap an American industry like liquified natural gas, he paralyzes job growth, innovation, and future sustainability research and development in America. Instead, he offshores this progress to the Middle East, Russia, or South America, all while raising Americans' energy bills, fueling inflation, and destroying good-paying American jobs.

President Biden's job-killing New Green Deal agenda can't continue. For every woke action he takes, Americans suffer the consequences.

House Republicans are fighting back by passing legislation to grow energy industry jobs and bring back energy independence to America. We stand firmly on the side of most Americans who prefer an all-of-the-above energy strategy for our country in which all forms of energy are pursued.

#### HOUSE DEMOCRATS PUT PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, as MAGA Republicans work overtime to attack the reproductive rights of women, launch sham impeachments, and give tax breaks to big corporations, House Democrats are listening to working families.

House Democrats continue to work for lower costs and grow the middle class. House Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act to lower drug prices and the jobs and infrastructure law to rebuild our roads and bridges.

House Republicans show up at ribbon cutting ceremonies to take credit for infrastructure projects in their districts, even though they voted against the infrastructure law. Some Republicans try to hide the fact that they voted against the very bill they are claiming credit for by saying, when asked, that they don't remember how they voted.

While Republicans continue their hypocrisy, Democrats are hard at work to lower costs for childcare, high-speed internet, and energy.

House Democrats will continue to put people over politics to deliver for everyday Americans.

□ 1215

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5585, AGENT RAUL GONZALEZ OFFICER SAFETY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6678, CONSEQUENCES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6679, NO IMMIGRATION BENEFITS FOR HAMAS TERRORISTS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6976, PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DUIS ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 980 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 980

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-21 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further 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 such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6678) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-23 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6679) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-24 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6976) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-22 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of



order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

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

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 980, providing for consideration of four measures: H.R. 5585, H.R. 6678, H.R. 6679, and H.R. 6976.

The rule provides for consideration of all four measures under structured rules with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the committee of jurisdiction, or their designee. The rule provides one motion to recommit for each measure.

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

Today, we are here to address an ongoing crisis, not a new concept to this body. The word "crisis" has been a hard one for my friends on the other side of the aisle to absorb when it comes to our current situation on the southern border.

Let's just put a few things into perspective:

In 2023, Customs and Border Protection encountered over 2½ million illegal migrants attempting to cross the southern U.S. border.

In December alone, Customs and Border Protection encountered 302,000 illegal migrants—that is just in the month of December—attempting to cross the U.S. southern border, the highest number of unlawful migrant crossings in a single month in recorded history.

In 2023, Customs and Border Protection confiscated almost 230,000 pounds of drugs, including 22,000 pounds of il-

licit fentanyl, being smuggled across the southern border.

If this doesn't sound like a crisis to you, I don't know what would.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I was at the southern border to witness firsthand the challenges faced by Texans and to hear directly from Border Patrol agents and law enforcement officers who are on the front lines of this crisis.

Magically, either by order of President Biden or by order of the cartels, the Eagle Pass area was completely cleared out that day. If that is possible when Members of Congress are visiting on a certain day, it is possible every single day.

Mr. Speaker, the President has every tool that he needs right now to stop the overwhelming flow of migrants to the border. The proof of this is that immediately upon taking office, President Biden dismantled the immigration policies that were put in place by the Trump administration. He did that by executive order. He can undo them by executive order.

President Biden halted the construction of the border wall, ended Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as the remain in Mexico program, and restarted the dangerous catch and release program with the simple stroke of a pen.

Now the consequences have been stark: record numbers of migrants crossing the border and increasing each month; record numbers of illegal migrants being released into the United States; an open season for drug smugglers, human traffickers, and Mexican cartels; and social support systems stretched to the breaking point, not only in my home State of Texas, but places across the country like New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Denver.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an immigration problem; it is a national security problem. We have a responsibility to make certain that the laws of this land protect Americans and ensure their safety.

Earlier this Congress, we passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, to combat illegal migration and ensure operational control over the southern border, but the Senate has refused to even debate or have a vote on the bill.

Today, we take up four additional bills that will help undo the chaos caused by this administration to ensure that law enforcement, particularly the agents of Customs and Border Protection, Federal agents are supported in their mission to keep our communities safe. This means closing loopholes that allow illicit behavior to go without punishment, which is exactly what the following four measures will do.

Last year, Customs and Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez was tragically killed in pursuit of illegal migrants fleeing law enforcement in a motor vehicle. High-speed chases started by those breaking our laws are not uncommon.

In fact, any of us who have been down and visited the border, whether it was several years ago or recently, have been shown the films, the dash cam videos collected by Customs and Border Protection of these very high-risk, high-velocity chases which frequently end up with a crash, with people hurt, or people simply bailing out on the highway and running away.

Currently, fleeing law enforcement in a motor vehicle does not carry immigration consequences for the perpetrators, even in situations that result in the death of an officer, like the one involving Agent Gonzalez.

H.R. 5585, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act will change that by adding specific criminal and immigration consequences for individuals who operate motor vehicles while fleeing Border Patrol and law enforcement agents.

The penalties instituted by this bill include prison time and ensure that perpetrators can be deemed inadmissible to this country and deported from the United States.

Preventing deadly accidents that endanger lives is also the focus of H.R. 6976, the Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act.

With a simple turn of a key, an intoxicated driver commits a crime and illegal migrants are no different. Tragically, many of these incidents involve individuals who should not be in the country at all. Illegal migrants who have committed this offense are evaluated under the crimes involving moral turpitude standard, a difficult and complex legal analysis that results in long delays and lengthy legal proceedings.

H.R. 6976 will change this and provide immigration consequences for driving under the influence, rendering illegal migrants who have committed this offense inadmissible to this country and deportable without a lengthy process.

In a similar vein, with identification and fraud on the rise, H.R. 6678, the Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act will ensure that criminal or illegal migrants who commit Social Security and ID fraud can be removed and barred from this country.

Finally, we will take up H.R. 6679, the No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act. In October, the world watched in horror as Hamas, a designated terror organization, committed a vicious and evil attack on Israel. Twelve hundred Israelis, including American citizens, were murdered. Another 240 were taken back to Gaza as hostages where many remain today.

□ 1230

Terrorists who participated in, planned, or otherwise supported the October 7 attacks should not be admissible to the United States, full stop. There is no reason for a member of Hamas to ever be admitted into the United States. H.R. 6679 will make that a reality and ensure that we can prevent these deadly and evil people from



ever entering our country, thereby protecting our citizens.

Taken together, eradicating these gaps in our legal recourse will deter criminal activity and ensure that bad actors face appropriate punishment for their crimes.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have demonstrated that we are committed to governing for the American people and that the American people have spoken. Their message to their elected Representatives is: "Enough."

Enough with sending their tax dollars to process migrants that should not be in this country in the first place instead of enforcing the law; enough with putting law enforcement both at the border and across America in harm's way; enough with the fearmongering and lies.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of the rule and the underlying bills. I urge my fellow Members to support the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me set a couple of things straight.

The border is not open. Now, maybe some people think it is because my Republican colleagues every day for the last 2 years have come to the floor screaming, "The border is open. The border is open. The border is open."

However, the border is not open, and that is just a fact. Today, there are approximately 38,000 people in immigration detention, which is 4,000 more than what DHS is funded for and roughly what the Trump administration averaged in fiscal year 2018.

The Biden administration has also significantly increased removals in ways that many on our side of the aisle are concerned violates due process. Since the end of title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned to Mexico close to 500,000 individuals. The total is nearly equivalent to the number of people removed in all of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration.

Please, please, stop making things up and stop claiming the border is open. It is not.

Do we have a problem at the border? Absolutely. Absolutely, we do. However, listening to the gentleman, he seems to have no solutions. I mean, I think he thinks this is Beetlejuice, if you say "crisis" three times, the problem goes away. No; you have to take some action. You have to work to try to address the issue.

Democrats and President Biden want to find real, comprehensive solutions to fix it. What we need is Republicans to stop playing political games, and that is the exact opposite of what is happening here and what has been happening under this Republican-controlled House of Representatives. It is shameful.

I know that because we called their bluff. Democrats said, yeah, we care about border security, too. Let's get to work. Now Republicans tell us that they would rather wait until after the election. They don't actually want the thing they have been talking about for the last year. It is all a big lie. It is all a big lie.

Why? Why would they want to wait? Why don't they want to work with us to fix the border right now? I think we all know the answer. Trump called—the guy they all worship, the guy they are all frightened to death of. He called, and he is demanding that they do nothing. No action at all on the border, that is what he said because he wants to campaign on it. I mean, what the hell is wrong with them?

The Senate is working on a bipartisan border security bill, and Republicans tell us here in the House that they don't care what is in it. They will oppose it no matter what. From what I hear, I am not sure that I can even support the bill they are working on over in the Senate. It has things in it that cause me a lot of angst, but Republicans are sure that they are against it because Trump told them to be against it.

That is because, at the end of the day, all he wants is to be able to scare people by demonizing immigrants and whipping up hate and fear and appealing to racism and bigotry. It is disgusting. It is that simple. I mean, I am not surprised. This is the guy who says: "Immigrants poison the blood of America," echoing the words of Adolf Hitler. We can't get anyone on the other side of the aisle to try to disassociate themselves with those remarks. That is who the Republicans listen to. That is who is calling the shots here. Trump says no action on border security, period.

Please, spare us the outrage and indignation. It is all theatrics. It is all for show, all so you can go on FOX News and blame President Biden for something that they refuse to fix. Republicans tried to cut Customs and Border Protection personnel. They rejected President Biden's request for \$106 billion in funding to fix this problem, and they have consistently voted against funding for border security.

You can't make this stuff up. They say we don't need more money. We just need a President who follows the law. We hear that again and again. We heard that last night in the Rules Committee. I hope that they are not implying that the former President—a rapist who was just ordered by a jury to pay \$83 million for defaming his victim—follows the law.

He has been indicted 4 times with 91 felony counts. I mean, this guy has been indicted more times than he has been elected. Give me a break. That is who is calling the shots around here? It is shameful.

The bottom line is that they simply do not want to fix the border crisis. House Democrats, Senate Democrats, President Biden—hell, even Senate Re-

publicans, some of the most conservative Republicans in the Senate, have been working together in a bipartisan way to solve this country's problems.

We acknowledge we need to address our problems at the border, provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, fix our broken immigration system, and address the root causes of migration.

What does the extreme MAGA clown show in this House care about? Not fixing the border. They care about Trump, about bending over backwards for his campaign and turning this place into a circus. What a shame. What a waste of time. What an embarrassment.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 45 seconds just to answer some of the charges flung against me.

The gentleman said he wants solutions. There are solutions. The solutions are to undo the executive order the President put in place in his first 5 minutes in office, end catch and release, cease the exploitation of parole authority, reinstate remain in Mexico, expand expedited removal authority, and renew the building of a wall.

Mr. Speaker, it is sheer fantasy that \$106 billion will fix this problem. Of course, it won't. The gentleman knows it won't.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for his service. We will be missing him next Congress, but we still have some more time and work to do together.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to talk about the bills that are sitting here in front of them because they are going to vote against at least three of them. We know that because they did it in Judiciary Committee.

These bills are pretty simple. If you are here and you evade Border Patrol, you can't stay here or come here. If you are here and you have committed Social Security fraud, you can't stay here or come here. If you are here and you have committed a DUI, you can't stay here or come here. Judiciary Democrats voted against all three of those. Let's put aside that if you are here, illegally, you should be deported anyway.

Then there is if you are here and a member of Hamas, or participated in, or facilitated the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel, you cannot stay here or come here. Now, on that, it was passed unanimously. We will see what happens when it comes to the floor when some of the folks not on Judiciary Committee look at the bill.

I find it interesting that a blanket statement is made that some of us take our orders from former President Trump. Well, if somebody has a phone line into Mar-a-Lago, why don't you give him a call? I think he would be surprised to hear that I take orders from former President Trump, in light

of the recent time I have spent around the country.

I would tell you this: I don't take orders from the former President. I know that we shouldn't make this a political issue. I know this is an issue we should solve, but I don't think that is what the former President was saying.

I think the former President was saying this bill in the Senate is garbage, that it will make the problem worse; that we have all the power we need now to secure the border, and that the current President and current administration are ignoring it, and, indeed, purposely avoiding the law in order to flood America, which is endangering Americans; fentanyl flowing in; empowering cartels; empowering China; terrorists coming into our country; and criminals coming into our country. That is the truth. What the former President knows is that the bill being negotiated in the Senate is not a good one. He is calling that out.

However, I can assure you, I don't take orders from the former President, nor do I take orders from Somalis in Minnesota, but some people do. That is the truth.

The fact here is, we have legislation before us right now to address real problems for the people that we represent. I can tell you we do in Texas. We have a bill being negotiated in the Senate that is being deemed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as, Oh, a reasonable solution. A reasonable solution, when we had a bill last year that would actually secure the border with H.R. 2, which would close loopholes being exploited by our Democratic colleagues.

I had witnesses in a recent hearing on the Constitution and States stepping into the breach. The first assistant attorney general of Texas and the former attorney general of Arizona, they all testified under oath that there is an invasion. They all came forward to say that it was the right of the Governors, the right of the States to step in.

I had the ACLU witness acknowledge to me: I said, Hey, if cartels are coming guns a-blazing, they come across the river, can you defend yourself?

He said, Well, if it is a violation of State law, sure.

I said, Oh, really? That is an interesting piece of information to hear from the ACLU, that the State, that the Governor can, in fact, do what is necessary to defend the people of his State based on the laws of that State and, frankly, based on every understanding of what a leadership of a sovereign would do, and that is the truth.

Right now what we have are Democrats in the Senate wanting to hide behind a bill they know has no chance of moving through because, frankly, if it were passed, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are concerned about us campaigning on this, making it a political issue.

If that legislation were passed, the issue would still exist because the leg-

islation wouldn't do anything to stop it. It sets a floor, not a ceiling. It sets a standard of 5,000 a day. Come on in, 1.8 million folks. That is the truth, if you read the bill.

The reality is, the gentleman talks about, Oh, we have 38,000 people in detention. Well, the truth is, we had 900,000 people get released last year; 900,000 got released. That doesn't count the ICE releases, that doesn't count the 50,000 a month of got-aways. These are the numbers we are talking about, and they are on an extraordinary level.

I remind everybody that here before us is legislation that all it does is try to layer on a commonsense ability to remove bad actors, DUIs, those affiliated with Hamas, Border Patrol having to chase people in high-speed chases, and those committing Social Security fraud. My Democratic colleagues don't want to talk about it because they are not going to support those commonsense measures.

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

I missed a lot of what the gentleman from Texas just screamed because I couldn't follow it all.

Mr. Speaker, it is being intimated that this bill that is being worked on in the Senate somehow does nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a CNN article titled: "GOP Senators seethe as Trump blows up delicate immigration compromise."

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

There was no objection.

[From CNN, Jan. 25, 2024]

GOP SENATORS SEETHE AS TRUMP BLOWS UP DELICATE IMMIGRATION COMPROMISE

(By Manu Raju, Melanie Zanona, Lauren Fox and Ted Barrett)

Senior Senate Republicans are furious that Donald Trump may have killed an emerging bipartisan deal over the southern border, depriving them of a key legislative achievement on a pressing national priority and offering a preview of what's to come with Trump as their likely presidential nominee.

In recent weeks, Trump has been lobbying Republicans both in private conversations and in public statements on social media to oppose the border compromise being delicately hashed out in the Senate, according to GOP sources familiar with the conversations—in part because he wants to campaign on the issue this November and doesn't want President Joe Biden to score a victory in an area where he is politically vulnerable.

Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged in a private meeting on Wednesday that Trump's animosity toward the yet-to-be-released border deal puts Republicans in a serious bind as they try to move forward on the already complex issue. For weeks, Republicans have been warning that Trump's opposition could blow up the bipartisan proposal, but the admission from McConnell was particularly striking, given he has been a chief advocate for a border-Ukraine package.

Now, Republicans on Capitol Hill are grappling with the reality that most in the GOP are loathe to do anything that is seen as potentially undermining the former president. And the prospects of a deal being scuttled before it has even been finalized has sparked

tensions and confusion in the Senate GOP as they try to figure out if, and how, to proceed—even as McConnell made clear during party lunches Thursday that he remains firmly behind the effort to strike a deal, according to attendees.

"I think the border is a very important issue for Donald Trump. And the fact that he would communicate to Republican senators and congresspeople that he doesn't want us to solve the border problem because he wants to blame Biden for it is . . . really appalling," said GOP Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, who has been an outspoken critic of Trump.

He added, "But the reality is that, that we have a crisis at the border, the American people are suffering as a result of what's happening at the border. And someone running for president not to try and get the problem solved, as opposed to saying, 'hey, save that problem. Don't solve it. Let me take credit for solving it later.'"

GOP Sen. Todd Young of Indiana called any efforts to disrupt the ongoing negotiations "tragic" and said: "I hope no one is trying to take this away for campaign purposes."

"I would encourage (chief Senate GOP negotiator) James Lankford and other conservatives to produce a work product with which they will shortly allow conservatives like myself to review it and take heart that there are a number of us who won't be looking to third parties and assessing the propriety of passing this bipartisan proposal," Young said.

It's an all-too-familiar dynamic for the Republicans who served while Trump was in office, where he could easily derail legislative action on Capitol Hill with the blast of a single tweet or stir up a new controversy that Republicans were forced to respond to. And with Trump now marching toward the presidential nomination, Republicans are once again bracing for life with him as the nominee.

Underscoring just how damaging Trump's comments and campaign to kill the border deal have been in the Senate, one GOP senator on condition of background told CNN that without Trump, this deal would have had overwhelming support within the conference.

"This proposal would have had almost unanimous Republican support if it weren't for Donald Trump," the Republican senator said.

GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina—who has also been involved in the talks—said he didn't know if anyone could convince Trump to not kill the deal. But he acknowledged that it would take some "courage" for members to be able to press ahead at this point in defiance of Trump—though Tillis argued it would ultimately be beneficial for Trump for them to pass a border security deal and help address the flow of migrants trying to enter the country.

"I think this is when members of the Senate have to show some courage and do something that at the end of the day will be very helpful for President Trump," Tillis said.

Asked whether it was a mistake for Trump to be assailing this deal, Tillis said: "I'll leave it to him to figure out how he needs to get into office. I hope you'll leave it to some of us who would support that effort to give him the tools he needs to really manage the border and the abuse and the dangerous situation we have today."

For his part, McConnell—who has had zero relationship with Trump since the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack—downplayed Trump's opposition saying, "It's not anything new," and insisting they were not abandoning the talks.

"We're still working," McConnell said. "Trying to get an outcome."

Sen. John Thune, the no. 2 Senate Republican, said the discussions have reached a critical moment but acknowledged they may need to turn to a “plan B.”

“If we can’t get there, then we’ll go to plan B,” Thune said. “But I think for now at least, there are still attempts being made to try and reach a conclusion that would satisfy a lot of Republicans.”

In the latest sign that the emerging border deal faces an uphill climb, a senior leadership aide to House GOP Leader Steve Scalise told a group of Senate Republican chiefs of staff on Thursday that it was dead on arrival in the House, according to a source familiar.

Senate Republicans on the fence about the proposal may be less inclined to back it, knowing it’s going nowhere in the House and knowing Trump wants a border deal killed.

Frustration reigned inside the Senate GOP on Thursday amid lingering confusion over the status of a deal.

While McConnell has said the talks are still proceeding, Young warned Republican leadership against pulling the plug before they’ve taken a thorough temperature check inside the conference, where a contingent of Republicans are still fighting for a deal.

“I think leadership needs to count noses before they make any impulsive decisions,” he said.

Pressed on whether it was realistic to pass a border deal with Trump opposing it, Young said: “It may be possible. Listen, I’m very much attuned to the political realities, but I think before you make these consequential decisions on behalf of this conference, you’ve got to consult with the conference.”

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, who has been openly critical of McConnell, said he was “puzzled” by the leader’s comments during the closed-door meeting on Wednesday, which was supposed to be focused on Ukraine.

“I mean, we were talking about funding for Ukraine and all of the sudden he brings up the border and then, again, lays out what I consider a pretty lame excuse, trying to shift blame to President Trump for, I would say, his failed negotiation, not James Lankford,” Johnson said. “James Lankford has worked his tail off. It’s McConnell that took away the leverage by not tying Ukraine funding to actually securing the border.”

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who has made no secret of her frustration with Trump over the years, said members need to remember how big this moment is for the border and for Ukraine and put their own politics aside.

“I’m not giving up. This is not about Trump and this is not about me. This is about our country. This is about democracy around the world. This is about security for our own country and so let’s keep pushing to get this border deal,” she said. “Let’s stand by the commitments that we have made for our friends and our allies so that our word actually means something.”

This is the second time in six years Trump killed or was actively trying to kill a bipartisan immigration deal as it emerged. Back in 2018, Murkowski was part of bipartisan talks over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The bill got 54 votes in the Senate, but not enough to get it over the finish line.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, one of the Democrats involved in the border talks, expressed frustration about Trump seeking to inject chaos into the situation.

“I think over the next 24 to 48 hours, they are going to make a decision as to whether they want to do this, or whether the forces surrounding Donald Trump—who want to keep chaos at the border—win,” Murphy said. “So they have a decision to make. I hope they make that decision very quickly.

We have an agreement that is 95% written and is ready to get to the floor if Republicans decide that they actually want to solve the problem.”

Mr. MCGOVERN. The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that people like Senator THOM TILLIS—I didn’t think he was a liberal Democrat. Unless I missed something, he is a pretty conservative Republican—said: “Don’t pretend that the policy isn’t strong. If you want to admit you’re just afraid to tell President Trump the truth, that’s fine. But for you to take a look at this framework and say it’s a half measure, either you’re not paying attention or you’re not telling the truth.”

That is Senator THOM TILLIS, a very conservative Republican Senator, saying that. It is not me. I would say that to the gentleman from Texas.

Senator LANKFORD, is he now a Democrat? Is he now a traitor to the cause? We heard some Republicans at a press conference yesterday talk about those who were supporting a compromise. He said the other day on “Face the Nation,” and I quote, House Republicans actually do not want a change in the law because it is a Presidential election year.

I mean, this is ridiculous. This is all theatrics. Shame on them for exploiting this issue. Shame on them for ginning up all this hate and all this vitriol and not wanting to be part of the solution, not wanting to do anything to fix it.

I am also puzzled. I think I need to go to the Capitol’s attending physician to see if I can get a neck brace because I have whiplash following the logic of some of my Republican friends.

We heard all year that we need to pass a bill in order to fix the immigration crisis at the border, and then last night in the Rules Committee we are told we don’t need a bill, we don’t need a law. Then here we are today dealing with four more bills that, by the way, most of which is already covered in existing law.

What is it? Do we need a law, or don’t we need a law? If we don’t need a law, what the hell are we here for?

□ 1245

Why are we wasting our time? This is not a debate club, right. We are here to actually get things done. If the gentleman wants to be part of the solution, then be part of the solution.

If the gentleman just wants to complain for the sake of complaining, then just do it in the press conferences. Don’t waste time here.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 16, the American Dream and Promise Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, temporary protected status holders, and deferred enforced departure recipients.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), to discuss our proposal.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, we will bring up H.R. 16, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023.

This is bipartisan legislation that would lift up our immigrant brothers and sisters and do more to address our broken immigration system than anti-immigrant bills offered by Republicans today.

H.R. 16 would give certainty to Dreamers who were raised here in America and are an integral part of who we are as a Nation.

As one Republican said: This is not a Democrat issue or a Republican issue. It is an American issue. Our doctors, our teachers, our caregivers, our friends, and our families are Dreamers.

They are American in every way, and they continue to make significant contributions to society and our economy. America is their home.

H.R. 16 also protects those with TPS and DED. This is a humane, fair, and just approach so our immigrant communities can live in dignity.

Rather than take a humane approach to bestow protections upon our Nation’s Dreamers, our colleagues across the aisle would rather penalize them by introducing a package of bills that would do nothing to fix our broken immigration system.

Instead, these bills only further criminalize those who already live in America—and take away their due process rights—to make it easier to deport them. These Republican bills are anti-immigrant. These bills will not make us safer.

If you are undocumented and you are convicted of committing a crime, you are already deportable. Let’s not burden our law and immigration enforcement officials, and, instead, allow them to focus their resources on finding those who seek to harm this country.

Let’s get serious about fixing our immigration system and stop with the gotcha messaging bills that do nothing to make us safer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for his comments.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding time.

I rise in support of the rule for this bill package of four measures, actually, which includes the No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act. I also express my strong support for securing our border.

Now, I feel like I must start out by addressing the fallacy brought forth by

our ranking member on the Rules Committee.

This is not a political measure—on the part of the Republicans, anyway—if it had been, for a Presidential or congressional election year, why did we pass H.R. 2 last year?

We passed it in May of last year, and it has been sitting across the hallway here on CHUCK SCHUMER's desk since May.

The Democrats have refused to secure our border, and an open border makes America vulnerable on the world stage.

Biden's border crisis has turned every American community into a border community. Since Biden has taken office, more than 8.7 million illegal aliens have invaded our Nation.

For 34 straight months, Mr. Speaker, monthly encounters have been at a higher rate than even the highest month during the Trump administration.

This is a humanitarian crisis. They are bringing in fentanyl that is poisoning our young people. They are bringing human sex trafficking with them.

Mr. Speaker, 100,000 children who have come across our border illegally are now unaccounted for in America. The rising number of illegal aliens is alarming. It is unacceptable.

Just this fiscal year, 49 people on the terrorist watch list have been caught trying to enter the U.S., and there have been 1.7 million got-aways.

How many of those are members of Hamas? Where are these people coming from? The simple answer is, we don't know. I am deeply concerned for our national safety, our national security.

Recently, two high-ranking retired FBI members sent a letter to our Speaker and chairman warning that what could be coming to the United States of America is far much worse than what happened on 9/11.

I read one paragraph from their letter: "The threat we call out today is new and unfamiliar. In its modern history, the U.S. has never suffered an invasion of the homeland, and, yet, one is unfolding now. Military-aged men from across the globe, many from countries or regions not friendly to the U.S., are landing in waves on our soil by the thousands—not by splashing ashore from a ship or parachuting from a plane but rather by foot across a border that has been accurately advertised around the world as largely unprotected with ready access granted."

That is what this President has done to our national security.

President Ronald Reagan once said: "A Nation that cannot control its borders is not a Nation."

That is the problem we are facing now.

This President refuses to control our borders. He refuses to control the terrorists who are running freely, and our Nation is slowly withering away. We are at risk today. When will enough be enough for the Biden administration?

The President has every means available—my good friend from Texas spelled those out—to secure the border now.

It is time to demand that President Biden take action. We must protect our people. We are committed to ending this crisis and securing our border. The congressional Democrats and the White House apparently have other plans.

I urge my colleagues to vote for America, to vote for this rule, and to vote for this bill package.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, you need a map to follow the logic of that last speaker. First of all, the border is not open. We have more people in detention right now than we have funding for. My Republican friends continuously vote against more funding, so figure that out.

To the listening audience here, I am a little bit confused by the debate on the other side of the aisle. The gentleman from Missouri just talked about, oh, we are serious about securing our border. We passed H.R. 2.

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. BURGESS, opened up by saying the President has every tool he needs to fix this. Last night, we heard in the Rules Committee that we don't need to pass any more laws.

Which is it? Do we need stronger laws, or do we need to do nothing? If we need to do nothing, why are we here?

Let's be clear about the bills that we are dealing with here. These are messaging bills that are going nowhere in the United States Senate.

I would say to my Republican friends that you might want to look up "Schoolhouse Rock" and figure out how government works, but we have a divided government right now.

My Republican friends barely control the House of Representatives. In fact, yesterday there were more Democrats voting than Republicans.

The Senate is controlled by the Democratic Party, and we have a Democrat President. If you want to have a chance to get something done, if you want to move the ball, you have to work in a bipartisan way.

The United States Senate seems to be doing that, and they are making progress on things that my friends in the House here have said they wanted time and time and time again. Now, Donald Trump calls, they don't want anything. They don't want anything.

This is not serious, what my Republican friends are doing. Their messaging bills are going nowhere. They vote against funding for stronger border security on a regular basis here in the House. Then you have a negotiation going on in the Senate with some of the most conservative Senate Republicans.

All of a sudden, because Trump doesn't want it, we don't want it. We don't need laws. If we don't need laws, why are we wasting our time here on the floor today? You can't have it both ways.

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and to support the American Dream and Promise Act.

If extreme MAGA Republicans want a real bipartisan solution for our broken immigration system, the type of bill that the President has said he wants to sign, then they should sign up and support my American Dream and Promise Act.

Today, our country is home to millions of Dreamers. They were brought to the United States as children and grew up here. In their heart, in their mind, and in their soul, they are Americans except on paper. This is their country. This is their home.

If Congress does nothing, we will lose our neighbors, our family members, and our friends. We will lose fellow Americans.

With the American Dream and Promise Act, House Democrats have a plan with bipartisan support to finally create a pathway for citizenship for Dreamers and immigrant families.

Make no mistake: This is not a partisan issue. Over 70 percent of Americans favor a law providing permanent legal status to Dreamers.

This is a real solution with support. The American Dream and Promise Act will have a life-changing effect on every single district in this country.

Take it from me. I was born and raised in south Texas. I recognize the importance of securing our border to protect the integrity of our Nation.

This set of bills does not do that. These bills spread racist tropes about immigrants. It is wasting valuable time and energy that should be going toward writing laws that would lead to real generational change.

With my bill, the American Dream and Promise Act, we can create that generational change. Americans support Dreamers, and Dreamers support America. I am opposed to these bills, and I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to illustrate the point that I made earlier that my Republican friends are not serious about governing or about getting anything done, I point out to people in this Chamber maybe something that they don't really know.

I have served on the Rules Committee for a long time, and the Rules Committee used to be a place where people showed up to try to get things done, where we would discuss big and pressing issues facing the country, and where we would debate how each side thought these problems should be solved. We would pass consequential legislation to improve the lives of Americans.

It has been difficult to be on the Rules Committee lately to just deal with messaging bills—bills that don't do anything, that don't mean anything,

that don't help anybody, and that don't solve any problems.

This is a Judiciary Committee bill that we are dealing with right now. I ask this question of my colleagues here in the House: Do you know how many bills the Judiciary Committee has brought before the Rules Committee that have become law in the last year?

The answer to that question is zero. Zero.

It seems like the Judiciary Committee is up in the Rules Committee every other day. Not a single Judiciary Committee bill that has come before the Rules Committee that has come to this floor has become law. That is absurd.

Now, you may say I am cherry-picking, but do you know the last time the Rules Committee met on a bill that actually was brought to the floor that got signed into law?

Eight months ago. That is when we met on the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Even that moved forward because Democrats came to the rescue and voted for the rule to avoid a debt ceiling disaster.

That is 8 months, more than half of our time in this Congress, wasted on messaging bills. At this point, I am not sure if that is a bug or a feature for this Republican majority, but what is clear is this: None of these bills that we are talking about here today will address our border challenges.

None of these bills that we are dealing with today are going to ever become law. Republicans don't really care because they don't want to do anything real to solve problems at the border.

The economy is getting better. Their presumptive nominee for President is ethically challenged. He has more legal problems than—I don't even want to compare him to anybody. We have never seen anything like this before.

He was just ordered to pay \$83 million for defaming a woman who he sexually abused, and this is just the beginning.

□ 1300

They are not interested in solving problems or governing. What they are interested in is trying to hold on to a campaign issue. I am tired of it, the American people are tired of it, and frankly, it is just sad.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from the gentleman how many more speakers he has?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, here is the difference between Democrats and Republicans. Democrats want to work to get things done. We want to work with Republicans in a bipartisan way to fix our problems at the border. Republicans,

well, let me just use their own words. Last night in the Rules Committee, we heard from the other side that we aren't going to fix the border crisis with laws. I mean, that is what was said in the Rules Committee last night.

I mean, what the hell are we even doing here then?

Why even pass any laws at all?

Why try to fix any problems?

Republicans say that Joe Biden and Democrats are single-handedly responsible for the crisis at the border. That is just not true. That is just not true. It is simply not true.

Look at the facts. Democrats voted to increase border funding by 17 percent. Democrats provided \$65 million for 300 new Border Patrol agents, \$60 million for 125 new personnel at points of entry, and \$230 million for technology, like autonomous surveillance towers.

Republicans—Republicans—voted “no” every single time. Why? It is simple. Because Trump calls the shots around here, and Trump wants a crisis at the border. Somehow he thinks it helps him politically.

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of courage on the other side of the aisle in this House to stand up to the bully and to do what is right. In fact, we have our House leadership standing up and saying no to a deal that the most conservative Republicans in the other Chamber are saying is a good deal, is a tough deal. And they are saying no. Why? Because all of a sudden, Trump doesn't want it. How pathetic. How pathetic. What a cynical, rotten thing to do.

This is a serious problem that requires a serious solution, but they don't want to solve it. They don't want any action to secure the border. That is their strategy for November.

Well, guess what, it is going to look a lot less strategic when they lose the next election because the American people see through their BS and vote them out of office.

I mean, we have an opportunity here to potentially do something that will actually address the problems at the border: something meaningful, not messaging bills that are going nowhere, not talking points, not press conferences where people have meltdowns, but actually do something meaningful. All they can say is no, no, because Trump doesn't want us to do it.

You know, I don't know how we progress here. I am hoping that there are some sensible Republicans who will stand up to Trump and stand up to their leadership who seems to have caved on trying to work together. I point out, again, that we have a divided government. I wish the Democrats were in control of everything. I am sure my Republican friends wished the Republicans were in control of everything. But the fact of the matter is, they are not, and they continue to act like they are, but when they behave that way nothing gets done.

So the way this is supposed to work is that we work across the aisle, we try

to come up with some areas of commonality, and we move forward, and we work with the Senate, and we work with the White House. That is what the Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats are doing right now.

I mean, Mr. Speaker, I say to my Republican friends: You are not in control of everything. You don't have a dictatorship—at least yet. I know that is what the former President would like, but that is not what we have right now. If we want to get something done, we are going to have to compromise. We are going to have to give and take. We have to listen to each other. We have to try to move something forward.

For the life of me, I can't understand why we are wasting so much time coming to the floor with stuff that is going nowhere that serves no purpose, other than to get people all riled up and maybe continue to appeal to the worst instincts in people: hate, racism, and bigotry. Enough. Enough.

Mr. Speaker, if they want to solve the problem, then we are willing to work with them. If they don't, then please go away.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill being considered over in the Senate is a bill that sets a floor, not a ceiling, a bill that guarantees 2 million people illegally come into this country every year. Mr. Speaker, that is on top of the 1.2 million people that are admitted legally every year—and not to mention the people who come in under the radar. Yes, I am going to be against that bill, and I will be happy to join my friend from Massachusetts in a bipartisan fashion and vote against that legislation because it is bad legislation; not because someone else told me it is bad, but because I know it is bad, and my constituents know it is bad.

When we were down in Eagle Pass, Texas, a few weeks ago with the Speaker of the House, the deputy chief of the Border Patrol spoke to us the first evening down there, and he said, we are faced with a raging flood. And when you are faced with that, it is not that I need bigger buckets. I need someone to turn the water off. So is there a way to turn the water off? And he told us there was.

Simply reinstituting the remain in Mexico policy, the Migrant Protection Protocols that President Biden undid with an executive order on his first day in office, would reduce the flow by 70 percent and would allow our very beleaguered Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement the ability to actually maneuver and do what their job calls for; that is, to protect American citizens.

As it stands right now with the massive ingress of people, all they can do is process people. It becomes a question of throughput. So that is not an answer, and don't pretend that it is because the American people see through that.



I will just address one other thing. I am not running for reelection. I am bulletproof. You can't hurt me. But I support the former President and his approach to border control because I saw it work for the 4 years he was in office. He was the best President of the 21st century, and, yes, I would like to see him back in office; not because someone told me, but my constituents support the type of leadership that he provided for those 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this country is being invaded at the southern border—invasion to the extent that Governor Greg Abbott in my home State of Texas has officially declared an invasion. This administration has done nothing to help, nothing to help Texas, and has, instead, decided to take Texas to court to sue Texas just for trying to get the smallest bit of relief for its citizens and for its law enforcement officers.

The Republican majority has, once again, demonstrated that our agenda will be devoted to improving the lives of American citizens. Our governing majority will continue to focus on the issues that matter most to the American people: rising energy costs, sky-high inflation, rampant crime, and, yes, fixing our porous southern border.

These are issues that the American voters rightfully demand their elected Representatives to address. The Republican majority is committed to solving the many crises that this President and the minority have inflicted on our Nation.

Today, we begin the most basic duties of stopping and punishing criminals who come across our southern border illegally.

I would like to thank Representative JUAN CISCOMANI from Arizona; Representative TOM MCCLINTOCK from California, with whom I serve on the Budget Committee; and Representative BARRY MOORE from Alabama, for their leadership on these important pieces of legislation.

I, again, stand in strong support of the rule and the underlying bills, and I urge my fellow Members to support the rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 980 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 16) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommend.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 16.

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

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 980; and

Adoption of House Resolution 980, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5585, AGENT RAUL GONZALEZ OFFICER SAFETY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6678, CONSEQUENCES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6679, NO IMMIGRATION BENEFITS FOR HAMAS TERRORISTS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6976, PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DUIS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 980) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for

intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6678) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6679) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6976) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 210, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—216

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



Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)

## NAYS—210

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

## NOT VOTING—6

Nehls  
Norcross

## □ 1403

Ms. CRAIG and Mr. LANDSMAN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Van Duyne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

Mr. POCAN changed his vote from “present” to “nay.”

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

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

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

## RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 210, not voting 6, as follows:

## [Roll No. 23]

## AYES—216

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  
Carmy  
Hunt  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davidson  
De La Cruz  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Elizy  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Foxy  
Franklin, 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 (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCauley  
McClain  
McClintock

Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)

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

Wittman  
Womack

## NOES—210

Garcia, Robert  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jackson Lee  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nickel  
Ocasio-Cortez

Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

## NOT VOTING—6

Nehls  
Norcross

## □ 1442

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## AGENT RAUL GONZALEZ OFFICER SAFETY ACT

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5585.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 980 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5585.

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

□ 1449

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, with Mr. FLOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, on December 7 of 2022, Border Patrol Officer Raul Gonzalez got up, he got dressed, kissed his family good-bye, and left for work.

His family would never see him again. He was killed later that day in Mission, Texas, doing his job trying to protect our country. A group of illegal aliens and their smuggler led him on a high-speed chase that ended in a fatal wreck that took his life.

Now, this is becoming an increasingly common story along our southern border in the age of Biden's open-border policies. The number of high-speed chases by Border Patrol or local law enforcement has exploded along with the illegal human trafficking and smuggling that they are trying to stop.

The Biden administration's lax enforcement of our immigration laws has incentivized this, creating the conditions that create these deadly high-speed chases, and the problem has now reached critical levels.

One lifelong Arizona resident reflected on the dangers of Highway 90 in Cochise County, now a major smuggling route. She said, It is scary to the point you don't want to drive the highway, but to get to work you have to. I am actually scared about going out

into the public sometimes, because what if there is a high-speed chase and something goes sideways, they get into a car accident, hop the curb and hit anybody?

In Tombstone, Arizona, U.S. Marshal Jim Adams spoke of the high-speed chases racing through his town. He said, This is a weekly occurrence, sometimes daily, sometimes several times a day.

Americans near the border should not be living in terror for themselves or their loved ones being killed by high-speed chases caused by cartel smugglers. Yet, in many communities, they do now.

Human smuggling is an incredibly lucrative business. According to Border Patrol estimates in the Del Rio sector alone, cartels profit \$32 million a week for a staggering total of \$1.6 billion per year just in that one sector. The cartels expertly control their side of the border. Nobody gets through without paying them.

Yet, while the cartels are making billions controlling their side of the border, Joe Biden is spending billions of dollars while abandoning control of our side of the border.

This bill is very simple. It makes it a Federal crime to evade the Border Patrol or local law enforcement that is assisting the Border Patrol within 100 miles of the international border. If you are a foreign national, it makes the conviction or admission of such a crime grounds for inadmissibility and removability. If you hurt somebody, we will put you in prison for 5 years. If you kill somebody, we will put you in prison for 10 years. If you are a foreign national, we will send you packing when you get out.

That is what the Democrats in this House will oppose today, and that should be a wake-up call for every American.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5585.

Once again, the majority is moving a bill that is a solution in search of a problem. H.R. 5585 adds duplicative and unnecessary immigration consequences. It amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to create a new ground of deportability and inadmissibility for any noncitizen who admits fleeing from Border Patrol while operating a motor vehicle.

Sound interesting?

Well, however, right now, being convicted of fleeing Border Patrol or any law enforcement already makes a person deportable and inadmissible. The key word here, though, is "convicted."

Most existing law requires a conviction before a person can be deported for a wide variety of crimes. By not requir-

ing a conviction, this bill makes it easier to deport someone for fleeing Border Patrol than for more serious crimes, like murder.

Let's remember that when we talk about deportation, we are also talking about people who are here lawfully. Many of them are green card holders, and they have lived in the United States for decades. If we are going to deport them, we need to require a conviction and provide for basic due process and a day in court.

Further, the new criminal penalties in this bill are largely already covered in another statute, which makes it a crime for individuals to flee or evade a Border Patrol checkpoint. We don't need another criminal statute with another mandatory minimum sentence on top of current law.

Instead, what has long been needed is policy reforms. After an increase in fatalities of those being pursued during high-speed chases in 2021, CBP undertook a review of its vehicle pursuit policy. In 2023, after this detailed review, CBP overhauled the vehicle pursuit policy, adopting an "objective reasonableness" standard that is consistent with most law enforcement agencies across the United States. That was an important reform, and one that I am hopeful will better protect the safety of agents and the public.

What we should be doing in this body is pursuing and strengthening commonsense solutions like this. We don't need to waste time passing a bill that makes someone deportable for fleeing law enforcement, that is already a deportable offense. We certainly don't need a bill that would make someone deportable without even having a conviction.

This legislation is not needed. It is overly punitive. We have already wasted a lot of time on this floor because the other side couldn't get their act together to get the votes to pass the rule through. Let's just be clear. This is another waste of time, and it is deeply detrimental. It burdens border communities that are already often fearful of Border Patrol and the impact that it has on their daily lives.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this unnecessary, unneeded, and harmful legislation.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the author of this bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. MCCLINTOCK for yielding me the time. I am excited to see the House take up my bill, H.R. 5585, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.

This bill is simple. It makes evading law enforcement within 100 miles of the border a Federal crime. Mr. Chairman, how anybody can be against this commonsense legislation is beyond me. Calling it unnecessary is something that maybe those that are opposing this should address with the families of those that have perished due to incidents and these tragedies that we see

on the border and in my district on a weekly basis.

To me it is simple. It is common sense that this should be a Federal crime. Far too many lives have been jeopardized and tragically even taken at the hands of bad actors who engage in high-speed pursuits.

If you evade CBP or local law enforcement, you are clearly not a good actor. Unfortunately, the current law does not make this a crime in and of itself, and it leaves the burden of prosecuting these individuals to our local communities—as if they haven't already paid the price of this administration's failures on this issue.

Not only is this bill common sense, it is crucial, and in some cases, even lifesaving. To quote one of my constituents, At least once a week there is a high-speed chase through my town that includes a 15-mile-an-hour school zone. Do residents need to die to get the attention needed to correct this border problem?

I consistently hear about the detrimental impacts that high-speed chases have in southern Arizona—southeastern Arizona, to be more specific—and in Cochise County, which is in my district.

This criminal activity is not just reserved to drug cartels and smugglers themselves. Cartels now recruit Americans to drive down to the border and transport migrants north. We must change the calculus for those who endanger all of us when failing to yield to law enforcement. For far too long, the administration has allowed cartels to profit off the border crisis while facing almost no consequences.

Another constituent has said, We have multiple high-speed vehicle pursuits each week. The lack of Federal resources to deal with those has led the county sheriff to be the de facto law enforcement agency to interdict the human smugglers.

□ 1500

This bill is about supporting our local border communities who deal with the crisis daily and to stop the smuggling and trafficking. In calendar years 2022 and 2023, Cochise County reports booking 2,884 individuals for border-related crimes, costing over \$9.4 million. This is in one county, in one State. I have seen the toll it takes firsthand in our communities. By letting this happen, this administration has absolutely failed Americans.

Our local law enforcement should not be taking on this burden. These migrants are evading detection, and the smugglers themselves are evading detection, or more likely, the cartels are telling them to do so. Yet again, our communities are being forced to do the job of the Federal Government.

At a time when it is arguably the easiest to cross our southern border and be granted entry by this administration, freely almost, we should be asking ourselves why these people are fleeing law enforcement. The answer is

these are the really bad actors who the cartels want to evade arrest.

Finally, I want to highlight the hero this bill is named after, Agent Raul Gonzalez, who was killed in 2022 while pursuing illegal immigrants in Texas. His death underscored the tragic truth that our CBP officers risk their lives every day to protect our country. By passing this legislation, we are showing them that we have their backs. That is why this bill is supported by law enforcement groups like the National Border Patrol Council and seven law enforcement groups in Arizona alone.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my much-needed legislation. Let's send a message to our border communities and the authorities that we will always have their backs, and let's send a stronger message to the bad actors that we will pursue any actions that threaten American lives to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 5585, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, would establish harsh criminal and immigration penalties for flight, while operating a motor vehicle, from a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent or other law enforcement officer assisting in the pursuit.

Let me make clear: The death of Agent Gonzalez in the performance of his duties is a tragedy, and our hearts go out to his family and friends. However, H.R. 5585 is not the best or even a viable answer to the perceived problem this bill claims to solve.

High-speed vehicle pursuits can be incredibly dangerous, often ending in horrific accidents with serious injuries or even the deaths of individuals being chased by law enforcement, as well as innocent bystanders and law enforcement personnel.

According to a report by the ACLU of Texas, Border Patrol-involved vehicle pursuits resulted in 107 deaths, not including law enforcement officers, between January of 2010 and November of 2023.

Following public outcry as the number of deaths continued to rise, CBP conducted a review of its vehicle pursuit policy. The review resulted in a newly revised directive published in January of last year, just 1 month after Agent Gonzalez was killed. The net effect of the new policy is to discourage the number of high-speed pursuits.

When weighing the potential risk to the safety of the public and law enforcement officers, many jurisdictions have determined that the risks are far too great to justify a vehicle pursuit. I hope CBP agents will be encouraged to adhere to the agency's updated policy.

I have many concerns with the criminal aspects of this legislation, but most troubling is its inclusion of mandatory minimum sentences. For more than a decade, mandatory minimums have been widely condemned for many reasons, including their disproportionate application of cases involving people of

color and the resulting mass incarceration and overpolicing of marginalized communities. We must continue to resist every urge to add to the list of Federal criminal offenses subject to mandatory minimum penalties, because they have served to perpetuate injustice and inequity within our criminal justice system.

Turning to the immigration provisions of this bill, the justification for such harsh penalties is similarly lacking. People who are convicted of fleeing law enforcement are already deportable and inadmissible.

One of the many ways someone can become inadmissible and deportable is if they are convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, commonly called a CIMT. Courts have previously determined that knowingly fleeing or eluding law enforcement is a CIMT.

However, this bill makes a significant change by not requiring that an individual actually be convicted of the crime to render them deportable. Under current law, to be deportable for a CIMT, there must be a conviction, but this bill would erase that conviction requirement, allowing someone to be rendered deportable even if they have never been convicted of a crime.

Deportability is not about undocumented immigrants, who are already removable. This is about people who are here legally, who in many cases have put down roots, have American citizen spouses and family and children.

By and large, we are talking about lawful permanent residents, people who have put down roots in our communities, as I said, many of whom have U.S. citizen spouses and children who have truly established themselves here in the United States.

If they are convicted of evading or fleeing law enforcement, they are generally already removable. Rendering such a person deportable without requiring a conviction raises serious due process concerns.

While the inclusion of mandatory minimum sentences is enough reason to vote no on H.R. 5585, the unjustifiably harsh immigration provisions render the bill a complete nonstarter.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5585, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act. This bill is named in honor of a heroic Border Patrol agent who was tragically killed in the line of duty last year while pursuing illegal migrants as they attempted to evade capture in my home State of Texas.

The crisis at our southern border threatens our community safety and our national security. Far too often, we see smugglers and illegal immigrants, desperate to evade detection

and prosecution, who are willing to endanger themselves and innocent bystanders by taking brave law enforcement officers like Agent Gonzalez on high-speed chases.

Tragically, this administration deliberately opened our borders to weaken national security, and their policies continue to encourage smugglers and cartels, who stand to make a profit by moving illegal immigrants and drugs into our country. Our Border Patrol agents want nothing more than to secure the border and apprehend those illegal migrants, but this administration won't let them do their jobs.

As we have seen, cartel members, smugglers, and human traffickers have no qualms about surpassing speeds of 100 miles per hour, or greater, even in residential areas. Our law enforcement officers have to make a difficult decision in those cases about whether or not to pursue the vehicle. This pursuit could make a difference in a child's life who is in the grips of a human trafficker or could also prevent thousands of doses of deadly fentanyl from reaching our communities and murdering our children.

H.R. 5585 will help protect our brave law enforcement officers by criminalizing the act of fleeing from Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement officers. By passing this bill, we will give our law enforcement officers the tools they need to prosecute and punish criminals who engage in these dangerous high-speed chases. We will ensure that any illegal alien who evades Border Patrol agents can be deported and not allowed to return to our country.

Mr. Chair, we have a solemn duty to do everything in our power to protect those who protect us. I am grateful to my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), for offering this important piece of legislation and to Senator CRUZ for offering a similar measure in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I would remind the gentlewoman and others that people who engage in high-speed chases with the Border Patrol are already deportable. The question on this bill is not whether they should be deported. The question is whether they should be convicted of the crime of engaging in a high-speed chase before being deported or whether we throw due process out the window.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5585 because it is redundant, it is pointless, and it does nothing to move us in the direction to deal with the real issues and the real needs that we have on the U.S.-Mexico border.

To me, it is purely a hollow, shrill political campaign tactic to satisfy Trump and to move fear, division, and the underpinnings of race, if not directly, then covertly, as the central tactic of the House Republicans, and

Republicans in general, in the 2024 election. That cynicism is what prevents us from doing anything legitimately in a bipartisan way that is a lasting solution to the issue of the border and the issue of immigration.

I believe that if we are going to talk about a humane solution, a secure solution, and a bipartisan solution, then everyone needs to be involved. We don't need more of the same.

Right now, we are not going to see any action in this House by the Republican majority on the issue of real immigration reform. What we are going to see from them is to continue to feed the fear and the anger as a campaign tactic. To them, the more chaos, the less of a solution, the less of a humane and secure response to the issue at the border, the better for them. They believe it enhances their election chances in 2024.

I think the American people are smarter than that, and the compassion and the dignity of the American people is strong. We will see through this ruse. If you want to deal with immigration, if you want to begin to solve this crisis in this country, then you have to do it as a country and not as a limited, ideological position on the part of one person running for President, Mr. Trump.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Chair, today, I have the honor to stand before this distinguished body to highlight the urgency and importance of the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act. In the face of one of the most severe border crises in our history, it is imperative that we unite to support this crucial legislation.

This bill, which I proudly co-led with Congressman CISCOMANI, is a commitment to our national security and public safety. It is also an acknowledgment of the perilous risks that our brave Border Patrol officers face daily. Agent Raul Gonzalez, a hero and a cherished member of our community, tragically lost his life in a high-speed chase involving illegal immigrants. This heart-wrenching incident is a reminder of the dangers at our border.

This law proposes that any illegal immigrant who fails to yield to Border Patrol agents could be charged with a felony. Moreover, if their actions result in the tragic loss of an officer's life, they could face life sentences. This isn't about right versus left. It is about right versus wrong and protecting those who protect us.

I invite my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join us. This is a time for unity, not division. Supporting this lifesaving legislation means standing up for the rule of law and sending a clear message: Evading American law enforcement is a serious offense, and if it results in the death of an officer, the consequences will be severe.

Our Nation is stronger when we work together and prioritize common sense

over division. The Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act is a pivotal step in ensuring our borders are not only safe but respected. Let's honor the memory of this brave man and the countless others who put their lives on the line every single day. Let this bill's passage be a testament to our shared resolve to safeguard our Nation and uphold its laws.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for their support. Let's stand united for public safety, our Border Patrol agents, and for a stronger, more secure America.

□ 1515

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, the gentlewoman from, I think, Texas a moment ago said that this bill was necessary for the safety of our people. The truth is the safety of our people is already provided for by the current law, which makes engaging in a high-speed chase with Border Patrol agents a deportable offense already.

What this bill does is to remove due process protections; due process protections that we recognize as very important throughout our law. The truth of the matter is this is a diversion.

Everybody on that side of the aisle knows this bill is going nowhere in the Senate. This bill is not intended to go anywhere in the Senate. Everyone knows that a serious and very harsh overall immigration bill is being negotiated in the Senate, by Democratic Senators and by very conservative Republican Senators; a bill that is much more conservative than I would like to see, which I may not vote for, but which will probably get 75 or 80 votes in the Senate and could be signed by the President, establishing a very harsh regime that the other side of the aisle would probably like, that Senator LANKFORD likes, that Senator TILLIS likes, not notable liberal Members.

We have a former President who has said—and I appreciate his honesty—he doesn't want a solution to the problem. He doesn't want our border problem fixed until he is the President again because he wants the issue.

What we are really dealing with is should we enact legislation that may solve the border problem, or should we keep it as an issue so that Donald Trump can campaign on it, and we can all debate that issue during the campaign but take no action? That is what we are really debating.

This bill and the three bills that will come this week are diversions. They are minor bills. They don't really do anything to keep our safety.

As I said, for instance, on this one, engaging in a high-speed chase with the CBP is already a deportable offense. All they want to do in this bill is remove some due process provisions for our longtime residents.

However, this is pitiful, and it is minor-league stuff compared to major legislation that will actually solve our

border problem, and that legislation is pending in the Senate. The Senate will probably pass it next week.

Moreover, we are told that it won't even be allowed to come to a vote in the House. Why? Because MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE has said that if the Speaker brings any immigration bill that the Senate passes to the floor, she will move to vacate the chair. Why? Because our former President wants a campaign issue.

Senator TILLIS has said this is shameful. Senator ROMNEY has said this is more than shameful. Yet, that is what we are hearing. That is what we are seeing from our friends on the Republican side of the aisle—a total disinterest in the public interest, a total disinterest in the public safety, a total interest only in rhetoric and campaign material. They have said it by their own admission.

So let's not waste our time with this bill, which is irrelevant. It is not a good bill either because it dispenses with due process, but it is irrelevant because it is not going anywhere in the Senate; neither are the other three bills that were reported out of the Judiciary Committee that are also going nowhere in the Senate that we will waste our time on in the next few days.

Why waste our time? Why not deal with something real? Why not deal, if not with immigration, at least on something else real?

This Congress, with the exception of continuing resolutions and the debt ceiling crisis, has passed not one single bill into law—not one. And even the continuing resolution to prevent the government from shutting down, half on March 1 and half on March 8, passed with 107 Republicans voting yes, 106 Republicans voting no, and the Democrats all voting yes. We pulled the fat out of the fire.

So let's not waste our time with this. Let's not waste our time with this unnecessary legislation. Let's do something serious about immigration. Let's do something serious about anything.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chair, setting aside my good friend's weird obsession with Donald Trump, I hope Americans will take note of what has been said in this debate.

The Democrats made the point, well, why chase them and endanger themselves and the public? Why not just let them go?

Well, the answer should be obvious. Under the Democrats' open-borders policy, all that you have to do is flag down a Border Patrol officer and make a phony asylum claim. Under their policies, you will be immediately released into our country. You will get a plane or bus ticket anywhere you want to go. You will get free meals, free snacks, free clothes, free phones. You immediately qualify for free medical care, free housing, free education for

your children. Within 6 months, you will be given a work authorization to undercut working American families. You will be assured that your phony claim won't be heard for many years into the future, if you show up at all.

Also, when you are finally ordered deported, as is the case with the overwhelming majority of these claims, that court order will simply be ignored by our own government. There are already currently 1.3 million such deportation orders that the administration already simply ignores.

With all of these benefits waiting for you simply by flagging down a Border Patrol officer, why in the world would you want to evade capture by endangering your own lives? Well, the only reason I can think of is that you are either hiding a criminal record, or you are committing a crime.

I remind the gentleman that is why the Border Patrol chases evaders. They have caught hundreds of known terrorists and countless pounds of fentanyl and other deadly drugs by doing so.

FBI Director Chris Wray warned the Judiciary Committee that this constitutes a massive security threat—his words—a massive security threat. Let that sink in. And then consider the barbaric terrorist attack 103 days ago in Israel.

I believe it is just a matter of time before we see a coordinated terrorist attack in our own country from elements that have entered as a direct result of Biden's policies. We have already seen lone wolf attacks in Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark because of their lax border policies. I am afraid this is only the tip of this iceberg.

I, again, remind the gentleman that is why we chase evaders, and those evaders need to be held accountable to the law and punished, and, if they are foreigners, they need to be removed from our country. Yet, the Democrats object to this.

Now, the Democrats have argued that the bill should not include a mandatory minimum sentence. Well, let's go over specifically what they object to. If you cause a high-speed chase that injures somebody, you are going to serve a minimum of 5 years under this bill. If you kill somebody, it is a minimum of 10 years.

Does any reasonable person believe these mandatory minimums are unreasonable? Ask the American who has been paralyzed in such a crash if it is unreasonable. Ask the family of the mother who has been killed in such a crash if that is unreasonable. The only people who seem to think that this is unreasonable are the Democrats in this House, and voters might want to do something about that.

The Democrats argue that the bill is unnecessary because aliens who are convicted of fleeing an immigration checkpoint are already removable. You heard that argument several times. Well, that is true, but it only applies to those who are fleeing a checkpoint. It

doesn't make the alien inadmissible to come back into our country, either.

This bill applies to all smugglers causing dangerous crashes or chases within 100 miles of the border, and it creates serious penalties for those who injure or kill officers or bystanders during these pursuits.

Now, the Democrats have also claimed that this measure would destroy due process by deporting an alien who hasn't actually been convicted of a crime.

Well, actually, this bill requires either a conviction of a crime, or an admission of committing that crime. That is the same standard we apply to aliens guilty of overstaying a visa, violating nonimmigrant status or condition of entry, smuggling aliens, committing marriage fraud, being a drug user or a drug addict, falsely claiming United States citizenship, or engaging in espionage. This bill simply adds evasion of the Border Patrol to this existing list.

By the way, a confession is not an idle matter. Under 80 years of precedent, the alien's confession has to be explicit, unequivocal, and unqualified. The Department of Homeland Security then has the burden of proof to show that the statement meets the requirement for removal purposes, and an immigration judge must then find that the admission is based on reasonable, substantial, and probative evidence.

This is hardly a casual confession, but it does save years and years of court proceedings and appeals.

Mr. Chair, we have heard directly from the officers and citizens of our border communities of the dangers that they now face day after day as cartel smugglers drive at high speeds through their towns to evade the Border Patrol or the police.

This bill says, if you clearly admit to this crime or you are convicted of it and you are a foreign national, we will not only deport you, but it will be grounds for forbidding you from returning, which is not part of the current law.

The bill says to legal and illegal residents alike, if you hurt somebody while causing this reckless hazard, we will throw you in jail for 5 years; if you kill somebody, it is 10.

The Democrats are opposed to these reforms. We should tell people everything they need to know about the obstacles that we are facing to securing our border and returning our border communities to peace and safety.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, H.R. 5585, the "Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act" would establish criminal and immigration penalties for flight in a motor vehicle from a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent or any federal, state, or local law enforcement assisting in such pursuit.

We grieve the loss of Agent Gonzalez and honor his service and dedication to the safety and security of our country. We owe a great debt to Agent Gonzalez for his sacrifice and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

I am deeply concerned about the safety of those law enforcement officers working to secure our borders, particularly with regard to the dangers presented by vehicular pursuits. We must be certain that we are creating a framework that will truly ensure their safety. In doing so, we not only honor Agent Gonzalez but we make certain that we have no further loss of life in this way.

It goes without saying that I cannot support this bill if the mandatory minimum penalties remain, especially since they would be triggered without a finding of intent to kill or inflict serious bodily injury.

And still there are larger issues lurking in the definition of the offense—namely, the elements that must be proven to establish a violation.

As the bill is currently written, it fails to require conduct that would indicate some knowledge of wrongdoing, such as the refusal to obey a verbal or audible signal by law enforcement to stop operation of the vehicle.

But even if we forgive the vague definition of the offense, prosecutors would be required to prove not that the Border Patrol agent was acting within their duties as an employee but that the agent had the legal authority to engage in a pursuit—which is a considerably more involved question of law.

This language would make it difficult for prosecutors to pursue cases involving flight and pursuits. We should work together to ensure the language of this bill gives prosecutors the authority to truly protect our officers at the border and keep them safe.

To address several faults in this bill, I offered an amendment that would have eliminated the mandatory minimum penalties; required that the government prove that the Border Patrol agent in question acted within their official duties; and added an additional data point to the annual report to determine whether high speed chases near the border are commonly committed by citizens of the United States or non-citizens.

However, my amendment was not ruled in order, allowing these problematic features to remain.

Vehicle pursuits have long plagued law enforcement agencies in every corner of the United States, particularly in determining the appropriate response to suspects that fail to stop or take flight from a lawful stop. And while law enforcement agencies across the country have increasingly restricted when vehicle pursuits can be undertaken, high speed chases along the border have continued to rise.

While U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was slow to revise its own pursuit policy, the agency issued the newly revised CBP Emergency Driving and Vehicular Pursuits Directive in January of last year. The updated directive acknowledges the risks associated with vehicular pursuits—and shifts the agency's overall approach to a risk-based model when pursuits occur.

The agency moved from a rather vague policy to a standard that seeks to minimize the impact on citizens and innocent bystanders, while maintaining the ability to pursue those individuals that present a danger to public safety.

We must be certain that we do not undermine the work that CBP has done to move away from a policy that resulted in a record number of deaths of migrants and innocent bystanders.

While I want to believe that this legislation is a legitimate effort by my Republican colleagues to protect not only law enforcement officers at the border but the safety of migrants and citizens, the true nature of this bill is revealed in the immigration provisions that would levy consequences as severe as inadmissibility and deportability without requiring a conviction.

I am certainly willing to work with my colleagues to make this bill a useful tool for prosecutors. In its current form, this is a flawed, unworkable bill for more than a few reasons. That is why I must oppose H.R. 5585, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-21, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5585

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:*

##### **“§40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle**

*“(a) OFFENSE.—A person commits an offense under this section by operating a motor vehicle within 100 miles of the United States border while intentionally fleeing from—*

*“(1) a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent acting pursuant to lawful authority; or*

*“(2) any pursuing Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer who is actively assisting, or under the command of, U.S. Border Patrol.*

*“(b) PENALTIES.—*

*“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be—*

*“(A) imprisoned for a term of not more than 2 years;*

*“(B) fined under this title; or*

*“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).*

*“(2) SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—If serious bodily injury results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—*

*“(A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years;*

*“(B) fined under this title; or*

*“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).*

*“(3) DEATH.—If the death of any person results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—*

*“(A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 10 years and up to life;*

*“(B) fined under this title; or*

*“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).”.*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*“40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle.”.*

#### SEC. 3. INADMISSIBILITY, DEPORTABILITY, AND INELIGIBILITY RELATED TO EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.

*(a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*“(J) EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible.”.*

*(b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*“(G) EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.”.*

*(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF.—Chapter 2 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by inserting after section 208 the following:*

##### **“SEC. 208A. INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF RELATED TO EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

*“Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be ineligible for relief under the immigration laws, including asylum under section 208.”.*

#### SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

(1) identifies the number of people who were charged, during the reporting period, with a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2(a); and

(2) summarizes—

(A) the penalties sought in the charging documents pertaining to the violations referred to in paragraph (1); and

(B) the penalties imposed for such violations.

The ACTING CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 118-362. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 118-362.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.



The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 2, strike “actively assisting, or”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 980, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, as legislators, it is our job to make sure we are not moving forward with drafting legislation that is, on its face, flawed. If we want to legislate and address immigration, let's mean what we say and do so in an effective manner.

□ 1530

This bill does not live up to that standard. The inclusion of the term “actively assisting” is ripe for judicial scrutiny and will, undoubtedly, result in court challenges wasting taxpayer dollars and government resources.

Nonetheless, fiscal issues caused by poor legislative drafting are the least of my concerns with this bill. This language is so deeply concerning because we already have been witnessing how aggressive policing tactics and unconstitutional racial profiling directed by rogue Governors like Governor Greg Abbott have led to severe harm to—and has undermined—our legal system all in the name of actively assisting the U.S. Border Patrol.

Take, for instance, this last Christmas where U.S. citizens—a husband, wife, their 13-year-old daughter, and their grandmother—living in El Paso were wrongfully targeted by Texas officers in unmarked vehicles after they were coming back from visiting relatives just across the border in Mexico. The officers ran the family off the road, and at least four Texas Department of Public Safety officers wearing street clothes and tactical vests quickly surrounded their car and began pointing semiautomatic rifles at them.

Because of the accident, the grandmother had to receive x-rays and still has lingering back pain. The daughter was likely traumatized from having weapons of war pointed at her and her family.

No one, including me, doubts more must be done to address the problems we are seeing at the border, but this type of unlawful harassment of citizens is not it.

To be clear, my amendment in no way prevents Federal, State, or local officers from working with Border Patrol agents, nor does it say that Federal, State, and local officers do not have a role to play here. In fact, several border counties, including counties in Texas, already have U.S. Customs and Border Protection memoranda of understanding with State and local officials to work with immigration enforcement.

Nothing in my amendment would prevent these written agreements that lay out clear chains of command and clear codes of conduct.

What my amendment does do is prevent State and local law enforcement from acting lawlessly at the misguided direction of a Governor who refuses to work with men and women of the United States Border Patrol because he thinks he is above the law.

If my Republican colleagues reject this amendment and keep the current language, then they are supporting actions that have historically lacked due diligence to prevent harm and encourage lawlessness that leads to more dangerous instances like the one that occurred at Christmas.

If the House rejects this amendment, then it will give Governor Abbott a tool to carry out his unconstitutional border policies without Federal oversight and coordination.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FULCHER). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment requires a new fact to be proven at trial that the pursuing law enforcement officer was “under the command” of the U.S. Border Patrol in each and every case.

I can imagine many circumstances where local law enforcement is alerted to a Border Patrol chase that is going through their jurisdiction and then act immediately to assist them without necessarily being directly under their command.

The issue is not who is pursuing smugglers but rather the circumstances of the pursuit; namely, this person is evading the Border Patrol. It is unlikely that during each and every pursuit in progress the Border Patrol is going to have time to deputize local law enforcement and place them under their command.

This is a ridiculous expectation, so ridiculous as to raise the suspicion that it is intended solely to render the bill unworkable and meaningless.

These high-speed chases occur far too often in our border communities, and State and local law enforcement are often first responders in protecting these communities along with the Border Patrol.

This amendment would serve only to challenge law enforcement, who are properly doing their job, to stop smugglers and illegal aliens from terrorizing their communities.

Mr. Chair, I, therefore, oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman has opposition and has an offer to define “actively assisting,” then that would be great. However, the reality is that what is going to happen is what we have seen happen in the State of Texas where we have a Governor who has murders on his hands, as far as I am concerned, because we have

had active deaths at the hands of mis-handling this.

If this is going to be a Federal issue, then the Federal Government needs to be the one that is absolutely going to be over Federal law. So they can have memorandums of understanding. If that means that every single county at the border needs to go ahead and enter into a memorandum of understanding, then they need to.

Nonetheless, this is a Federal issue, it is not a State issue, and this protects federalism and makes sure that it will be under the hands of the Federal Government with this Federal law instead of State Government.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman is finished.

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I was just shocked to hear the gentlewoman accuse the Governor of Texas of murder. This is an example of the kind of extremism that we see on the left in this House today.

Now, the fact is the Border Patrol agents are strained to the breaking point by this administration's open-border policies, and they often rely on local law enforcement having their backs.

If the gentlewoman doesn't know what active assistance is, it is a high-speed chase that is going through their community and they are there in a position to back up the Border Patrol. Mr. Chair, you can't negotiate that. You cannot be deputized. That is part and parcel of law enforcement. You have to spring into action.

When overt local police are providing this assistance, they should have the protection that this bill provides. It also puts every smuggler on notice that if they are trafficking human beings or drugs across the border and they are pursued, then they darn well better pull over.

Apparently, this is just too much for the Democrats to bear. I am not sure whether we should laugh this amendment off the floor or merely defeat it. In either event, it is a foolish idea.

Mr. Chair, it deserves a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 118-362.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 21, insert after "Attorney General" the following: "in conjunction with the Secretary of Homeland Security."

Page 5, line 1, strike "were" and all that follows through "with" on line 2, and insert "committed".

Page 5, strike lines 6 through 10, and insert the following:

(A) the number of individuals who were charged with the violation referred to in paragraph (1);

(B) the number of individuals who were apprehended but not charged with such violation;

(C) the number of individuals who committed such violation but were not apprehended;

(D) the penalties sought in the charging documents pertaining to such violation; and

(E) the penalties imposed for such violation.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 980, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act is an important measure meant to impose criminal penalties and deportation against those who flee the U.S. Border Patrol officers in a vehicle.

The bill also seeks to ensure that individuals who do so are not able to apply for legal immigration status going forward.

My amendment ensures Congress and the public are fully aware, extending greater transparency, of the extent of these crimes that are being committed.

Specifically, my amendment requires a report to Congress from the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security on the number of individuals who are charged with fleeing Border Patrol, those caught but not charged, and those who have committed the crime but are not caught.

Now, of course, none of this and this amendment would be necessary at all were the President to take appropriate action to secure our border. Nonetheless, his failure to do so has led us to the necessity to continue to impose new restrictions to ensure that our border is secure.

The public deserves to know the true extent of how open our borders are. Any time an individual starts to flee from law enforcement in a vehicle, they not only put the lives of other Americans at risk but they risk the lives of law enforcement and even their own lives.

So, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to adopt this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I won't oppose the amendment, but I do want to make two points.

First, the data collected under this amendment is unlikely to be of much value without any understanding of the circumstances surrounding the charging decisions. Although I will not oppose it, I am concerned that without additional information, such a report could draw misleading or false conclusions.

Second, and more important, this amendment does absolutely nothing to improve the underlying bill. Therefore, whether or not this amendment passes, I still urge strong opposition to the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, I welcome my colleagues' support of the amendment. I also would just reinforce that greater transparency is always appropriate and necessary. I, of course, again reiterate that should the President take appropriate action which exists under the current law, we could, in fact, avoid these kinds of crimes from being committed.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. FULCHER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, had come to no resolution thereon.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIDSON) at 4 p.m.

## AGENT RAUL GONZALEZ OFFICER SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 980 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5585.

Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1600

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, with Mr. FULCHER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 2, printed in part A of House Report 118-362, offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), had been disposed of.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in part A of House Report 118-362, offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 201, noes 224, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 24]

## AYES—201

Adams	Connolly	Himes
Aguilar	Correa	Horsford
Allred	Courtney	Houlihan
Amo	Crockett	Hoyer
Auchincloss	Davidson (KS)	Hoyle (OR)
Balint	Davis (IL)	Huffman
Barragan	Davis (NC)	Ivey
Beatty	Dean (PA)	Jackson (IL)
Bera	DeGette	Jackson (NC)
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Blumenauer	DeBene	Jacobs
Blunt Rochester	Deluzio	Jayapal
Bonamici	DeSaulnier	Jeffries
Bowman	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Boyle (PA)	Doggett	Kamlager-Dove
Brown	Escobar	Kaptur
Brownley	Eshoo	Keating
Budzinski	Espallat	Kelly (IL)
Bush	Evans	Khanna
Caraveo	Fletcher	Kildee
Carbajal	Foster	Kilmer
Cárdenas	Foushee	Kim (NJ)
Carson	Frankel, Lois	Krishnamoorthi
Carter (LA)	Frost	Kuster
Cartwright	Gallego	Landsman
Caspar	Garcia (IL)	Larsen (WA)
Case	Garcia (TX)	Larson (CT)
Casten	Garcia, Robert	Lee (CA)
Castor (FL)	Goldman (NY)	Lee (NV)
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Lee (PA)
Cherfilus-	Gonzalez,	Leger Fernandez
McCormick	Vicente	Levin
Chu	Gottheimer	Lieu
Clark (MA)	Green, Al (TX)	Lofgren
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	Lynch
Cleaver	Harder (CA)	Magaziner
Clyburn	Hayes	Manning
Cohen	Higgins (NY)	Matsui

McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nickel  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Peters  
Pettersen

Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury

## NOES—224

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Beyer  
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  
Costa  
Craig  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davidson  
De La Cruz  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson

Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Flood  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas

Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Murphy  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pappas  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong

Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
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—12

Crow  
González-Colón  
Kelly (PA)  
Mast

Norcross  
Pascrell  
Phillips  
Radewagen

Rogers (KY)  
Sablan  
Scalise  
Smith (NJ)

□ 1630

Messrs. FINSTAD, WEBSTER of Florida, JAMES, EDWARDS, D'ESPOSITO, LAMALFA, McCAUL, WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Messrs. MURPHY, BILIRAKIS, VAN DREW, NUNN of Iowa, and Ms. LETLOW changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. LANDSMAN, NEAL, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEUBE) having assumed the chair, Mr. BERGMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had, under consideration the bill (H.R. 5585), to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, and, pursuant to House Resolution 980, he reported the bill back to the House with a further amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 271, nays 154, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 25]

## YEAS—271

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Allred  
Amodei

Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird

Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz

Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Bost  
Boyle (PA)  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budzinski  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Caraveo  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
Deluzio  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)

Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harder (CA)  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hayes  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlahan  
Hoyle (OR)  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Issa  
Jackson (NC)  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Kean (NJ)  
Keating  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kildee  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Lynch  
Tiffany  
Mace  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Manning  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran

Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Mrvan  
Murphy  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Nickel  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Peltola  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Pettersen  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Sykes  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Titus  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wild  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

## NAYS—154

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer

Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bowman  
Brown  
Brownley  
Bush  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Casar

Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen

Connolly	Khanna	Ross
Correa	Kilmer	Ruiz
Crockett	Kim (NJ)	Ruppersberger
Crow	Krishnamoorthi	Sánchez
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
Dean (PA)	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Schiff
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Schneider
DeSaulnier	Levin	Scott (VA)
Dingell	Lieu	Scott, David
Doggett	Lofgren	Sewell
Escobar	Matsui	Sherman
Eshoo	McBath	Smith (WA)
Espallat	McClellan	Soto
Evans	McCollum	Stansbury
Fletcher	McGarvey	Stevens
Foster	McGovern	Strickland
Foushee	Meeks	Swalwell
Frankel, Lois	Menendez	Takano
Frost	Meng	Thanedar
Garamendi	Mfume	Thompson (CA)
Garcia (IL)	Moore (WI)	Thompson (MS)
Garcia (TX)	Moulton	Tlaib
Garcia, Robert	Mullin	Tokuda
Goldman (NY)	Nadler	Tonko
Gomez	Napolitano	Torres (CA)
Gonzalez,	Neal	Torres (NY)
Vicente	Neguse	Trahan
Green, Al (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Omar
Grijalva	Omar	Trone
Hoyer	Pallone	Underwood
Huffman	Payne	Vargas
Ivey	Pelosi	Velázquez
Jackson (IL)	Peters	Wasserman
Jackson Lee	Pingree	Schultz
Jacobs	Pocan	Waters
Jayapal	Porter	Watson Coleman
Jeffries	Pressley	Wexton
Johnson (GA)	Quigley	Williams (GA)
Kamliager-Dove	Ramirez	Wilson (FL)
Kelly (IL)	Raskin	

## NOT VOTING—7

Boebert	Pascrell	Scalise
Grothman	Phillips	
Norcross	Rogers (KY)	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1639

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

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING  
WILLIAM JEROME RIVERS, KEN-  
NEDY LADON SANDERS, AND  
BREONNA ALEXSONDRIA  
MOFFETT**

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, Georgia tragically lost three of our soldiers in an attack on our military in Jordan. Two were from the First District of Georgia. All three were Army reservists assigned to the 718th Engineer Company, 926th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade at Fort Moore, Georgia.

Breonna Alexsondria Moffett was 23 years old. She was a native of Savannah. She went to Windsor Forest High School where she was a member of the Mighty Marching Nights drum majors.

Kennedy Ladon Sanders was 24 years old and from Waycross. Flags are at half staff in Waycross and Ware County in honor of Sanders.

Both women were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve during this Jordan deployment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) to tell us about the third servicemember.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Sergeant William Jerome Rivers of Carrollton, Georgia.

Originally from New Jersey, he enlisted in the Army Reserves in 2011 and moved to the great State of Georgia in 2015, and he loved the great State of Georgia.

He completed a rotation in Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He was highly decorated. He was a good friend, hard worker, and very dedicated.

Today, we rise to recognize that his sacrifice will never be forgotten, and we rise to express our deepest prayers and sympathies for his beloved Darlene and his son, William, Jr. May we continue to support the lives of our servicemembers.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our brave servicemembers put their lives on the line every day, and we owe our freedoms and security to them.

I ask my colleagues representing the State of Georgia and all those here to join me in a moment of silence in honor of our brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 977**

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 977.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

**REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 503**

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 503.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's request is granted.

□ 1645

**CELEBRATING THE ALLEGHENY  
RIVER**

(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 celebrate the Allegheny River as Pennsylvania's 2024 River of the Year.

The historic Allegheny River starts as a stream in Potter County, meandering through a field of wildflowers before crossing briefly through New York and then through six counties in western Pennsylvania. The 325-mile river ends in Pittsburgh where it meets two other rivers.

The Allegheny River provides a fertile valley and abundant biodiversity

leading to many calling this place home. The U.S. Forest Service has documented more than 50 mammals, 200 birds, 25 amphibians, 20 reptiles, 80 fish, and 25 freshwater mussels in and around the Allegheny.

A series of locks and dams were constructed in the early 20th century to make the Allegheny River navigable for barges to transport goods, and now swimming, boating, and fishing are enjoyed by residents and visitors. Whether bird-watching, island camping, or traveling through the locks, you are sure to find that the Allegheny River is rich with life, history, and beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I remain committed to keeping the Allegheny River a key piece of western Pennsylvania's economy.

I congratulate the Allegheny River on this spectacular achievement.

**POLITICAL ATTACKS ON SEC-  
RETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS**

(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 political attacks on the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

House Republicans have put forth House Resolution 863 to blame Mayorkas for our border crisis, yet Republicans are responsible for the crisis.

The Trump administration presided over the largest immigration flow in this century. Under Republican leadership, or lack of, America had 11.4 million undocumented immigrants. It was the largest number in U.S. history. Republicans took more than 3 years to resolve asylum and other migration cases. Democratic administrations took less than 1 year.

Republicans allowed millions of illegal immigrants to stay in this country and sent a message to millions more that Republicans do not enforce immigration rules.

However, Republicans do not want to talk about these facts. Instead, they want to target political enemies and do nothing to solve the border crisis. They are working at the behest of the former President who has told them to do nothing.

**CELEBRATING JAMES W. PUTNEY,  
JR.**

(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 celebrate James W. Putney, Jr., a veteran, a patriot, and the grand marshal of the 2023 Charleston Veterans Day Parade. Mr. Putney proudly led the 23rd annual Veterans Day Parade, which was dedicated to America's heroes.

His devout service and leadership have been evident since answering the

call to join the United States Army at 17 years old. Over two decades of honorable service resulted in his retirement as a staff sergeant at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In his military journey, James played vital roles as a construction and combat engineer. Post retirement, he returned to his roots in Savannah, transitioning to a career at the Chatham County Courthouse, where he continued to serve until 2016.

Even in retirement, James remained actively involved in various local organizations, as he continues to exemplify dedication and leadership to his community and to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate James and thank him for his service to our country and to our community.

#### SUPPORTING OUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lorna Breen was a hero, a healthcare provider who put her life on the line to treat patients during the pandemic. Like countless other healthcare providers during that time, she struggled with her mental health and ultimately took her own life on April 26, 2020.

To honor her legacy and provide resources to support other physicians facing mental health crises, I was proud to introduce the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and I was thrilled to watch President Biden sign it into law last Congress.

Now, the time has come for us to reaffirm our commitment to supporting our healthcare providers. Today, I introduced legislation to reauthorize this critical law, extending its funding through 2029. The work to bring mental health out of the shadows is far from over, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation that will keep our healthcare providers safe.

I am grateful for the support of Representatives KIGGANS and DINGELL for joining me to introduce this bill, for the partnership with my colleagues in the Senate, and for the tireless advocacy of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation.

#### SUPPORTING PRODUCTION OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is sacrificing American jobs and supporting Vladimir Putin's aggression by pausing U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas abroad, all in the name of climate change.

In typical D.C. fashion, the President has refused to look at the facts before threatening our energy infrastructure.

Not only is LNG a clean energy source, it is abundantly produced in our own backyard. By cutting off American LNG, we are forcing our allies into the arms of nations with zero environmental regulations.

Over the last 2 years, the EU has been forced to import nearly 40 percent more LNG from Russia, directly funding Russian aggression in Ukraine with roughly \$21 billion in 2022 alone.

If kept intact, our LNG industry is projected to bring up to 452,000 additional jobs to hardworking Americans by 2040, adding \$50 billion to \$73 billion to our economy.

It is time to prioritize the well-being of Americans over the flawed ideologies of the Green New Deal.

#### GERRYMANDERED CONGRESSIONAL MAPS

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, last year, Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly enacted egregiously gerrymandered congressional maps that effectively silenced the voices of North Carolina voters.

North Carolina is a purple State, and we finally have a congressional delegation that reflects the rich ideological and racial diversity of our great State.

However, with these new maps, Republicans have dismantled the important progress we have made toward fair representation, and they did this behind closed doors and with minimal public input.

That is why I led the entire North Carolina Democratic delegation in introducing the Redistricting Transparency and Accountability Act. This critical legislation would establish extensive opportunities for public input in redistricting and for congressional maps to be fair. It would require disclosures regarding individuals and groups that participate in the map-drawing process.

We cannot have government by and for the people as long as politicians determine election outcomes long before voters get to the polls.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR DOWNWINDERS

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday marked the National Day of Remembrance for Downwinders.

The movie "Oppenheimer" reminded the Nation that New Mexico is where the government first detonated an atomic bomb. The story that remains untold and the justice that remains unsolved is the explosion's impact on nearby communities.

That bomb's radioactive ash showered nearby communities, commu-

nities who the government failed to warn or evacuate before the Trinity test.

Little girls danced around catching the ash on their tongues, thinking it was summer snow. Those little girls, like thousands of New Mexicans, developed cancer and deadly diseases because of the Trinity test.

Outrageously, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act compensated others but not New Mexican downwinders.

All downwinders deserve justice. As we remember the downwinders and miners who have already passed and those who still suffer, we must pass the RECA Amendments Act to include them, too.

□ 1700

#### CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, we do have a crisis at the border.

For decades, we have been waiting for a solution for comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, in my first term here in the House, I was proud to be one of the leads on a comprehensive immigration reform bill that included commonsense solutions for undocumented people here, accelerated pathways for our young people who call themselves Dreamers, and had investments in enforcement measures. However, House Republicans refused to allow it to move forward, even after the Senate voted to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my House Republican colleagues why they won't take yes for an answer. President Biden has made clear our immigration system is broken, and only Congress can fix it. Instead, my Republican colleagues want to scream that the President is not doing enough to fix our broken immigration system, but, yet, are not willing to bring actual reforms up for a vote.

In fact, they only brought a bill that would cut 2,000 Customs and Border agents from the border. That is not a solution. Let's work together. Let's pass a bipartisan bill. Take yes for an answer.

#### WALGREENS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, Walgreens is planning to close yet another pharmacy in the Massachusetts Seventh, this time on Warren Street in Roxbury, a community that is 85 percent Black and Latino.

This closure is a part of a larger trend of abandoning low-income communities like the previous closures in Mattapan and Hyde Park, both in the Massachusetts Seventh.

When a Walgreens leaves a neighborhood, they disrupt the entire community, and they take with them baby formula, diapers, asthma inhalers, life-saving medications, and, of course, jobs. These closures are not arbitrary, and they are not innocent. They are life-threatening acts of racial and economic discrimination.

That is why I joined with Senator MARKEY and Senator WARREN to demand answers from Walgreens' CEO. Why was there no community input, no adequate notice to customers, and no transition resources to prevent gaps in healthcare?

Shame on you, Walgreens. Having a website with talking points about health equity and underserved communities is not enough. Walgreens is a multibillion-dollar corporation that needs to put their money where their mouth is and stop divesting from Black and Brown communities.

#### ONGOING HOSTAGE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lead my colleagues in a Special Order hour. Tonight, I am honored to be joined by my colleagues to continue to shed light and bring broader awareness to the ongoing hostage crisis that plagues the Israeli and Jewish communities around the world.

On October 7, Hamas launched a horrific attack against Israeli civilians, resulting in the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Recently, we marked 100 days since Hamas' gruesome attack. That is more than 100 days of inconceivable suffering for families who had their loved ones ripped away from them; more than 100 days consumed by nonstop panic, dread, and uncertainty. The pain, shock, and anger burning in the hearts of the Jewish people will never dull.

I know my own heart has felt like it was encased in lead ever since that fateful day, but it couldn't compare to the anguish and heartbreak of the families whose loved ones are still held captive by terrorists.

The last time my colleagues and I came together like this to highlight the hostages Hamas continues to cruelly hold hostage in Gaza, I fervently hoped the new year's arrival would make this advocacy no longer nec-

essary. Our work, advocacy, and pressure has been relentless that Hamas release the hostages and bring theirs and their families' nightmare to an end.

Tragically, however, the nightmare continues.

It is sadly fitting that, since marking 100 days since October 7, we also commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Jewish communities around the world gathered to honor the memory of the 6 million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust and the countless millions of others who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators.

We look back because we can never forget, Mr. Speaker. We cannot avert our eyes from the horror that humanity is capable of inflicting. We look back not only to memorialize the victims, but to learn from the darkness of the past.

We also look back to not allow humanity to move forward without addressing the root causes that led to the horrific persecution of the Jewish people, which is the main reason we are here tonight—to dissuade those who forget or avert their eyes from the horrors that Hamas unleashed.

I recently returned to Israel and the region with our bipartisan, bicameral congressional delegation that was in the region on October 7, with the sole purpose of galvanizing the multinational efforts to secure the release of each and every last hostage.

In Israel, we met with families who are desperate for any shred of information which might result in their loved ones' release. We visited the kibbutz, Nir Oz, and saw the devastation Hamas wrought. We saw the remains of house after house that Hamas set on fire with the sole purpose of murdering the families inside. I saw firsthand Hamas' maniacal dedication to the destruction and eradication of Israel and the Jewish people.

My message is clear. We will not let Hamas succeed. The United States will continue to stand with Israel, and the Jewish people will live on as we have in the face of oppression and tyranny for millennia.

Tonight, my colleagues and I will speak about those who remain held captive in Gaza, show their beautiful faces, and remind all of us not to forget these victims who are still suffering under terrorist cruelty.

During our last Special Order, I had the honor to speak about the Bibas family: Parents Shiri and Yarden and their boys, Ariel and Kfir.

At 9 months old, Kfir was the youngest hostage taken. On January 18, Kfir turned 1. If Hamas never attacked Israel and never kidnapped women and children, he would have celebrated his first birthday with his family in his community. Instead, his family is left reeling, not knowing.

This cruelty is unimaginable. The Bibas family and sweet Kfir remain in my heart.

Tonight, I will be honoring Agam Berger, who was taken captive on Octo-

ber 7 shortly after calling her father telling him she heard shots fired. I had the opportunity to meet her father, Shlomi, recently.

Seeing the pain in his eyes was unbearable. I can tell in speaking with Shlomi that Agam comes from a very tight-knit family. She has three siblings, including her twin sister.

Mr. Speaker, as the mother of twins, I imagined the panic I would feel and, as a Jewish mother of three young adult children, I saw my own children when listening to his story.

Agam is a selfless young woman, volunteering with adults and children who have special needs and learning disabilities. She is the courageous young woman we all hope our children will grow up to be. Her family and friends proudly speak about her extraordinary musical talent.

You can see her here with her violin. Agam played the violin since she was in the fourth grade.

Mr. Speaker, the next time I am in Israel, I look forward to hearing Agam play her violin and listening to her immense talent, which her father played for us by video.

I want Shlomi and Agam's whole family to know that this Chamber stands with them, and we will continue to fight for Agam's release.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by a number of Members tonight who all want to stand in solidarity with Israel and press for the release of the hostages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for doing this Special Order again tonight. This is the second, maybe third time she has done this to ensure that we do everything we can to tell these stories and to convince Hamas and those who fund Hamas to release every single hostage.

I am here to speak about Tsahi Idan. He was kidnapped on the 7th. Just after his daughter was killed, he was taken from his wife and his other child. They heard the sirens. They went into their safe room. Before long, a neighbor, who had been forced by Hamas, forced their way into the bomb shelter.

Imagine being in there with him. His teenage daughter throws herself against the door to protect herself and her family—her dad, her sister, her mom. She was immediately shot and killed.

He sees this, and then is taken, and he has been held hostage for 115 days.

I go back to Israel in a couple weeks, and it is entirely possible that I will get to spend time with him if Hamas releases the hostages.

Like him, I am a father. I have a teenage daughter. I hate this war. I want this war to end. I join all of us who have called for a cease-fire. We can't end this war until all of the hostages are home.

I know that others will stand up tonight and talk about the lives, stories of others being held hostage. Over a



hundred still remain in Gaza, including a 1-year-old. It cannot be overlooked by all those pushing for peace and a cease-fire that the quickest way to end this war is for Hamas to release these hostages, to get every single one of these hostages back home to their families and to their communities.

I hope that is something we can all agree on.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his relentless support and advocacy for the release of the hostages and his support for Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our former majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. HOYER has been a stalwart supporter of the State of Israel for his entire tenure in the United States Congress.

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

I rise today, as I have before, to speak up for a brave American, Itay Chen. It has been 115 days since Hamas took Itay hostage while he was serving in the IDF. He is only 19 years of age. This Friday is his 20th birthday.

Itay may be young, but I know from his dad, Ruby, that he is already someone of great character, courage, conviction and compassion for others. Crucially, as his dad tells me, he is New York tough. I have no doubt that Itay has the strength, resilience, and determination to endure any hardship, no matter how grueling, no matter how long. That is the type of person Itay is, but he should not have to.

□ 1715

He shouldn't have to sit in a Hamas covert cave for 115 days awaiting rescue. He shouldn't have to wonder whether he will see home again. He shouldn't have to display the courage that I know he is showing this very moment.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, he ought to be at home right now watching tonight's NBA game and rooting for the Lakers, much to his dad's chagrin. He ought to be horsing around with his brothers, Roy and Alon. He ought to be celebrating his birthday with them and their parents, Ruby and Hagit.

Sadly, he is not. Behind every single face we see on these posters tonight are families and friends who have done everything they possibly can to bring their loved ones home. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Ruby has come to Capitol Hill almost every week since October 7.

Mr. Speaker, these families are doing everything they can, but their Congress is not. It has been 102 days since President Biden requested emergency supplemental aid for Israel, as well as Ukraine. For 102 days, this Congress has failed to deliver.

We are not powerless, but we are lacking in action. We are Members of Congress of the United States of America. We are privileged to be in a position where we can do more than say prayers and offer condolences, although that is important.

This Congress needs to take action to put Israel in the strongest position possible to bring these hostages home safely—every one of them—and to prevent this tragedy from ever occurring again.

For the sake of Itay, his family, and all of the other hostages and their families, we must act. We must show an ounce of the resolve they display every moment this nightmare continues.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep coming to this floor until we do. I will not stop until I see Itay in his family's embrace and all those hostages returned home safely.

Let us act as we can.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his stalwart leadership and support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) who is also the co-chair of the American Hostage Task Force.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Romi Gonen. She is still held hostage in Gaza.

She is a bright, young 23-year-old woman who on that fateful Saturday morning, 10:58 a.m. to be exact, was at a peace concert with her friends out in the desert, and then she found herself in an unimaginable circumstance fleeing in a car with her friends being shot at trying to escape Hamas terrorists.

The car was later found, and it was empty. Romi's incredible mother, Meirav, describes her daughter as a strong and happy type, and she was a former Scouts counselor. She was someone who loved being with children.

So as we stand here telling Romi's story from the floor of the House of Representatives, the concentration of democracy in the United States of America, we recognize that what happened on October 7 was an attack on all of us. It was an attack on free and civil society. It was an attack on humanity.

The fact that for 115 days Romi and hundreds of others of all ages and demographics and different ethnicities have been held hostage by those who do not seek to keep their own people safe is a reality that we have to reckon with because it is fear that they have sought to put into all of us.

I am calling for Romi's release along with all of the hostages release. I continue to support the Biden administration's efforts through diplomacy and through negotiation to return these individuals. I also am using the authority vested in me as a Member of the United States House of Representatives to call for the passage of aid, to call for the funding of aid so that we can see Romi reunite with her family and so that we can see this war come to an end.

We are heartbroken over the death and destruction that Hamas terrorists have brought on to the beautiful and incredible country of Israel and, frankly, to their own people.

No one was calling for war but Hamas on October 7.

We have to stand by democracy as the United States of America. We have to stand by individuals and people like Romi, her family, and the others.

It is a true and profound honor to be here this evening with my colleague, someone whom I admire so deeply, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Like our majority leader emeritus, STENY HOYER, I will continue to come to this floor to advocate, to push, and to fight for the return of Romi and the far too many others who continue to be held hostage by Hamas terrorists.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her incredible support, leadership, advocacy, and poignancy in which she has been a supporter of the State of Israel in her hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), who is the fellow co-chair of the bipartisan Latino-Jewish Caucus.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding to me.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Latino-Jewish Caucus, I rise today to tell an important story. There are many hostages. Over 100 hostages have been held for 115 days from all walks of life. Children, a 1-year-old child, seniors, women, and family members are being held hostage. I rise today to tell the story of a 34-year-old Israeli-Colombian hostage by the name of Elkana Bohbot, whose family I met this past December.

Elkana is not just an Israeli-Colombian. He is the beloved sibling of Jacob and Uriel Bohbot, the loving husband of Geraldyn Bohbot, and the dad of a 3-year-old.

Before October 7, Elkana had just opened up an ice cream shop in Tel Aviv and was looking forward to taking his 3-year-old son there for the first time.

Just imagine that, Mr. Speaker: a dad opening up an ice cream store and just waiting to see how his 3-year-old son will react when he first tastes that chocolate, that vanilla, or that strawberry ice cream.

I think we could identify with the magic of that moment. Yet now, every passing day for Elkana and his family are a waking nightmare. The last time Elkana's family saw him was in a Hamas video that was taken on October 7 alongside other hostages, and, in it, Elkana was severely injured.

Elkana has been forced to survive each passing day in the depths of Hamas tunnels without ventilation or fresh air fighting through asthma attacks because he is asthmatic without his medication.

At 115 days, Mr. Speaker, Elkana's life is hanging in the balance. Every day is a day of hope for all of us, and we will not give up on our actions to bring Elkana Bohbot home, as well as the other hostages.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from

New York—where I am originally from—for his incredible leadership and work to bring the Hispanic and Jewish communities together so that we can continue to fight oppression against both of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING). She is someone who has become a dear friend of mine. She sits on the Foreign Affairs Committee and has been a national Jewish community leader.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and all she has done in this time of such tragedy for the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, Hamas terrorists invaded Israel by land, air, and sea. They slaughtered over 1,200 innocent civilians, brutalized and raped women and girls, and took more than 240 hostages, including infants, children, the elderly, and even Holocaust survivors.

After long negotiations, many of those hostages were released with devastating trauma, weight loss, and emotional and physical injuries. That is why I am so worried about the remaining hostages.

It has been over 100 days of mourning, of pain, and uncertainty. For more than 100 days these people have been trapped in despicable underground tunnels with no fresh air, no sunlight, little water, little food, no comforts, and certainly no medical care.

Knowing all this is simply unbearable for the hostage families. I have been meeting with the families of the hostages for months, and their stories have been heartbreaking. Their stories have haunted all of us.

Today, I want to share the story of Carmel Gat and her family. Carmel Gat is a 39-year-old occupational therapist who lived in Tel Aviv. She was visiting her parents at Kibbutz Be'eri when Hamas attacked. First, they killed her mother, Kinneret. Then they grabbed Carmel and carted her away. Next, her brother, Alon; her sister-in-law, Yarden; and their 3-year-old daughter, Geffen, were all grabbed by Hamas and thrown into a vehicle.

Just before the vehicle crossed into Gaza, Alon and Yarden, with Geffen in her arms, jumped out of the vehicle and decided to run to safety. Yarden realized that her husband could run faster than she. She said to her husband: You take Geffen, because you can escape.

She sacrificed herself, and Yarden was taken hostage. Thankfully, during the first round of hostage releases, Yarden was released. I watched her reunion with her family with real joy.

Yet, the joy was tempered because Carmel was not released. She was not released because she is not a mother. She has now been held captive for nearly 4 months. Before her capture, Carmel was planning on starting her master's degree studies in October. She is a lover of music and of traveling. She is

someone who meets new people wherever she goes.

Carmel is a daughter, a sister, an aunt, and a friend to so many. My heart breaks for her family and her loved ones who do not know where she is, whether she is safe or whether she has been beaten or violated. As a beautiful young woman she is certainly at risk, and I am deeply concerned for Carmel's safety.

I am deeply concerned for all the women who are being held hostage by Hamas because we have seen more and more reports of what Hamas did to women and girls on October 7. They brutalized women. They raped them, they beat them, and they mutilated them. We have heard from those who were released that we need to get those women released as soon as possible because Hamas uses sexual violence as a weapon of war.

We must bring Carmel and every hostage home. I will keep using my voice in Congress to call for their safe return and to demand that the International Red Cross be allowed to visit the hostages in Gaza, administer aid to all of them, and report on their condition. We must hold Hamas accountable for their war crimes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her powerful words and for her leadership as the co-chair of the bipartisan task force to combat anti-Semitism in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) who is a member of the Black-Jewish Caucus in Congress and a leader in the Fort Worth area in his district in bringing the Black and Jewish communities together.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, say to my dear friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), that I just really admire her perseverance in making sure this stays in the forefront.

It is important that we continue to talk about this because this atrocity that took place on October 7 can't be forgotten. One of the most important and critical pieces of what happened on October 7 that can't be forgotten is, obviously, the hostages that have been taken captive.

□ 1730

It has been 4 months since twin brothers Ziv and Gali Berman were brutally taken from their home to be held in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 4 months, and as a dad, I cannot imagine the pain and anguish that Ziv and Gali's mother, father, and their loved ones feel each day when they wake up knowing that those twin boys aren't at home.

I say twin boys, but they are both 26 years old. We all remember what it was like when you were 26 years old because you are still really in the infancy of your adulthood. You want to go and hang out with friends. You want to go

to concerts, go out and eat, celebrate momentous occasions with your close friends and family.

Sadly, they are not able to do that because their lives were shattered and their family's lives were shattered when they were taken hostage.

I know that this particular subject about what happened, about the horrendous tragedy that happened on October 7 has been divisive for this country, but I will say that regardless of how you feel about what is happening, we should all be able to come together and say enough is enough. All of the hostages need to be returned now. All of the hostages need to be returned today, regardless of how you feel.

That is something that each and every one of us should be able to come together to say and be resolute about that loved ones need to be reunited with their families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida, my dear friend, for putting this together. I am going to keep talking about this. I hope each and every Member of Congress, regardless if you are in the progressive caucus, the New Dems, if you are a Republican, or conservative, whatever it may happen to be that we continue to talk about this.

I am going to because it is important. We cannot stop until these 26-year-old twins are home, and each and every person that was taken hostage on October 7 are returned to their families.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his compassion and his leadership, and for helping us to keep the plight of these hostages in the public eye. As a mother of 24-year-old twins, I know exactly what he means in the way he described that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), who has been a mentor and friend of mine for literally my entire adult life.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I make these remarks with a very heavy heart. As we have heard today, we mark 115 days since the darkest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel and mercilessly took the lives of 1,200 people. They tortured, they maimed, they raped people, and seized over 200 hostages.

Among the hostages, as you look at the photograph behind me, are Daniela Gilboa and Agam Berger, two vibrant young women, 19 and 20 years old, respectively. Agam, a skilled violinist since fourth grade, and Daniela, a singer with a captivating voice. Teenagers full of life with dreams and aspirations, and they have been held captive almost 4 months, most likely in the dreadful underground tunnels in Gaza where air

and food is scarce and abuse is abundant.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting with the parents of Agam and Daniela. Their hearts are heavy, burdened by a living nightmare and the constant terror of the exploitation they dread their daughters are experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, over 100 hostages, including Daniela and Agam, remain separated from their loved ones and it is terrifying to even think of the fear, the brutality, and the perverse mistreatment they are experiencing every single day. It has been our solemn responsibility to share their stories and it is even a greater responsibility to bring them home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in highlighting these two young women, especially given her role as the chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), the distinguished member of the Ways and Means and Foreign Affairs Committees, and a leader in the Jewish community in his home district.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 116 days since the attack, with more than 130 hostages, including six Americans, who are still not home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to call for the immediate, unconditional release of the more than 130 hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Among them is an American citizen with deep connections to my district north of Chicago, Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

Hersh was last seen on October 7, kidnapped, wounded, and being taken at gunpoint to Gaza. His left arm had been severed just below the elbow, blown off by a grenade thrown into a bus stop where Hersh had sought refuge with approximately 30 others fleeing the carnage at the Re'im music festival.

Most in the shelter were murdered. Hersh, bloodied and dazed, was kidnapped. Hersh is the son of Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg, both originally from Chicago. Hersh has family and friends across my district. Hersh's aunt, Abby Polin, is a dear, personal friend of more than 30 years. His cousins went to school with my kids. His grandmother, Leah, has been an inspiration and a pillar of strength.

I join all of Hersh's family and friends in praying with all my heart and with all my might for Hersh's safety, for his health, and for his safe return.

Hersh, a vibrant 23-year-old, should be home with his parents and his two sisters, planning for his future. He should be traveling on a planned trip he had that was scheduled to leave last month.

In fact, El Al Airlines has held his reserved seat, praying for his return.

We must do everything we can to bring pressure on Hamas to release

Hersh and all the other hostages. We need the U.N. and the International Community of the Red Cross to demand Hamas immediately provide access to the hostages and ensure their unconditional release.

We need Qatar and Egypt and others to do more, to do whatever is necessary to bring the hostages home. I refuse to let the hostages be forgotten.

Tonight, with all my colleagues here, we stand on this House floor imploring Congress to do more, to do everything we can to work to save the hostages. To Hersh's parents, Rachel and Jon, to the parents, grandparents, kids, brothers, sisters, the loved ones of every hostage, know we stand with you. We feel your pain. We hear your pleas. We share your hope. Bring them home. Bring them home now.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his relentless advocacy and for his partnership in continuing to help make sure we can keep a spotlight on the plight of these hostages who have been kept in captivity for 115 days now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), a dear friend and the first pediatrician ever elected to the United States Congress.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her incredible leadership at this very hard time.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, we witnessed the most horrific, gruesome, terrifying attack on Israel in its history.

Thousands of Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and specifically targeted innocent civilians, including women and children. Twelve hundred Israelis were murdered, and women were specifically and systematically brutalized.

Now, 115 days later, 132 hostages are still being held by Hamas. Officials believe 18 have died. The others remain in horrific conditions and have not received required medical checks from the International Red Cross.

I have met with the families of several hostages, and they need our voices and our advocacy to help bring their loved ones home.

Here are two: Naama Levy is 19 years old and is active in a peace movement bringing young Israeli and Palestinian people together seeking peace. Doron Steinbrecher is 30 years old, a veterinary nurse who was kidnapped from her home.

Just imagine if your daughter, sister, or partner were held hostage by Hamas terrorists for 115 days and the torture of not knowing whether they are alive.

Consider for a moment what it must be like to live a nightmare every day, wondering what horrors they might be enduring. Released hostages have reported sexual violence and rape, drugging, beating, branding, and deplorable conditions. Hamas has not allowed the ICRC to assess the condition of the hostages and has not provided proof of life.

We in Congress, we in this country, need to do everything in our power to keep these hostages and their families in our hearts to tell their stories and to bring them home now.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and appreciate her participation tonight in continuing to shine a spotlight on the captivity of the hostages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), a dear friend who has also been relentless in continuing our efforts to make sure that we can apply the pressure necessary to bring the hostages home.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for scheduling this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I am almost without the ability to speak because of the horrors that have occurred on October 7 with the killing of people and the taking of 240 hostages, 110 believed to be alive and still in captivity by Hamas, is unthinkable.

Unthinkable to normal human beings, but thinkable to Hamas whose purpose in their charter and statements that they have made as recently as a week ago from leaders is to erase Israel from the map and to kill all Jews.

The war is horrific, and I have many people who I represent who have been supporters of mine for years who are upset that I have not called for a cease-fire. I share with them grief at looking at the rubble in Gaza and the people killed. The children that have been killed. The children that have lost their limbs. The children who will never recover from this trauma, but as Bret Stephens said so well in *The New York Times* this past week: Every single death is the result of Hamas because they broke the cease-fire on October 7. This is the fifth time they have gone to war on Israel and they continue to have the same purpose—to eradicate Israel and to kill all Jews. That is Israel's neighbor.

Bob Dylan one time wrote a song called "Neighborhood Bully," Israel, but Bob said you would be a bully too if those were your neighbors. That is what they have got right now.

Mr. Speaker, Noa Argamani was put on a motorcycle and taken out of Israel. She reached up and said, "Please, don't kill me." She is still there.

Mr. Polin, who Representative SCHNEIDER talked about, lost his arm. Who knows what condition he is in now if he is alive?

□ 1745

There are efforts to get the children, the elderly, and the women released with a 6-week or 2-month cease-fire that the United States has participated in, and President Biden is largely responsible for, working with Qatar and Egypt. Hopefully, they will be successful. They should also include the injured, and they should also include the

people who have been killed so they can be reunited with their families and buried.

These are horrific conditions, unfortunately, that are transpiring.

I think it was President Trump who first started referring to the people who tried to take this Chamber, who came in here saying, “Hang Mike Pence,” “Hang Nancy Pelosi,” and take Members of this Congress as hostages or beat them. One of our Members in particular has also referred to those who have gone to prison, criminals, as hostages. It is a disgrace to these people whose pictures are behind me who are hostages. Those people aren’t, and anybody who says it should be ashamed.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. COHEN particularly for highlighting the abomination of an idea that a terrorist entity should be allowed to live on the precipice of a nation and remain a threat, as Hamas continues to do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN), a new Member who has been a stalwart leader ever since October 7 and beyond, and we appreciate his participation tonight.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida, who has been such a terrific mentor and model for so many of us. I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us this Special Order hour to highlight the horrific conditions, 116 days in captivity, that more than 100 hostages are enduring.

I stand before you today to highlight the tragic case of Noa Argamani, a 25-year-old Israeli woman who many know from a video posted by Hamas on October 7 of her being abducted by terrorists and taken away on a motorcycle, screaming “Don’t kill me.”

This is a still photo from that video. You can see the absolute terror in her eyes as she is being kidnapped into Gaza by armed terrorists who had brutally murdered, raped, and tortured her friends and fellow Israeli citizens.

This is a photo of her before October 7—a beautiful smile, full of life, hope, and a bright future ahead.

Noa should have been released with the other female civilians—one of the categories that Hamas had agreed to release—who were released during the temporary cease-fire 2 months ago, but she was not, and we know why. Hamas broke the agreement with Israel because they did not want Noa to describe the rape and violence that she endured in captivity. We know from other hostages that were released at that time that the same awful sexual violence that occurred with horrific brutality on October 7 continued in the dark, damp, cramped tunnels in Gaza, and that was 61 days ago. Two months.

At least as of 16 days ago, we know that Noa is still alive. We know because Hamas released a psychological terror video of her sitting with two other hostages, but we know nothing

about her condition because Hamas refuses to allow the International Red Cross into Gaza to check on the medical conditions of the hostages.

That is required by international law, but somehow for many the fact that Hamas is a designated terrorist organization that has violated countless international laws—and cease-fires, I might add—seems to give them a pass at adhering to international law about medical checks and wellness visits.

Since when do we allow terrorist organizations to dictate how international law operates?

What makes this even worse is that we haven’t heard anything from Qatar nor Egypt nor Turkiye nor any other country with influence on Hamas who push and prod them to allow international medical professionals to access the innocent civilian hostages, even though we know from those who have come out that their conditions violate a host of international laws.

I have met with families and mothers of some of the young women who remain in captivity. They, of course, are devastated, worried, and distraught about their daughters. Do you know what keeps them up at night? They assume that their daughters are pregnant with babies of Hamas terrorists. Imagine that being a mother’s final thought before she falls asleep and her first thought when she wakes up.

Noa’s mother, Liora, has an additional heartbreaking cause for urgency. You see, Liora is currently battling terminal stage 4 brain cancer. She is desperately hoping that she can see her daughter before she passes away.

This tragic story hits me especially hard because my father died of brain cancer 34 years ago, when I was just 13 years old. I remember to this day the last time I got to see my father before he died. I still feel lucky to have been able to say good-bye.

Noa deserves to have that same memory, too, and Liora deserves to die with the peace of mind that Noa is out of captivity and hopefully on her way to healing.

This is an excerpt from a letter that Liora Argamani, Noa’s mother, sent to President Biden. She wrote, I am terminally ill with stage 4 brain cancer. All that is running through my mind before I part ways with my family forever is the chance to hug my daughter, my only child, one last time.

We cannot wait any longer. Noa will soon lose her mother. While every single additional day that Noa spends in captivity could be her last, it could also be her mother’s last.

The international community must pressure Hamas to immediately cease their illegal kidnapping of more than 100 innocent civilians who are being tortured, raped, and horrifically treated.

Israel has reportedly agreed with the United States, Qatar, and Egypt to make significant concessions to Hamas

to release the hostages. It is now incumbent upon Hamas to agree to do so, and for that to happen, the international community must apply pressure on Hamas to agree to the proposed cease-fire and release the hostages.

We must bring them home. We must bring them all home now. Time is running out.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. That is a searing account of the absolute importance that there is in ensuring that we bring the hostages home immediately to their families.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud and thankful to be joined by a woman who makes our Special Order hour bipartisan, although I know there are far more Members on both sides of the aisle who share our sentiments. She is a woman who has become a dear friend, especially because of the experiences we have shared together unexpectedly over the last several months. The gentlewoman from Iowa and I were part of a bipartisan, bicameral delegation that was in the region on October 7, and returned at the end of December. She is a veteran of the United States Army of 24 years and an ophthalmologist. I appreciate her advocacy and passion about making sure that we bring these hostages home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah on October 7, 2023, as Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ said, we happened to be in the Middle East at that time, when Hamas terrorists launched unimaginable and barbaric attacks on Israeli citizens by air, land, and sea. These attacks resulted in the death of over 1,300 Israeli citizens, including 30 Americans, and over 250 individuals were taken hostage.

Following these attacks, I introduced House Resolution 777 to condemn these horrendous attacks and demanded the immediate release of all hostages in Gaza. However, 4 months later, at least 130 hostages are still being held by Hamas, including American citizens.

Earlier this year, I was proud to join Senator JONI ERNST on a bipartisan and bicameral congressional delegation to Egypt, Israel, Qatar, and Bahrain to advocate for the American and Israeli citizens still held captive by Hamas. While in the region, we heard from family members, released hostages, and leaders in the region about the escalation of crimes committed by Hamas against women.

It was heartbreaking to meet with these members of the kibbutz Nir Oz community and family members of Judith Weinstein and Gad Haggai, American citizens who were killed by Hamas whose bodies still remain in Gaza. Additionally, we heard the frustrations and living nightmares of the families of Americans still held hostage: Edan Alexander, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Itay Chen, Keith Siegel, Omer Neutra, and

Sagui Dekel-Chen, and to hear of two children, one who had recently turned 1 and the other 4 years old, who are still being held in captivity.

While I am grateful for the 100 hostages who have been released so far, it is essential that the Biden administration do everything in their power to demand Hamas release the rest of the hostages. While Hamas released women, children, and grandparents, Israel was required to release three times as many not innocent civilians, convicted terrorists. Examples include charges of opening fire on Jewish civilians, stabbings, and arson.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Florida, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for hosting this important Special Order, and I will continue calling for the safe return of all hostages held by Hamas and to deter the concerning rise of anti-Semitism in the United States.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her solidarity. I thank the Members, Jewish and non-Jewish, Democratic and Republican, for joining us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I close by reminding the American public, the hostages that they heard about this evening have been held captive in Hamas' captivity for over 115 days. Hamas must end this crisis today by releasing the hostages and allowing them to be reunited with their families.

I hope every American understands that Israel is fighting to rescue her people and to protect her citizens from a terrorist organization that is dedicated to destroying the State of Israel and carrying out the October 7 attack against Israel and the Jewish people over and over again.

The United States will not let Hamas succeed. The Jewish people will not let Hamas succeed. Any people with a shred of humanity would not let Hamas succeed.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I in this Chamber will continue to stand with Israel and fight for the release of those held captive, of those being brutally abused and sexually violated. We will continue to make sure we shine our white-hot spotlights on the plight of these hostages until they are safely home with their families and until Hamas is eradicated as a threat on Israel's doorstep or to anyone worldwide.

"Am Yisrael Chai." "The people of Israel live." Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### DOES ANYONE SEE A MATH PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I thank you and Ms. WASSERMAN

SCHULTZ and the other Members who spoke for their words. Being from Scottsdale, you know, my community actually has family who have been devastated by what is going on in Israel.

Madam Speaker, have you ever had one of these moments where you are walking out here, and one of the reporters shoves their little recorder in your face, and it is not until the next day that you start to realize what you wish you would have said?

Last week, a young man stuck his microphone in my face and says, Aren't you tired of going to the floor every week and saying the exact same thing?

□ 1800

If that is true, I apologize to the poor team here who has to try to write down our words, to listen to this.

I don't think I am saying the exact same thing. It is the same theme because it is true. The problem is every week, it is getting worse, and we just do nothing.

We are going to walk through some of the numbers of what has happened in the last couple weeks, and maybe someone will actually hear the words instead of thinking I am giving the same speech that I was giving a year ago because the numbers are dramatically uglier.

If I don't talk too long, I am going to try to actually at the end here walk through some things that are positive, but it is just going to require this body to actually do something.

Just to sort of point out that I am no longer alone, I am now starting to finally see in some of the mainstream press—not just the financial press, not just the bond press—actual coverage.

Here is Robert Rubin, the former Treasury Secretary, under a Democrat President. The U.S. is in a terrible place fiscally. That is a Democrat. Here is the head of J.P. Morgan, Jamie Diamond: Driving toward a fiscal cliff.

Now, for those of you who are fans of "The Black Swan," "Antifragile," actually, I love both books. I am a little bit more of a George Gilder fan when it comes to economics. For anyone that knows who that is, you are a real geek.

He is basically saying—and my understanding is he is quite liberal. He is an economist who basically predicted the black swan, and then it happened.

He talks about fragility, which is something I have come here and talked about over and over, that with the scale of debt, the fragility we have created, he is basically saying: death spiral.

Anyone care? Are these just people you want to ignore because they are not giving you free rein to just keep borrowing and spending?

We are going to walk through some boards because that is sort of what we do here because I found when you are talking about things with 12 zeros, no one can picture them.

First off, to demonstrate how much uglier the numbers are today than they were even way back when, like last De-

cember, does anyone remember the wayback machine a month ago?

Understand, CBO updated their numbers. The update was \$1 trillion additional borrowing on what was projected.

Our joint economic economists are working on some math right now, and I will show it over and over on the board.

If we don't see some substantial turnaround in tax receipts or the bending of healthcare spending, we may borrow \$3 trillion this year.

I am trying to find ways to get people to pay attention. If I tell you at the current borrowing rate, every 140 days we click off another trillion dollars of borrowing. A trillion dollars every 140 days. Is anyone hearing this?

Back to our wayback machine. This is a board I produced for a floor speech last month. I think I did this in December.

Anyone that is really smart that is able to read really small type, can you catch the mistake? We were basically saying, hey, we are going to head toward the deficit.

All discretionary, military included, is \$1.7 trillion, and then you add up everything else with it, and we are going to have to borrow this wedge.

Well, I will tell you right now that our prediction is somewhere around \$2.6 trillion to \$3 trillion of borrowing of our budget that we get to vote on.

Remember, all this over here, as a Member of Congress, you don't vote on. It is Medicare. It is Medicaid. It is Indian Health Service. Actually, Indian Health Service is actually an appropriated items. It is the things that are on formula. The vast majority of our spending is on autopilot.

Process this: Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed. Plus, congratulations. It looks like every dime we vote on is borrowed plus another trillion dollars, so let's just assign it to something.

\$1 trillion in Medicare is going to be borrowed, and we don't vote on it. Next time you have someone say, well, just balance the budget. We are going to balance it right away.

You can wipe out every dime in the military. You can wipe out every dime of what you think of as government—so there is no State Department, there is no Supreme Court, and there is no Congress. Maybe we would be better off. There is nothing. It is all gone.

You still have to borrow another \$1 trillion to cover what we call the earned entitlements. The wheels have come off, and we will do everything we can to avoid telling you the truth.

CBO, to their credit, basically a couple weeks ago got up and said, hey, we screwed up. We were telling you we were going to borrow \$1.6 trillion, \$1.8 trillion, maybe on the outlier, but it turns out tax receipts came in \$477 billion lower than what we are projecting.

It turns out that outlays, mostly healthcare costs, are up 9 percent, \$564

billion. Add that together. That is another \$1.41 trillion on top of the projection we were given as we entered into this new fiscal year.

How many Members have you heard come behind these microphones and even tell you the truth or where the math is at, because we don't want to talk about it. It terrifies us.

It is hard to get in front of your audience. You go back home to your district and say, hey, guys, you remember that whole budget thing?

Remember when I used to get up in front of you and say, we can cut this, or if you are a Democrat, we are going to raise these taxes over here, and everything will be fine? None of that is true.

I have come behind this microphone over and over and over, soaked myself in kerosene, played with matches, and told the truth.

I am blessed. I have one of the best educated districts in America. My folks get it. I get up in front of other audiences, and I almost get booed because telling the truth is painful.

I had a conversation about 2 hours ago walking through the tunnel here with a Member of Congress who is smart—does more military stuff but smart—and he made it very clear how upset he is when he sees what I am doing because he has to go home and explain it.

If you add in the \$1 trillion miss from CBO, we may be out to borrow almost 10 percent of the entire economy this year.

We are already running about 9, 9.6 of the entire GDP right now is our borrowing this year. I am going to walk through a number of boards but, first, let me nail down how bad the borrowing numbers are.

Then what we are going to do is we are going to actually talk about the GDP numbers that came out last week, which were good, and then why we should be terrified that at a time when you actually may have long-run GDP here and your borrowing is up here, something is horribly wrong.

Dear God, what happens if we actually had a slowdown? What does that gap become? Do we actually have the capacity to keep borrowing at this rate?

Will we have anyone here willing to tell the truth about the math, or does this continue to be a math-free zone because it is inconvenient?

Once again, my latest math and our economist—because I am blessed—and, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to be the senior Republican over the Joint Economic Committee, so I have the economist—we have been remarkably accurate the last couple of years.

For those of you who signed up for the daily debt text message, thank you. For those of you who get it and don't like it, screw you. Math is math. The truth is the truth.

It looks like we are going to head to \$2.8 to \$3 trillion at our current burn

rate. Remember, the entire economy is about \$27—\$27½ trillion.

If we hit \$3 trillion in borrowing, that is more than 10 percent of the entire economy is in borrowed money in a single year. Is anyone else terrified? This one is important.

When we all go home to our town halls or we are at Costco talking to people, how many of you understand when that person comes up to you and starts banging on you because they want more spending?

Social Security is our number one spend. This fiscal year, it will be about \$1.450 trillion. Interest now is over \$1 trillion.

The reason you see the little darker blue here is there is a difference in gross interest. Gross interest is the little sliver that we also pay when we strip the money out of the Social Security trust fund, and then we pay them interest.

Every month we have to give them back some of their principal because they don't have enough employment tax revenues to cover the Social Security checks.

That is why in 2033, the Social Security trust fund is empty. Our brothers and sisters on Social Security take a 25 percent cut, and we double senior poverty—which is another thing we are not allowed to talk about here because they will run nasty ads about you saying, you talk about Social Security. Those that don't talk about it aren't trained to save it.

Number three is Medicare. Number four is defense. That is where we are budget-wise this fiscal year. Defense is not number one, not number two, not number three—it is four. Interest is now number two.

That is a little different than the folklore when we go home and talk to people in our grocery store, what they think they know. It is our obligation to start telling the truth.

For those of you who do get my daily debt text message, you would have seen this about 2 hours ago. We are now borrowing over \$85,000 every second, and our projection is it is going to continue to go up.

This is even with the little bounce down we had over the last couple months in interest rates. Now, we are back over 4.1 or sitting at 4.1.

As you also know, Treasury, last month, decided to go shorter on the curve. Now they are possibly going to go longer on the curve.

We will get the announcement, I think Wednesday, what the mix is going to be over the next quarter. Remember, we have to bring about \$10 trillion to market this year, this fiscal year.

Before we were telling you that \$2 trillion was going to be virgin, new issuances, to handle the excess spending this year.

The other \$7.9 trillion, \$8 trillion, well, that was just the refinancing. Now, I need to stand in front of you and say there is a chance we are bring-

ing \$3 trillion of new issuances at this interest rate, and everything else gets refinanced. It is the death spiral, and we are so close.

Maybe this is the time because I should say it four or five times. Congress has decided they don't want to be in charge.

Let's be honest. You see the clown show we engage in around here where someone gets their feelings hurt or someone wants to make up some crap or we are going to fight over this much on discretionary.

Yet, the fact that if you are borrowing \$7.4 billion every single day, and we knife each other for several weeks over \$16 billion of savings, you saved 2½ days of borrowing, but we never got around to the big issue, and that is the clown show we have engaged in here.

I know I am being a jerk, but I am just so frustrated because I am terrified this is going to wipe out your retirement and my kids' future.

I have young kids, and they are adorable, and they deserve to prosper. Is borrowing \$85,000 a second what you all intended to hand your children?

Yet, I will show it in one of these boards here, and I need to say it over and over and over again: Congress has decided we are not in charge. We are not capable.

You want to know who is now in charge? The bond market; the U.S. bond market. The international bond market is now the one that is going to walk in one day and say, hey—and remember, this actually happened in the 1990s during the Clinton administration.

There was a period there where they basically said, no, we are going to go on a bond purchase holiday. Interest rates spiked up. The White House absolutely freaked out.

Congress actually stepped up and did something. Guess what? By the end of the decade, we had a substantially balanced budget.

□ 1815

It took the bond market to kick this Congress in the head. It took a bond market to kick the White House in the head. The numbers are dramatically uglier today than they were in the 1990s.

I am just waiting for the moment when the bond vigilantes say, Hey, now is a great time. Let's pull the trigger. Let's go make some money on U.S. sovereign debt. Let's kick every U.S. taxpayer in the head because that Congress isn't willing to step up and do what is hard.

But there are things we can do. The problem is every day we wait we are another 7.3 or \$7.4 billion in debt, and every day we wait, the window gets narrower, and the left basically their make-believe world is, well, we will just tax rich people. I am going to show you that is a complete fantasy, and I have done that the last three times I have come behind these microphones.



What is our point? Every 140 days we are borrowing \$1 trillion. Got that one.

Number two. If we don't do it, the bond market will do it for us, but when they do, it is ugly. For every Member here, if that happens, you have the obligation to go home and explain why you didn't step up and try to do something.

Number three, I am going to show you that the fantasy of the left, well, we are just going to tax rich people gets you a point and a half, and in a fantasy world, maybe 2 percent of the economy. For those of us on the right, everything we are able to cut, we might get a point. Maybe we get two points. But if we are borrowing almost 10 percent of the economy this year, does anyone see a math problem?

2023, which was supposed to be a rough year borrowing wise. We were supposed to start flattening things out because in 2023 last year, we still had a bunch of the Democrats crazy spending on everything from their Inflation Reduction Act, which is a completely Orwellian name. It proves you can just name anything around here, and it doesn't actually have to do with what the legislation does. Some of the other fiscal stimulus, some of the infrastructure spending, CHIPS, all the things we were handing money out. 2023 was supposed to be the rough fiscal year, and in the first 3 months in 2023—last fiscal year—we borrowed \$490 billion. The first 3 months of this fiscal year we have borrowed \$834 billion. Does anyone see a math problem there?

So, what does that mean to you and I and the sovereignty and the stability of your country? The national debt is expected to hit \$35 trillion during April. Remember? Last month—well, earlier this month we had 34. 140 days, we had \$35 trillion. Oh, it gets so much better. That actually means if we have hit \$35 billion in April, the first week of May, that means in September just about the time we have ended this fiscal year, we could be crossing \$36 trillion.

I can't wait to be going into the election cycle in November saying, Hey, in just this year, we clipped through 34, 35, now we are at 36. Hey, great job, gang. The hardest part is to stand in front of that audience back home and say every dime of today through the next 30 years of borrowing CBO, Congressional Budget Office, calculates interest, healthcare—mostly Medicare—and then in 2033, so what is that, 8 budget years, 9 years from now, that first year the shortfall—when the trust fund is gone in Social Security that first year \$616 billion shortfall. And the next year it is bigger, and the next year it is bigger, and the next year it is bigger.

That is not the 10-year window. That may be in the 8-year window. But we are going to not talk about it because they will run nasty ads about us because we talked about something that we need to save. And the immorality, the absolute immorality about this

place is we are going to double the poverty of senior Americans in this country in 9 years.

The Democrats say, well, just raise the FICA tax. I will be hearing next week or the week after that we are killing ourselves to get incredibly accurate numbers. Raising the cap on those \$400,000 and up doesn't get you anywhere close to it. Our best estimate is it only covers about 20 percent of the shortfall. You are still doubling senior poverty in that moment. And if you tax your way to fix it, you have consumed every dollar of available tax. You almost have now tax maximized everything, functionally meaning what are you going to do with the other two-thirds, three-quarters of the growth of the debt, which is mostly healthcare?

I have come behind this microphone dozens of times showing the revolution we could have in healthcare costs, the revolution we could have by adopting technology, changing the way we do things, crash the costs of the debt, crash the costs of the Government, grow the economy. Family formation, healthcare, everything else gets better. Then you get screamed at walking down the hallways here because that is going to screw up my business model or this agency. You will shut down our agency. Why do you want to put us out of business? Because I am trying to save the country. It is just at some point it is exhausting dealing with the bed-wetting around here.

You are going to have to work with me a little bit on this. We tried to do the GDP growth number that came out earlier—actually, I think it was the end of last week. It was a terrific number in many ways. But we took it for the last year. And then we also annualized the debt so it also matched the same dates. So that fancy word, *ceteris paribus*, whatever that word is, basically saying same timeframe, same dates.

So if you actually had GDP growth from that fourth quarter of '22 to the fourth quarter of '23, the whole economy, every bit of the economy grew about \$1.5 trillion. That is actually much better growth than the economists said we were going to have. The problem is, we borrowed \$2.6 trillion during that same time. So the borrowing actually may have been what was driving much of the GDP growth. We did it with debt.

Here is just a basic thought experiment. If you are able to tax—now, our traditional tax we get about 17 percent of the economy. You know, if you lived in a fantasy world, it makes the math much easier. Say 20 percent of the economy. If I grow \$1 trillion of GDP growth, that is \$200 billion in tax receipts.

Does anyone see my math problem?

So if I needed to cover \$2.6 trillion of borrowing, you need a GDP growth dramatically bigger than this. Remember, a trillion dollars of GDP growth—this is just rough numbers off the top of my head—gets you about \$200 billion. I

need 10, almost 10½ times that just to produce enough new tax receipts to cover the debt.

Once again, the debt is demographics. We got older, and we don't like to talk about it. Are we going to magically change the demographics? We know what is ahead of us.

Look, here is another way to look at this. Increase in national debt outpaces growth in the economy by more than \$1 trillion over the past year. Fine. That is pretty much the same thing I was just showing you. And this is actually normalizing it for the time gap, so you had about a trillion and a half dollars of GDP growth. That is terrific. Still borrowed 2.6.

Break this down. Just want to make sure because some people get upset. The chart I just showed you was actually borrowing to the public. This over here is total borrowing, gross borrowing, publicly held. What is the difference between gross and net sort of borrowing is one is where we also borrow out of the trust fund. So over here is the Transportation Trust Fund. Over here is Social Security. Over here is Medicare. Understand, that cash doesn't sit there. We do pay interest, and then we have to pay it back. Remember, once again, because I have given this presentation a dozen times, the Social Security Trust Fund, gone in 2023. Medicare Trust Fund, gone in 7 years. Transportation Trust Fund, gone in, what, 5 years? And there are a dozen other smaller trust funds that are all gone in that time.

Do we have any understanding the level of recapitalization we have to engage in in the next 9 years? I am sure glad that today we are back here in Congress and behind all these microphones. We are going to spend some time talking about the economic survival of this country is our most important—it is not like it is our job.

Here is one of the intense ironies. Tax receipts. First 3 months, tax receipts are up 8 percent. Being on Ways and Means, being the senior Republican over the Joint Economic Committee, this number is terrific. Mr. Speaker, 8 percent growth in our tax receipts. That is absolutely terrific. Oh, but gross interest is up 37 percent. Outlays are up 11.8 percent. The deficit grew 21 percent. Does anyone see a math problem?

If you would actually hold the deficit growth to the tax receipt growth, but the problem is we don't control the interest. And we don't control our brothers and sisters turning 65 and moving into their earned benefits. We have known the numbers. We knew baby boomers were around for, what, 65 years? It was just uncomfortable to talk about the actual math.

So let's actually go into a little bit more of the fun stuff here. So why are so many Americans cranky? I believe this chart shows it. You take a look at economic growth. So the numbers of nineties, 2000s, 2009 to 2017. Under President Trump—look at these. Under



President Trump you had a 9.8 percent growth in your income. So far when you adjust for inflation, the growth of your income, you are negative today. You are poorer today than you were 30 months ago.

I actually tried to explain this. Some people talk about, Well, there is this MAGA thing out there, and there is this populism, and these people are really upset. It is because they are poorer today. Working class Americans, our working class brothers and sisters today they are working their hearts out just to survive, they are poorer today.

In my community, the Phoenix-Scottsdale area, unless your wages are up about 20 to 22 percent over the last 30-something months, you are poorer today than you were 32, 33 months ago. No wonder you are cranky. You may not completely understand the math of inflation, and everything is more expensive, and how are you going to finance your next car, and have you seen your mortgage rates. But this shows it. And for my brothers and sisters on the left, have some love, have some compassion. Understand people are getting crushed. Stop making excuses.

□ 1830

All right. I am going to try to make this point, because we are now going to walk into some of the tax economics. I have used this chart a number of times, and it is falling apart. The point here is, if we can confiscate it, every dime of people that make \$500,000 and up—if you make \$500,001, that \$1 is the government's. We just confiscate everything. We get about \$1.5 trillion.

Before, when we were doing this chart for 2024, we were walking around saying we are going to borrow \$1.7 trillion. Does anyone get the joke here? It is now 6, 7 weeks later since we produced this chart, and it is no longer \$1.7 trillion we are going to borrow. Now, it is almost \$3 trillion at the current burn rate. We can confiscate every dime of people \$500,000 and up, and you get about \$1.7 trillion.

One more time. I have done versions of this. The real punch line here is—all untaxed persons' and small businesses' adjusted gross income, AGI, analyzed earnings above the listed threshold. What are we saying? If we take every dime of \$500,000 and up, I get about 5.3 percent of the economy. We are going to borrow over 10. It looks like we are heading toward borrowing 10 percent of the entire economy.

Now, obviously if you started confiscating every dime, you crash the economy. It is just basically trying to demonstrate the absurdity of the math that seems to come from my brothers and sisters on the left.

Let's walk through. I am going to do this one again. No, I am not going to make you suffer through that one.

Go to the Manhattan Institute, Brian Riedl, and go back 4 or 5 months. I have done the whole study as a floor speech here. He gathered up all the

studies that say what is the tax maximization rate, what happens if you took people over 400,000, over 500,000, and maximized their income taxes, maximized their estate taxes, maximized their capital gains taxes, maximized their corporate taxes. He did it all.

There is this concept of tax maximization. You have to understand, if I tax you at 100 percent, how much tax do I get from you? Zero, because you are not going to work. Well, if I tax you at zero, I get zero, because you are going to work a lot, but you get to keep everything.

There is this concept here, and the best models start to say once you start getting around 62 percent on income tax, you actually roll over and you actually start getting less. People say, well, back in the 1960s and 1950s—but also understand the number of deductions you actually had in that time. No one actually paid those rates, because you got to deduct this, got to deduct your meals, got to deduct your interest, got to deduct your credit cards. You have got to line them up.

So Brian Riedl at Manhattan Institute basically took all those taxes and said: I am putting everything at its maximum tax rate for these high-income earners, and he adjusted for the economic effects and basically came back and said you are going to get 1.1 to 2 percent of the economy in new taxes. Remember, that is the Democrats' plan: We are going to tax rich people, and we are going to maximize all their taxes.

Let's say you get the 2 percent. How many times have I already mentioned we may be heading to—because right now, we are burning about 7.5—no, right now we are burning almost 9 percent, if you do total gross borrowing, of the economy. We may hit up as high as 10. CBO before was projecting we would be at like 7.5 percent.

Does anyone see a math problem? If the tax nirvana of the left gets you at most 2 percent, more likely 1.5, and you are borrowing 10, does anyone see a math problem?

We have so many people who don't want to hear this. There are 12 people probably watching this. If you are on the Democrat side, you have already turned off your television. If you are that reporter who stuck the mike in my face, you don't want to hear this because this doesn't reaffirm your sarcasm.

For my brothers and sisters on the right, I can find you 1 or 2 percent of the economy we can cut. There are really brutal cuts I would support because we don't have a choice. We have to deal with the morality right now. We borrow money to send it to cities, States, and others who actually have their own taxing authority. They are programs I love. Should we do that? Everything's borrowed.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). The gentleman from Arizona has 23 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I promise I am only going to use a few more moments.

There are some things I am optimistic about. I promise sometime in the next couple weeks, I will get here and I will actually make some charts. It is just in the last 30 days; the numbers have moved against us. The CBO has admitted they missed the numbers by over a trillion dollars. I am just angry that I hear no one talk about it.

One of the presentations I did almost a year ago was talking about a market way to take on drug costs. I will bring the charts in the next week or so. The actual drug costs as our total healthcare costs are actually pretty darn small. Then you have a substitution effect of how many procedures, medical surgeries, other things, no longer need to happen, how many people actually get healthier. What I was trying to sell was a theory.

The Democrats want to do a rationing price control model, functionally what is used in Europe. Let me see if I can try to explain this. In Europe, you actually have a formula that says if a certain drug doesn't create an additional quality life year and it costs more than a certain dollar amount, you don't get it. It has been a couple years since I did this. Great Britain had one where if the drug was more than about \$13,000 a year but didn't create an additional quality life year, they just didn't buy it. It is a type of rationing, sort of a cost cap on functionally your life.

That is what the Democrats' H.R. 3 from a couple years ago did. It actually created a rationing with a cap. That is what they actually did in their Inflation Reduction Act. They are very proud they are going to start negotiating prices on 10 drugs. Fine. Doesn't do much. Look at the actual economic effect. It doesn't really do much.

Let's actually think about some of the crazy things that have started to happen in the pharmaceutical marketplace over the last few months and what we could do policy-wise to keep this disruption moving faster and faster and faster to disrupt the price of drugs.

Here is a bit of trivia. Our generic drugs, off-patent drugs, in America, more expensive or less expensive than the rest of the world? They are about 16 percent less expensive in the United States than they are in Europe. Those are the off-patent drugs. It is the patent ones where we get our heads kicked in.

How do you take the entire drug ecosystem and change it? Think of some of the things that are going on around us. You just had one of the large PBMs, benefit purchasing managers, say: We are changing our model. It is no longer this formulary. We are just going to buy drugs at the best negotiated price and going to do this sliver of markup and going to sell them at that.

The complaint that they were playing games and some drugs they were making really expensive and some they were selling cheaper, that is over. Now, you actually had one of the major manufacturers say: Screw it. We are going around this, and we are selling directly to our customers. The manufacturers now are going to sell directly to the customers.

Okay. Then you have others, which I am fascinated with, companies like Civica, which actually isn't a company. It is a co-op. As a co-op, everything from the State Medicaid system to an insurance company to hospitals and this and that, they are taking generic drugs and they are making them themselves. This is one of my arguments about insulin prices. They are making eight versions of generic insulins, and they intend to sell it for less than the Democrats' subsidized price.

The Democrats come behind these microphones and say: We hate Big Pharma. Then their plan is they turn around and say: Let's give \$16 billion to Big Pharma, buy down the price of insulin, and we will tell people we actually did something. Yet, a co-op is going to do the same thing without government money and do it for less. Does anyone see a problem here?

Then by them doing the \$16 billion, handing that money to Big Pharma, they actually make the concept of putting together co-ops to actually make generic drugs more difficult. It is just, once again, insanity.

One of the weight-loss drugs, one of the molecules—it is not semaglutide. It is the first molecule that was patented. That one came off patent January 1. I think I am allowed to say it, because we have actually been having a lot of conversations with some of the generic drug manufacturers. Expect in May to see one of these diet drugs that actually produce the hormone, do those things, will be generic. We know some of those have been just stunning miracles. There are some great studies out there that actually their effectiveness may change the U.S. economy.

What else is going on? You just saw Florida got the right to reimport from Canada. My understanding in Colorado, I think there are a couple of Indian Tribes which are making applications to the FDA to reimport. Some of the economists say, oh, that is not going to make much of a difference.

It is not about it making a difference. It is the concept that, for many of us who love markets—you may see it as chaos. I actually see it as markets battling each other to bring things to the public faster, better, cheaper, provide optionality, different silos where you can purchase. Through that, we increase your choice, your optionality, and we maximize price efficiency. You actually see these incredible things happening.

Now, there is a whole new world we are going to have to figure out. If that is happening on this side of the ledger—and then what did you also see? I

think it was in December, we had the first genetic drug that cures sickle cell anemia come out of the FDA. They changed the genetics, and it is now approved and out the door. It is really expensive. Why it is a miracle is because now we know how to do it. We actually know how to do an actual genetic drug.

One of the most powerful things we can do for this society is no longer engaging in what the left so often does, which is ration, subsidize, and maintain your misery.

There is a group of us here who believe cures are the greatest morality and also the best economics.

Mr. Speaker, there is hope, but until we actually start to tell the truth about how fast the debt is moving against us—the window is closing on us fast. For so many of our Democrat colleagues, the con used to be we will stall, stall, stall, stall, the Republicans will get squeezed, and they will have to agree to tax hikes because that will be the only option that is left. The problem is the debt is so huge. To quote my 8-year-old, the debt is so ginormous that the tax option only closes a small portion. The solution is in policy.

I desperately had hoped we would be up and working on things like a debt and deficit commission. For those who are freaked out that they might raise taxes, they might cut programs, they might do everything, but the vast majority of saving this country from the death spiral of its debt is actually in policy.

The problem is, when you do policy, you take on a whole lot of business models, bureaucracies, and you force people to compete differently. This place is often a protection racket. It is a protection racket of this business model or of this bureaucracy. The morality is in the disruption. It is also our path where we save ourselves.

□ 1845

If we wait much longer, it doesn't matter; the bond market will be the one that actually runs this place, runs this government, because we will have basically walked away from our chance to be the influencers.

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

#### PLACER COUNTY RETAIL THEFT INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend a new initiative by the business community and law enforcement in Placer County spearheaded by the district attorney's office called the Placer County Retail Theft Initiative.

You can see here a printout of window signs that businesses in Placer County can now display. It says: "This business is protected by Placer County's Retail Theft Initiative. Warning,

Placer County is invested in holding those who steal from our residents and businesses accountable to the greatest extent the State law allows."

Now, the reason this is necessary is that there has been an epidemic of retail theft in California, owing to very misguided changes to the State's criminal laws, as well as very misguided choices by certain jurisdictions to defund police and to have prosecutors who refuse to enforce the law.

What Placer County, a county in my district, is doing is saying that we are not one of those jurisdictions. We are a pro-public safety county and, what's more, even though the State's criminal laws around retail theft are very weak, the county is using the full authority that exists in those laws, maximizing the accountability that can be brought to bear on those who choose to steal.

Therefore, these signs have been distributed. You can actually get them from the district attorney's office. My office has some, as well, if you are a business and would like to display one in your window. It serves as a real deterrent.

What is making this possible is: the Placer County Board of Supervisors has voted to accept a \$2 million grant for the Placer County District Attorney's Office new retail theft vertical prosecution team. With these grant funds, the DA's office will add a full-time deputy district attorney, a district attorney investigator, and a crime analyst to work on the investigation and prosecution of retail theft crimes.

The vertical prosecution structure provided by the grant allows for cases to be handled by the same investigator and prosecutor from case filing through adjudication.

You can see here the broad coalition that is behind this initiative. It is not just the DA's office. It is the sheriff's office; it is the Roseville Police Department; it is the Rocklin Police Department; the Auburn Police Department; the Lincoln Police Department; Colfax, as well as the business community of the Roseville area chamber.

You have the Lincoln chamber, you have the Rocklin area chamber, you have the Auburn chamber, the Foresthill chamber, Colfax chamber, Loomis Basin chamber, an entire coalition that has come together in order to make this a very clear deterrent.

Again, this is an actual sign that businesses can have in their window so that thieves who are walking by will see that, if they choose to prey upon this business, if they choose to steal, then that crime is going to be reported, and they are going to be held accountable to the full extent that the law allows.

In this way, I believe Placer County is setting a model for jurisdictions across California. In fact, this isn't the first time that Placer has done this. Placer County was also the first county in the State of California to obtain a murder conviction for fentanyl.

Again, the State's laws, similar to retail theft, on fentanyl are not as strong as they should be. The legislature and Governor have refused to act to pass stronger laws, but the district attorney's office has managed to use the authority within existing law to bring the full measure of accountability on those who prey on the public.

As Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire said: "Placer County is known as a problem solver on key issues affecting our State. Our county's collaborative and innovative approach to statewide problems, coupled with our ability to address those problems proactively, makes Placer County a leader in addressing challenges affecting our quality of life. This retail theft initiative shows that we are united and dedicated to fighting retail theft in our region."

It is one reason, by the way, why folks want to come to our county. While the population of California has been steadily declining, it has actually been increasing in our county, and a major reason is the dedication of those who are in public safety roles and support that exists in our community for supporting law enforcement as a key facet of maintaining our quality of life.

Now, of course, you can look at other parts of the State, like San Francisco, where you are seeing precisely the opposite, where there is this downward spiral of retailers continuing to close. It is like a new business every day seems to shut down. The city itself is losing population faster than any major city in U.S. history.

Ultimately, the State of California needs to reform its broken criminal justice system. Initiatives like Prop 47 have dramatically reduced the consequences that are available for retail theft, and for open drug use. Other policies like Prop 57, Realignment, and many more have weakened our ability to hold offenders accountable.

What Placer County has shown is that, even with being dealt a bad hand by the State, it is still possible for the community to come together to insist on accountability, and I think that what they are doing is a great model. I would certainly encourage any businesses within Placer who are seeing this to pick up one of these signs in order to protect your establishment.

#### INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's Department of Labor has announced a new independent contractor rule that amounts to one of the most potentially harmful economic policies that has come out of this administration or any administration in recent history. It is estimated that this new rule, which restricts significantly the ability to be an independent contractor, to work as a freelancer, to be your own boss, could cost upwards of 3.2 to 3.6 million full and part-time jobs.

Also, here is the thing. This is not a matter of speculation. Sometimes, when you have a proposed policy, you

can do an economic analysis and try to forecast what the effects might be. However, in this case, we know exactly what the effects are going to be, because we have already seen them play out in California.

This new independent contractor rule is based upon California's infamous AB5 law, which was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019.

The effects of that law have been absolutely devastating. In fact, a study out of George Mason University just a few weeks ago found that the law, in and of itself, has reduced self-employment in California by over 10 percent and has reduced overall employment by over 4 percent. That is potentially hundreds of thousands of jobs that have been lost in California because of this one law. That is what really makes this law uniquely devastating.

California has a lot of very harmful labor and economic policies, and we are seeing a lot from this administration, as well. Oftentimes, as a worker, as an entrepreneur, as a small business owner, there is a death-by-a-million-cuts effect where the costs imposed on your enterprise just add up to the point that things don't pencil out and you have to close down shop, lay people off, or move out of the State.

Well, AB5 was different in that it was one particular law that, by itself, cost many, many people their livelihoods, completely upended their whole career with a stroke of a pen. We saw this effect immediately after AB5 passed in 2019.

Before it had even taken effect, we heard countless stories of people who all of a sudden had no ability to earn a living. The careers that they had built over years, over decades, were snatched from them, were taken away with the effect of this one single law.

Therefore, after the law went into effect, in a matter of weeks, we compiled a whole book full of stories, AB5 stories, and many, many more have been added since. As this new rule is about to take effect, I am planning to share some of those stories with the American public so that folks who are outside California know what is in store if and when this new Biden administration labor rule takes effect.

For today's story, this is from John, who is a guest orchestral conductor. Very shortly after AB5 took effect, he said: I depend on my contractor status to maintain sustainable fees while not fleecing orchestras. He says: Because of this bill, AB5, I just lost my first scheduled job with an orchestra. That is \$9,000 that would have put a dent in my student loans or helped pay my insurance, or paid for food and shelter is now gone, all because of AB5.

There are countless other stories that I will be sharing from this floor.

If you are an independent contractor in California who lost your livelihood because of AB5, please feel free to reach out and share your story with my office so that I can share it with folks across the country and certainly

folks here in this House of Representatives as a warning about what the effects of this legislation are going to be.

Now, we are fighting against this policy, this new independent contractor rule, which will destroy millions of livelihoods. We are fighting against it in every way that we can, using every tool available.

First, I am introducing legislation under the Congressional Review Act to nullify the new rule. This is a fast-track procedure where Congress can override an executive agency.

Second, I have secured language in the Labor Appropriations bill providing that no funds may be spent to enforce the rule. This would effectively render it a dead letter.

Third, I have joined with Representative ELISE STEFANIK to author the Modern Worker Empowerment Act, which creates a clear legal standard to protect independent workers.

Fourth, I have endorsed the Department of Labor Succession Act, which has already passed through committee, which is going to stop Acting Secretary Julie Su from remaining in that position indefinitely.

Julie Su is Biden's nominee to be Secretary of Labor. She was rejected by the Senate. Her nomination was returned after almost a year last year in the face of bipartisan opposition, yet President Biden has insisted on keeping her at the helm of the Labor Department as an unconfirmed Secretary.

Why is that? Because Julie Su was the architect of AB5 itself. She was Gavin Newsom's Secretary of Labor in California and was the chief enforcer of AB5. That is why, for anyone who questions that the new national policy is based on AB5, why in the world would they promote, of all people, the architect and lead enforcer of AB5 into this new role, if not to do the exact same thing for the whole country?

Fifth, as chair of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the Department of Labor, and we will do everything possible to protect American workers against this independent contractor rule and other administration overreaching policies.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that there are now two different lawsuits, as we anticipated, challenging the independent contractor rule.

One is reviving a previous challenge to a previous version of this rule on procedural grounds.

The second, which was recently filed by a group called Fight for Freelancers that has partnered with Pacific Legal Foundation, is challenging the rule itself on a few grounds—on the ground that it doesn't comply with the statutory authority that has been granted to the agency, that it violates a statute that prohibits arbitrary rule-making by an agency, and, finally, it is a constitutional challenge saying that the vagueness of the law essentially amounts to a violation of due process.

That is all to say that we have hope of stopping this destructive policy from

taking effect, and I will continue to share the stories of those who have already been affected in California in hopes that we can save millions of American workers the same fate.

#### HOMELESSNESS CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, we recently received some good news, as the United States Supreme Court has decided to hear a case called *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which could mark a turning point for the homelessness crisis in California.

Just to provide some context, let's consider the full breadth of that crisis.

□ 1900

It has been 20 years since Governor Newsom rolled out his plan—he was then the mayor of San Francisco at the time—to end homelessness in San Francisco within a decade. It has now been 20 years since he announced that, and this anniversary happened to coincide with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual homelessness report to Congress.

Among the findings of the HUD report are that California has the highest homelessness rate of any State. California has had a 30.5 percent increase in homelessness from 2007 to 2023. That is the highest increase of any State.

California accounts for 28 percent of America's homeless and about 50 percent—that is half—of the Nation's unsheltered homeless. San Francisco, for its part, has the second highest percent of unsheltered homeless youth and unsheltered veterans of any city in the country.

So there are a lot of reasons for these appalling statistics and the tragic realities that they represent. It is political failure where we have had policies dealing with crime, for example, that have released many people from prisons too early and don't have appropriate consequences for criminal activity. There is our State's soaring cost of living that is a result of many different political failures. There is the inadequacy of our State's approach to mental health and substance abuse. Then there is the complete wastefulness and lack of accountability when it comes to the billions and billions and billions of dollars that are being spent at the State and local level to address the homelessness crisis.

In fact, as the State has continued to spend more and more—many, many times more—than it has ever spent, the homelessness problem has only continued to get worse, and, there is, in fact, an audit coming in California that is finally going to look at homelessness spending.

Nonetheless, on top of all of these political and policy failures, there have been significant judicial impediments to dealing with the homelessness crisis; that is, a series of decisions by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals beginning with the *Boise* case and its progeny that have made it difficult, if not impossible, to enforce anti-camping ordinances and to otherwise clear out

homelessness encampments from public spaces.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk to city leaders, county leaders, and leaders of municipalities across California, they will tell you that this line of cases is the bane of their existence and that it is a significant obstacle in the way of commonsense policies for dealing with homelessness.

So the Supreme Court has now taken up this case, and I am very hopeful that the Court is going to do the right thing and that it is going to restore the proper authority to local officials to deal with homelessness in public spaces.

The initial line of cases that the Court will be examining is based on a very distorted view of the Eighth Amendment, and so I believe that the legal argument here is one that will coincide with what is best from a policy perspective. So I will be urging the Court to make the right decision here, but at the same time, if and when the Court does that, when it provides these new tools to folks at the local level, we will finally have the political accountability for our State leaders to address homelessness in the right way so that we don't another 20 years from now continue to set the standard for having the most homelessness of any State in the entire country.

#### IMPORTANT TAX RELIEF

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, we have some good news in the bill that has just been released that is a major tax bill here in the House of Representatives that will be moving through the House and likely coming up for a vote very soon. The good news is that several measures that I have cosponsored that provide important tax relief have made it into this tax bill.

I wanted to provide a few examples because these are significant ways in which we are now using the tax code in order to stimulate the right kinds of economic activity.

One of the measures that made it into the bill is H.R. 2673, the American Innovation and R&D Competitiveness Act. What this does is it eliminates the 5-year amortization requirement for research and experimental expenditures thereby allowing continued expensing of such expenditures in the taxable years in which they are incurred.

What this does is it enhances the competitiveness of U.S. companies particularly when it comes to competition with China and otherwise across the board.

Another provision that is very important that has found its way into this bill is H.R. 2406, the ALIGN Act. What it does is it makes permanent the expensing of certain new business equipment. This expensing allows the deduction of the full amount of an expensable item in the same taxable year instead of being depreciated under the current IRS rules. Once again, this is a very important provision for stimulating manufacturing and enhancing our competitiveness here in the United States.

A third measure which has made its way into this tax bill is H.R. 4970; that is the Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Act. This measure which I have cosponsored excludes from gross income for income tax purposes any amount received after 2019 and before 2026 by an individual taxpayer as a qualified wildfire relief payment.

It defines such payment as compensation for expenses or losses incurred as a result of a federally declared forest or range fire disaster.

So this is just common sense and much-needed. It corrects an injustice for Californians who had suffered greatly because of our State's catastrophic wildfires and then found they were going to be taxed on the settlements and compensation that they received.

Finally, within this broader tax bill is another measure that I have cosponsored, H.R. 3238, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act. Now, this does a number of things to stimulate housing production that we so direly need in the State of California.

It increases the per capita dollar amount of the affordable housing credit and its minimum ceiling amount beginning in 2023, and it extends the inflation adjustments for such amounts.

The low-income housing tax credit subsidizes the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income tenants. That is what we are talking about here. This measure that has now been included in the broader tax bill extends and updates it to create new housing opportunities in California and across the country.

It also increases the number of credits allocated to each State; that is, the legislation would increase the number of credits available to States by 50 percent for the next 2 years and make the temporary 12.5 percent increase secured in 2018 permanent which has already helped build more than 59,000 affordable housing units nationwide.

It also increases the number of affordable housing projects that can be built using private activity bonds. This provision would stabilize financing for workforce housing projects built using private activity bonds by decreasing the amount of private activity bonds needed to secure housing credit funding. As a result, projects will have to carry less debt and more projects will be eligible to receive funding.

Finally, this improves the housing credit program to better serve at-risk and underserved communities. This legislation would also make improvements to the program to better serve veterans, victims of domestic violence, formerly homeless students, Native-American communities, and rural Americans.

I look forward to the opportunity to support this bill and enact these provisions into law that will stimulate our economy, will stimulate housing, and

will provide the full measure of compensation for wildfire victims in our State.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR FIRE HARDENING HOMES

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced the SAFE HOME Act which provides a tax credit for folks to harden their homes against wildfires.

Right now in California we have not only experienced devastating catastrophic wildfires in recent years, but, as a result, we are now in the thick of an insurance crisis where folks' rates for fire insurance have absolutely skyrocketed. People are losing their plans left and right, insurance companies are pulling out of California, and more and more people are being kicked on to what is called the FAIR Plan, which is not a good option for a lot of folks and imposes enormous costs.

This is having ramifications for homeowners, for businesses, for folks looking to buy a home, and for folks looking to sell a home. In one of my counties it has even impeded an affordable housing project from even getting off the ground, and the situation continues to get worse and worse and worse.

We have seen State Farm and Allstate say they are now no longer issuing plans in California. Other insurance companies such as Merastar, Unitirn, and Kemper Independence have said they are not going to renew policies in 2024 for homeowners.

Unfortunately, we have not seen much, if any, meaningful action from the Governor or from the legislature in California.

So folks really, really need relief. People are having to pay thousands more than they anticipated, and a lot of people simply cannot afford it.

So I have proposed a number of policies over the last few years to try to provide individuals with relief. What the SAFE HOME Act does is it at least provides folks with some relief based upon the work that they themselves have done to try to reduce the risk of wildfire.

What is so frustrating to a lot of people is they do everything they possibly can to mitigate the risk of fire in their home, to harden their home, and to create a firebreak. Nonetheless, they don't get rewarded for it. The insurance companies don't take that into account, and they still see their rates skyrocket just like anyone else.

So what we want to do with this bill is provide some relief to those people, and at the same time, to create an incentive for more people to harden their homes so as to reduce the risk of wildfires. So, specifically, the SAFE HOME Act which I have introduced creates a 25 percent refundable tax credit for wildfire mitigation.

It includes a phaseout starting at \$200,000, and it drops by 25 percent every \$25,000 in income above \$200,000. At \$300,000 in income the credit is phased out. There is also an inflation adjustment for any year after 2024 equal to the cost-of-living adjustment.

The credit is only made available for a primary home that a Federal natural disaster declaration has been made within the preceding 10-year period with respect to a wildfire or is adjacent to an area that has had a disaster declaration, and it would sunset on December 31, 2032.

So it is a modest measure. It is not going to impose enormous costs, but it will provide real relief to folks who really need it and who are doing the right thing by trying to reduce the risks to themselves and their neighbors.

So I am hoping that this is a measure that will receive broad bipartisan support, but I recognize that it is not a comprehensive solution to this very serious problem. So I call upon my colleagues especially in California but also other States who are seeing similar issues to come together to provide a backstop, the needed policies to do whatever we can at the Federal level to stop this crisis from continuing to spiral out of control. I also call upon the State leaders in California to do their part, as well.

Finally, we need to recognize ultimately that the way to truly get the insurance crisis under control is to stop having catastrophic wildfires in California on a regular basis which, of course, come with loss of life, loss of property, and destruction of communities, as well as not to mention a tremendous amount of environmental harm.

We have seen effective forest management practices work, and we have seen ineffective forest mismanagement practices lead to tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I will give you just an example from one fire in California which leveled the town of Grizzly Flats in my district and spread far elsewhere and almost consumed the city of South Lake Tahoe. This is the Caldor fire in El Dorado County.

The Federal Government was supposed to have done a mitigation project that could well have stopped the Caldor fire from ever spreading, but years and years and years went by and the project never got done. The fire started. It leveled Grizzly Flats. It put many, many people out of their homes.

By the way, the Biden administration has still not delivered the individual assistance that was promised to the residents of Grizzly Flats. As the fire spread and it made its way toward Tahoe, Mr. Speaker, you might remember these surreal scenes of ski slopes that are just aflame. However, it didn't end up destroying or even making a dent in the city of South Tahoe because of the absolutely heroism of the firefighters there and the first responders, but also because there had been mitigation work done in the Christmas Valley thanks to a policy change that had fairly recently been made in this Congress which provided a categorical exclusion from environmental reviews for projects in the Tahoe area. If it were not for that policy, that work

likely would not have been done, and the fire could have been that much more devastating.

So I am sponsoring legislation that would build on that success story, and it would have a policy change where you could have the same expedited process for doing fire mitigation work throughout the national forest system.

Mr. Speaker, when you go and talk to folks in the Forest Service and the other groups and stakeholders and folks in government who are working to mitigate the risk of wildfire, they will all tell you this would make an enormous difference.

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In order to get the fire insurance crisis under control, it is above all necessary that we do everything we possibly can to stop these tragedies from continuing to occur in California.

I am sponsoring a number of measures to do that, but we have to act with urgency because the risks will continue until we do.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2972. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2023 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300ff-13(e); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2603(e) (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 104(e)); (120 Stat. 2776) and 42 U.S.C. 300ff-29a(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2620(d) (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 205(2)); (120 Stat. 2798); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2973. A letter from the Program Analyst, PPM/OMD, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities [CG Docket No.: 03-123] Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Services Program [CG Docket No.: 10-51] Petition for Rulemaking and Interim Waiver of Convo Communications, LLC received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2974. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's topical report — Final Safety Evaluation by the Office of Nuclear

Material Safety and Safeguards, Holtec International Topical Report HI-2210161, "Topical Report on the Radiological Fuel Qualification Methodology for Dry Storage Systems", received January 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2975. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Executive Office of the President, Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, transmitting two (2) notifications of a vacancy, nomination, action on nomination, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2976. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Annual Inflation Adjustment [Docket No.: NTSB-2024-0001] (RIN: 3147-AA24) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2977. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2243; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00699-T; Amendment 39-22631; AD 2023-25-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2978. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1706; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00039-T; Amendment 39-22625; AD 2023-24-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2979. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1822; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00653-T; Amendment 39-22624; AD 2023-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2980. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1711; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00093-T; Amendment 39-22639; AD 2023-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2981. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1999; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00697-T; Amendment 39-22638; AD 2023-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2982. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final

rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1887; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00543-T; Amendment 39-22642; AD 2023-25-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2983. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area R-2512 Holtville, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2220; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-59] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2984. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1994; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00658-T; Amendment 39-22636; AD 2023-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2985. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1882; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00651-T; Amendment 39-22632; AD 2023-25-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2986. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1715; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00548-T; Amendment 39-22640; AD 2023-25-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2987. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lajitas, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1614; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2988. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1502; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00380-T; Amendment 39-22634; AD 2023-25-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2989. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1892; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00626-E; Amendment 39-22647; AD 2023-26-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2990. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace;

Liberty, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1984; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2991. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabara Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2399; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00592-T; Amendment 39-22644; AD 2023-26-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2992. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Minden-Tahoe Airport, Minden, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1006; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWP-65] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2993. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1648; Project Identifier AD-2022-01501-T; Amendment 39-22637; AD 2023-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2994. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Ralph M. Calhoun Memorial Airport, Tanana, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2448; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-65] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2995. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Uvalde, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1747; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2996. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support and Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1896; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00837-T; Amendment 39-22633; AD 2023-25-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2997. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; WACO Classic Aircraft Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2005; Project Identifier AD-2022-01523-A; Amendment 39-22646; AD 2023-26-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2998. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final



rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Wilmington, DE [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2192; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AEA-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2999. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Thomasville, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2052; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-39] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3000. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2153; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00688-T; Amendment 39-22611; AD 2023-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3001. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1889; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00738-E; Amendment 39-22623; AD 2023-24-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3002. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2396; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01147-R; Amendment 39-22641; AD 2023-25-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3003. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1894; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00334-R; Amendment 39-22635; AD 2023-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3004. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piaggio Aviation S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1819; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00052-A; Amendment 39-22630; AD 2023-25-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3005. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2404; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01268-A; Amendment 39-22648; AD 2023-26-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3006. A letter from the Department of Transportation, Management Analyst, FAA,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHJ RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1823; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00314-T; Amendment 39-22628; AD 2023-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3007. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Calendar Year 2024 Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Non-Group Health Plan (NGHP) Threshold Report to Congress", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1862(b)(9)(D) (as added by Public Law 112-242, Sec. 202(a)(2)); (126 Stat. 2379); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

## 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. 1727. A bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission; with an amendment (Rept. 118-363). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2882. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-364 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4385. A bill to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (Rept. 118-365). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5009. A bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-366). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3415. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-367). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4051. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-368). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1240. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-369). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2997. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa

County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-370). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 7126. A bill to prohibit a State from issuing a motor vehicle operator's license for the operation or use of an ADS-equipped vehicle operating at Level 4 or Level 5 in a manner that discriminates on the basis of disability; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr.

KILMER, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. IVEY, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. TLAB, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PORTER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MENG, Mr. FROST, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 7127. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 7.4 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 7128. A bill to establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. MFUME, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MANN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. HUNT, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MOLINARO, and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 7129. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Office of Whistleblower Awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 7130. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and imitation meat and imitation poultry products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BOST, Mr.

NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 7131. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 7132. A bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 7133. A bill to authorize use of amounts from emergency solutions grants under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide safe overnight parking facilities for homeless persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 7134. A bill to establish the Office to Enforce and Protect Against Child Sexual Exploitation; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOX: X

H.R. 7135. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the obligation of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to reclaim any overpayment of special financial assistance payment under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, including amounts paid on behalf of a deceased participant or beneficiary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 7136. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FRY (for himself, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. MACE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. HOUCIN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ROUZER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 7137. A bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SABLON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LIEU,

Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. FROST, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. KILMER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. BALINT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 7138. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 7139. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain eligibility provisions for loan forgiveness for teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 7140. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to disclose the percentage of in-network participation for certain provider types, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Ms. DELAURIO, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 7141. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require no-cost coverage of human milk fortifier; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 7142. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of 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. OGLES (for himself and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 7143. A bill to require the heads of certain agencies to withdraw a proposed rule relating to capital requirements applicable to large banking organizations and banking organizations with significant trading activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7144. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to modify the application and review process for changes of control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 7145. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the taking, importation, exportation, and breeding of certain cetaceans for public display, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural

Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. NICKEL):

H.R. 7146. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to covered entities to develop, modify, or implement climate adaptation and climate mitigation proposals on agricultural land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 7147. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to establish a pilot program for testing the use of a predictive risk-scoring algorithm to provide oversight of payments for durable medical equipment and clinical diagnostic laboratory tests 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. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7148. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for eligibility for coverage of home health services under the Medicare Program on the basis of a need for occupational therapy; 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 Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. CARAVEO, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. BACON, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 7149. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a model to improve access to specialty health services for certain Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries; 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. TAKANO:

H.R. 7150. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve equitable access to certain benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to improve certain outreach to individuals who served uniformed services and dependents of such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 7151. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for expedited consideration of proposals for additions to, removals from, or other modifications with respect to entities on the Entity List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 7152. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 7153. A bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 7154. A bill to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the "Charlie Dowd VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SELF, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PENCE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BRECHEN, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. EZZELL, Mr. BARR, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. BOST, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CAREY, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. ROY, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.J. Res. 107. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.J. Res. 108. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Republic of Kosovo of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H. Res. 984. A resolution expressing support for the designation of January 30, 2024, as CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) and RHI (repeated head impacts) Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HILL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEIL, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H. Res. 985. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States and celebrating the 50th annual "National Catholic Schools Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. LALOTA, Mr.

LAWLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H. Res. 986. A resolution condemning New York Governor Kathy Hochul for reducing funding for schools across New York State and prioritizing increased funding for migrants; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 7126.

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

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disability access in transportation

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 7127.

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:

Federal Employee Compensation

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 7128.

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:

To establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 7129.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish the Office of Whistleblower Awards at SBA.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 7130.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and imitation meat and imitation poultry products, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 7131.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 7132.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 7133.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing/Homelessness legislation

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 7134.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish the Office to Enforce and Protect Against Child Sexual Exploitation

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 7135.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the obligation of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to reclaim any overpayment of special financial assistance payment under the American Rescue Plan of 2021, including amounts paid on behalf of a deceased participant or beneficiary, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 7136.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 7137.

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:

human trafficking

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 7138.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Supplemental Security Income

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 7139.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain eligibility provisions for loan forgiveness for teachers, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 7140.

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

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor,

and the Treasury (the Departments) to develop designations indicating the breadth of provider networks. The Secretary of HHS would gather necessary information from mental health and substance use disorder providers to help inform the development of such in-network participation indicators.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 7141.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Health

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 7142.

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

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Increasing access to non-opioid alternatives for pain management.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7143.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To withdraw the OCC's/Fed's/FDIC's proposed rule (88 Fed. Reg. 64028) on regulatory capital requirements

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7144.

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

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 7145.

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:

Animal Welfare

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 7146.

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

Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 7147.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to establish a pilot program for testing the use of a predictive risk-scoring algorithm to provide oversight of payments for durable medical equipment and clinical diagnostic laboratory tests under the Medicare program.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 7148.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for eligibility for coverage of home health services under the Medicare Program on the basis of a need for occupational therapy.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 7149.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health Care

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 7150.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government reform

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 7151.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for expedited consideration of proposals for additions to, removals from, or other modifications with respect to entities on the Entity List, and for other purposes.

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 7152.

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

Spending Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would create a national registry of separated Korean-Americans to facilitate reunification with their families in North Korea. The bill also encourages a dialogue between North Korea and the United States.

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 7153.

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

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reauthorizes the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, a bill which establishes grants and requires other activities to improve mental and behavioral health among health care providers.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 7154.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the "Charlie Dowd VA Clinic".

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.J. Res. 107.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Preventing and Elimination of Digital Discrimination".

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.J. Res. 108.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent the sale of Javelins and associated articles and services to the Republic of Kosovo

H.R. 491: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 525: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 537: Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. STEEL, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 603: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 625: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 709: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 807: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 830: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 884: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 913: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1179: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1222: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1247: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1293: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 1310: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1322: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 1385: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 1406: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 1413: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1491: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1499: Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 1694: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1719: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1787: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1788: Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 1838: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1839: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2394: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 2400: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 2407: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 2413: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2539: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 2662: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2663: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2713: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2729: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 2806: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2808: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2826: Mr. OGLES.

H.R. 2828: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2892: Mr. TRONE and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3005: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3018: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3019: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 3037: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3106: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 3220: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 3333: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 3380: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 3413: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 3416: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3433: Ms. PORTER, Mr. BUCSHON, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3605: Ms. CHU and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3606: Ms. CHU and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3607: Ms. CHU and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3611: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 3713: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 3776: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 3781: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 3828: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3875: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3946: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 4059: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 4293: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 4412: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4413: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4547: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 4563: Mr. LAMBORN.

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 34: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 35: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 239: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 324: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 361: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 4577: Mr. NORMAN.  
 H.R. 4610: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 4615: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
 H.R. 4752: Mr. KEATING and Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 4756: Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4787: Mr. NICKEL.  
 H.R. 4845: Mr. COHEN and Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 4889: Ms. FOXX.  
 H.R. 4963: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 5012: Mr. VEASEY.  
 H.R. 5064: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. PASCRELL.  
 H.R. 5066: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
 H.R. 5084: Mr. HUNT.  
 H.R. 5087: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 5116: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 5186: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 5246: Mr. SCHIFF.  
 H.R. 5266: Mr. OWENS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H.R. 5302: Mr. LUTTRELL.  
 H.R. 5456: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 5506: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H.R. 5530: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 5555: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 5604: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 5633: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 5754: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 5778: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
 H.R. 5819: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
 H.R. 5820: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 5839: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
 H.R. 5896: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
 H.R. 5903: Mr. DUARTE.  
 H.R. 5915: Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 5928: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 5985: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.R. 5989: Mr. SCHIFF.  
 H.R. 6049: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 6106: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 6109: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 6163: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H.R. 6203: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 6244: Ms. GRANGER.  
 H.R. 6248: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 6260: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 6261: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 6302: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 6330: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 6342: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
 H.R. 6394: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 6423: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 6538: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 6542: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 6553: Mr. KILMER, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 6566: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 6569: Mr. CASAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 6586: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
 H.R. 6610: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
 H.R. 6634: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 6641: Mr. CARSON and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 6663: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 6683: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California and Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 6720: Mr. COHEN, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 6746: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 6751: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. WILD, Mr. IVEY, and Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 6760: Mr. YAKYM.  
 H.R. 6772: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 6777: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 6805: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 6815: Mr. MCCORMICK.  
 H.R. 6842: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 6860: Mr. MILLS.  
 H.R. 6906: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 6951: Ms. STEFANIK.  
 H.R. 6958: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
 H.R. 6959: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 6961: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MOULTON, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H.R. 6963: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 6977: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 6986: Mr. BURGESS.  
 H.R. 7003: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 7012: Mr. HARDER of California.  
 H.R. 7014: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CARL.  
 H.R. 7015: Ms. PEREZ.  
 H.R. 7027: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 7035: Mr. ISSA, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. COMER, and Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 7039: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.R. 7044: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
 H.R. 7046: Mr. LAHOOD.  
 H.R. 7047: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BURLISON.  
 H.R. 7060: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 7070: Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 7083: Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. EZELL, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 7097: Ms. JACOBS.  
 H.R. 7098: Ms. JACOBS.  
 H.R. 7101: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
 H.R. 7107: Mr. LUTTRELL.  
 H.R. 7117: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 7118: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 7122: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. COHEN.  
 H. Con. Res. 56: Ms. ADAMS.  
 H. Res. 50: Mrs. LUNA.  
 H. Res. 86: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H. Res. 110: Mr. STEIL.  
 H. Res. 434: Mr. NICKEL.  
 H. Res. 554: Mr. JAMES.  
 H. Res. 760: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H. Res. 837: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H. Res. 863: Ms. FOXX.  
 H. Res. 883: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
 H. Res. 901: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. STEVENS.  
 H. Res. 955: Mr. LUCAS.  
 H. Res. 965: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida.  
 H. Res. 971: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H. Res. 977: Mrs. KIM of California.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 503: Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 977: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024

No. 17

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

O God of time and eternity, we come to You not because we are perfect but because we trust Your mercy, power, and grace. By Your grace we are able to triumph over evil, living no longer for ourselves but for You.

Lord, give our Senators a vision of the goals that produce righteousness, honor, justice, and peace. Empower them to serve the marginalized, to bear the burdens of freedom, and to labor for Your glory. Give them the gifts of Your light, love, and laughter.

Lord, we are grateful for our new page class, and we thank You for the exemplary life and legacy of Bobbi Barrasso.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 30, 2024.

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 LEADERSHIP TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, all through the weekend, negotiators continued their work on the national security supplemental. We are approaching the finish line, but the work is not done. We will continue to finish the supplemental. We will do everything we can to get the supplemental done because, for all the day-to-day intrigue, the big picture has not changed: This is an inflection point in history, where the balance of power in Europe,

the future of Israel in the Middle East, and the fate of the Indo-Pacific hang in the balance. And, for the first time in over a decade, we have a golden opportunity to make meaningful, lasting changes to the southern border—the best chance we will likely have in a good while. So we have an obligation to the American people to get something done.

Now, Republicans in the House and Senate have insisted for years that Congress must make border security a top priority. The speeches, statements, op-eds, and tweets that Republicans have issued on border legislation could fill entire libraries. And we Democrats agree. We want to get something done on the border. We have negotiated with our Republican counterparts for months to get something done.

Look, it is entirely unsurprising and truly disappointing, at the same time, that many on the hard right, including Donald Trump, are now trying to thwart this bipartisan effort for the sake of electoral politics. But here in the Senate, both sides have an obligation to tune the partisan noise out and to continue working. Bipartisanship is the only way that action on the border is going to happen, that aid to Ukraine will be secured, that help to Israel and to the Indo-Pacific and aid to innocent civilians in Gaza will happen.

So for all the noise and partisan posturing, the big picture here does not change. The Senate will continue working on the supplemental this week. We know this is hard—very hard—but Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber have an obligation to tune out the outside noise and finish the work of protecting our national security.

### ABORTION

Mr. President, now on the Texas Pregnancy Study, last week, on what should have been the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I called the decision to overturn Roe one of the worst, most damaging decisions for Americans in modern history.

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Just a couple of days later, a horrifying new study was released in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, showing the devastating effects of the Roe reversal for women in America. According to this study, the State of Texas alone saw over 26,000 rape-related pregnancies in the year and a half since Texas outlawed all abortions, with zero exceptions for rape.

Let me say that again because the results are staggering, confounding, frightening: According to a new study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the State of Texas alone saw over 26,000 rape-related pregnancies in the year and a half since Texas outlawed all abortions, and they have zero exceptions for rape.

There are over 58,000 total rape-related pregnancies in States with total abortion bans and zero exceptions for rape.

The numbers from this study are shocking. They are heartbreaking. And it is all the more maddening because the hard-right abortion restrictions in Texas are as cruel as they come: forced pregnancies, no exception for rape, no exception for incest.

Not long ago, the abortion restrictions in Texas would have been considered on the fringe of the fringe. Today, sadly, it is a reality for women in post-Roe America.

Make no mistake about it—an America where abortion is outlawed with zero exceptions is precisely—precisely—what the hard right wants. The hard right doesn't care about exceptions, even for rape or incest. They want the freedom of choice to be extinct, period—no ands, ifs, or buts. Democrats will never let that stand. We will never stop fighting to protect a woman's right to choose. And Republicans won't be able to run from this horror they created later this year when the American people go to the polls.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, now on the economy, the outlook for the American economy continues to get brighter and brighter under the leadership of President Biden and Democrats here in Congress.

Last week, a report showed that consumer sentiment surged by nearly 30 percent over the last 2 months. And Americans received even more good news this week. The American economy far exceeded expectations in the last quarter of 2023, growing at a rate of 3.3 percent and avoiding even a hint of a recession.

The hard right predicted that Democrats' investments would drive our country to a recession, but today, American families are seeing more money in their pockets, low unemployment, and inflation cooling down.

The bottom line is that the American economy is headed in the right direction thanks to Democrats investing in our infrastructure, increasing manufacturing through CHIPS and Science, and lifting our country from crisis

through the American Rescue Plan. I am proud to say that in all three, Senate Democrats, whether in the minority or majority, played a leading role.

The economy is now on an upswing, so much so that Republicans and even the former President are trying to take credit. After the Dow Jones and S&P hit record highs last week, Donald Trump deployed a spin job for the ages, calling it the "Trump stock market." You can't make that up. Four years ago, Donald Trump predicted the stock market would crash if he lost the election. Well, Donald Trump did lose the election, but today, the stock market is setting record highs.

It is both laughable and very telling that Donald Trump is trying to take credit for the successes of President Biden and the congressional Democrats. Donald Trump knows his disastrous and chaotic record can't stand scrutiny against the jobs, increased wages, and investments secured by Democrats.

Of course, Donald Trump is hardly the only Republican taking credit for Democrats' successes. Around the country, scores of congressional Republicans are attending groundbreakings, and they are going to ribbon-cutting ceremonies and factory openings for projects they voted against in Congress, but the Democrats in the House and Senate prevailed.

Last week, a Minnesota GOP Congressman cheered the announcement of \$1 billion for a new bridge in his district, saying he was "proud to have worked with my Minnesota and Wisconsin congressional colleagues to secure this critical investment." There is only one problem: 2 years ago, this very GOP Member voted against the infrastructure bill that provided these funds, stating at the time:

I will not be complicit in paving a destructive and irreversible path towards socialism.

Well, there he was at the bridge. There he was at the bridge.

A few days later, another GOP Congresswoman from Florida tried to take credit on air for \$40 million in funding that came from bills she voted against in Congress, including the CHIPS and Science bill, which I was proud to have authored. I hope she will give me a pat on the back. When pressed on her voting record, her excuse was she didn't remember her vote.

This is going to be a pattern we are going to see all year long. Without any accomplishments of their own to talk about, Republicans in the House and Senate will try to take credit for jobs and investments they opposed in Congress.

Well, that is the difference between the Democratic and Republican agenda. Democrats are working hard to lower costs, increase wages, and fuel economic growth, while Republicans are creating chaos and then taking credit for our work.

If Republicans want to keep claiming credit, I encourage them: Work with us. Pass bipartisan legislation, and

then you can proudly go to these events without contradiction.

We still have a long way to go to make our economy work better for families, so there will be plenty of opportunities for Republicans to work with us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

#### IRAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, after nearly 150 Iran-backed attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria, a reporter asked President Biden if he had a message for Iran. The President confidently replied:

I've already delivered the message to Iran. They know not to do anything.

The Commander in Chief had the temerity to suggest that the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism was effectively deterred. Repeated attacks since then, including a deadly attack in Jordan that killed three American soldiers and injured dozens more, suggest otherwise.

SGT William Rivers, SPC Kennedy Sanders, and SPC Breonna Moffett now rest with generations of brave Americans before them who have given their lives in service to our country. I know my colleagues join me in grieving with the families and comrades they leave behind.

For 3 years, the threat of Iran-backed terror against American personnel and interests in the Middle East has been growing. Iran is emboldened and believes it can use its proxies to attack America with impunity.

The Biden administration has hastened this erosion of deterrence. Their public hand-wringing and fear of escalation send exactly the wrong message to Tehran and other enemies of America. To paraphrase Henry Kissinger, when our primary objective becomes avoiding war or escalation, we are at the mercy of our most ruthless adversaries.

The United States' objective is not to avoid escalation at all costs. If it was, the quickest way to achieve it would be to retreat and cede the whole Middle East to Iran. Instead, our objective is to compel Iran and its proxies to stop attacking American forces and our interests in the region and to preserve American influence in a critical part of the world. But to achieve this objective, we have to convince our adversaries that we are prepared to escalate and to threaten the interests that they hold dear. If the Iranian regime thinks America is most afraid of escalation, it

will use that fear because it believes it will drive us from the Middle East, just as we were driven from Afghanistan.

It was reasonable to hope that the eruption of proxy violence against American forces in the wake of the October 7 massacre in Israel would convince the Biden administration to start seriously exercising American strength. It was reasonable to hope that a global superpower might finally begin to act like one. That hasn't happened yet, but perhaps the gut-wrenching tragedy of American casualties will finally wake this administration from its delusional approach to Iran.

Yesterday, the Secretary of Defense echoed President Biden's hollow assurance from earlier this month, insisting that the administration "will not tolerate attacks on U.S. forces, and we will take all necessary action to defend the U.S. and our troops." Unfortunately, this sentiment isn't yet backed by any action. The fact that Iran's proxies have targeted Americans 166 times in the past 3 months demonstrates that the Biden administration is willing to tolerate attacks on U.S. forces. The question for the Commander in Chief is whether his actions in the coming days will convince Iran and its proxies that America's tolerance has been exhausted.

It is time for the administration to provide Senators with a briefing on the current situation in the Middle East.

As I have said before, the President has the necessary authorities to strike those responsible for killing and wounding Americans, targeting our interests, and threatening our allies in the region. He has the capacity to go after the Iranians who sponsor and direct this campaign. But his administration has an obligation to inform Congress of its objectives and strategy and to explain why their attempts to deter Iran and its proxies have as yet been unsuccessful.

Of course, the failures of their own approach to the region haven't stopped Washington Democrats from trying to police the internal politics of a close ally fighting for its security or from trying to tie Israel's hands as it works to eradicate Hamas terrorists.

Some of our colleagues have apparently mistaken themselves for members of the Knesset. They have started using the press to cast bizarre, unsolicited votes of no confidence in a sovereign democracy's duly elected Prime Minister. Talk about foreign political interference. And their Bibi derangement syndrome isn't just unseemly behavior for an ally; they want to compel Israel to pursue policies that even prominent leaders of the Israeli left have insisted they have no time for.

It is increasingly, glaringly clear that a headlong charge forward to a two-state solution puts the cart before the horse. Israel needs a partner in peace before it can be expected to make peace. Palestinians need leaders and a government worthy of the name before they can expect a state.

As I have said before, responsibility for the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, for the weaponization of hospitals and schools, and for the corruption of aid agencies charged with helping the Palestinian people—all of that belongs to Hamas.

Each time Hamas has faced a choice between improving Palestinian lives and taking Israeli lives, it has chosen the latter. And last week we learned the horrific degree to which international humanitarian agencies have been corrupted—corrupted—by Hamas's hate. No fewer than a dozen credentialed staff members of the U.N.'s Relief and Works Agency are linked directly—directly—to the slaughter of Israelis on October 7. So let me say that again. At least 12 paid staff of the U.N. agency that purports to lead humanitarian efforts in Gaza moonlit—moonlit—as Hamas terrorists on the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust.

According to news reports, Israeli intelligence indicates that a full 10 percent of UNRWA's staff have ties to the Iran-backed terrorist group that steals aid shipments to build terror tunnels. Yet, instead of reckoning with UNRWA's complicity, the head of the agency responded with a whining statement that emphasized just how few of the supposed relief workers under his authority had been caught killing Israelis on company time.

In fairness, UNRWA comes from the same anti-Israel family of organizations as the self-proclaimed "global champion" for the empowerment of women, a U.N. entity that took 57 days—57 days—to condemn Hamas's rape and brutalization of Israeli women and girls.

The United States and our allies need not search for moral authority in such a fallow field as the United Nations. Unfortunately, even the Biden administration's announced pause on additional funding to UNRWA may fail to carry sufficient weight. As one outside analysis points out, \$51 million already allocated by the State Department for use this year will be delivered as scheduled to an organization that clearly lacks the means to fulfill its most basic purpose.

So as I have said before, there is no room for the tired cast of corruption and terrorism in the future of the Palestinian people. As such, Senate Republicans will not accept any legislation that allows taxpayer dollars to fund UNRWA.

And America's ally Israel deserves the time, space, and support it needs to remove Hamas from the equation—root, stem, and branch.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, our Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a landmark hearing. For the first time, the CEOs of five Big Tech companies will testify about the crisis of online child sexual exploitation.

This continues our committee's bipartisan work to combat the dangers children face online. This has been one of my top priorities as chair of the committee.

Last February, we held a hearing on kids' online safety. Six witnesses testified about online child sexual exploitation, cyber bullying, addictive online platforms, and the collection and sale of children's sensitive personal data. At the hearing, I noted there were no witnesses from the tech companies present. I promised they would have their chance.

Tomorrow, the CEOs of Discord, Meta, Snap, TikTok, and X will testify. I thank my friend and fellow colleague Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, for his bipartisan cooperation in establishing this hearing. The CEOs of Discord, Snap, and X will testify pursuant to subpoenas issued by the committee. This follows their repeated refusal to testify voluntarily. I look forward to hearing from these companies about what they are doing to make their platforms inaccessible to child sex offenders.

As recently as last week, some have launched new child safety measures that are long overdue. If you were watching the playoff football games over the weekend, you heard some of these same companies advertising they have now discovered a new way to protect children. Could it have something to do with their appearance at the hearing? We will see.

But it shouldn't take a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee to finally get these companies to prioritize child safety. Because these changes are half measures at best, I welcome the opportunity to question them about what more needs to be done.

There have been recent troubling reports about how each of these platforms is being used by offenders to target children or trade child sexual abuse material. Some reports even detail how the platforms promote exploitive behavior. Let's be really honest about this. Some of these algorithms are more powerful than any parent—that is for sure—and some of the techniques that are used by these platforms to encourage and lure children into situations where they are in danger are well-documented and researched.

There have been recent troubling reports about these platforms being used to target kids in the most heinous ways. Some details about this show that the companies are actually promoting this kind of behavior. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation has named each of these companies to their annual "Dirty Dozen List" for facilitating child sexual exploitation.

I am sure every Member of the Senate has heard from constituents, friends, and family members about the harm Big Tech is inflicting on our kids. Tomorrow, the Senate Judiciary Committee will demand answers.

Hearings are important, but it is clear that we need legislation, because the tech industry has failed, on its own, to protect our kids. They are protecting their profits, but they are not protecting our children. Last year, the committee unanimously reported five bills to combat the crisis of online child sexual exploitation. One of the bills I introduced is my bipartisan STOP CSAM Act, which will end Big Tech's free ride and allow victims to finally hold these companies accountable for their failure to stop online child sexual exploitation. CSAM is an acronym for "child sexual abuse material."

Since the earliest days of the internet, companies have been allowed to act with near impunity. American families harmed by Big Tech's decisions have no means of redress. To illustrate how dangerous this is, consider a change Meta made last month that carries grave consequences for children. Every year, Meta submits tens of millions of CyberTips to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, known as NCMEC, concerning CSAM found on its platforms. Each CyberTip involves a victim of exploitation, like a child being sexually abused in a photo that has been traded endlessly online or a child who is being coerced, extorted, groomed, or sold for sexual purposes.

In December, Meta announced it is rolling out end-to-end encryption by default on its Facebook and Messenger platforms. Because of this change, Meta will no longer be able to use certain tools to detect and report child exploitation. Encryption can be a valuable tool for protecting privacy, but it is alarming for a company to kneecap their own work to stop online child sexual exploitation.

According to press reports, Meta employees warned internally that this would greatly diminish the company's ability to identify online child exploitation, and child protection advocates and survivors immediately sounded the same alarm. NCMEC called Meta's adoption of end-to-end encryption "a devastating blow for child protection." NCMEC and other advocates are imploring Meta to pause the rollout until it demonstrates the encryption switch won't cause children harm. That is all they want: for Meta to be sure it won't hurt kids.

This highlights the unacceptable situation we find ourselves in. There are no tools to hold companies accountable. Instead, survivors and advocates are left to plead with these companies to choose safety over profit.

The Phoenix 11, a group of CSAM survivors, powerfully expressed their rage about this situation in a letter they recently sent to the committee. They wrote:

As survivors, we bear the consequences when decisions are made that prioritize profit over children . . . If Meta no longer reports these crimes against us, we alone suffer the consequences.

This is a profoundly disturbing situation. In no other sector of society would we permit one company to make an unreviewable decision that puts millions of American kids at risk. But for almost 30 years, section 230 of the Communications Decency Act has protected the tech industry from accountability for the damage it has done.

You have to look far and wide to find companies or industries that are exempt from liability under the law, civilly or criminally. This is one of those. The law was enacted to allow a fledgling industry to grow, but now it has become an entitlement for the most profitable industry in the history of capitalism to line their profits at the expense of kids.

Every available metric suggests that online child exploitation is getting worse. In the year 2013, NCMEC received approximately 1,380 CyberTips per day. Ten years later, in 2023, this skyrocketed to 100,000 CyberTips per day. Think about that for a second: 100,000 reports of sexual abuse per day.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of victims per offender, who can use technology to ensnare a shocking number of children without even leaving their homes. A single defendant prosecuted in Minnesota sextorted over 1,100 children—one person, over 1,000 kids.

What does that consist of? They lure these kids and groom them to the point where they send photographs of themselves that are way too candid and expose things they shouldn't. Then the person says: If you don't want me to put this on the internet, you have to pay me.

This fellow had extorted in that kind of situation over 1,000 kids before he was finally brought to justice. That is the status quo that Congress protects if we do nothing.

Everyone needs to do their part to stop this gross injustice. That includes Congress finally enacting legislation that holds the tech industry accountable when it fails to protect children. That is why the Judiciary Committee will hold its landmark hearing tomorrow. That is why I will continue to work to bring the Stop CSAM Act and other critical bills to protect kids to the Senate floor.

Mr. President, back in the day, before I was elected to office, I was a trial lawyer in small-town America. I made a nice living. I took cases to trial of a different stripe. I am not saying that I was part of the system of justice in this country, but it turns out I was. The fact that people face accountability for their wrongdoing and could end up losing in court is another incentive to do the right thing in your life. Here we have a situation that is clearly, clearly out of control. What is happening is beyond the reach of the most conscientious parents in America.

I am lucky to have some wonderful grandkids. I have two who live in New York. They are 12 years old. I am really proud of them. Their mom worries

about them—and their dad as well—every single day, as they spend way too much time, by their estimation, on screens. They try to encourage them to do the right thing and make sure that they never communicate with people they don't know or provide information or anything else that they shouldn't. But the parents can't be sure that always works—nobody can. They want to do the right thing for their kids.

I told my daughter I was having this hearing. She said: Dad, when you get these execs in front of you, ask them what they do to protect their own kids—their own kids who could be exploited and they wouldn't even know about it.

It is a legitimate question. I don't know if I will be asking it tomorrow. It depends on the circumstances. But it is something that every family across America would like to know: What are you doing, Senator, to protect our kids? It is getting worse instead of better. Can you change the law to help us?

It is up to us to decide. I hope tomorrow's hearing is the beginning of a conversation on a bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

ENERGY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the Biden administration, in the last few days, has made another reckless attempt to try to appease its more radical aspects of its political base—in this case, leftwing climate activists.

Last week, the administration halted new liquefied natural gas projects, effectively chilling new investments in the industry that powers the United States and many of our closest allies. Had the administration announced this decision 3 years ago, it would have been dangerous and shortsighted. But given the state of the world today, this step is almost unthinkable.

Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine is nearing the 2-year mark. Iran's terrorist proxies are unleashing chaos on the Middle East, and China is responsible for growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific. This is an extremely fraught time—I think we would all have to agree—given that the instigators of each of these conflicts are three of the world's largest natural gas producers.

This is an extremely risky time for energy security. Fortunately, the United States is in a uniquely strong position to temper those risks. We are the world's largest natural gas producer, and, last year, we became the largest LNG exporter. That means energy produced in America, creating American jobs, helping to grow our economy, is being exported to countries all around the world that don't have access to those natural resources.

Around the globe, American LNG supports the energy security of our friends and allies. If they are importing American energy, they don't have to worry about some rogue dictator cutting off the gas with a moment's notice.

Sadly, many of our friends in Europe had to learn this the hard way, after the invasion by Russia of Ukraine, because much of Europe had a single supplier of their energy needs. In 2009, Russia effectively turned off the gas to Ukraine for almost 3 weeks, using that energy supply as a weapon. This affected at least 10 countries in Europe whose natural gas traveled in a pipeline through Ukraine.

In many ways, this should have been a wake-up call for the United States and our allies about the dangers of energy dependence, the lack of diversity in the supply. Relying on anyone—any country—for basic needs like heating, electricity, and fuel creates serious vulnerability, but relying on an adversary, as Europe did, is downright dangerous.

Over the last 15 years, our friends in Europe have been working to diversify their energy supply and reduce their reliance on Russia.

I remember John McCain, our former colleague, saying: “Russia is a gas station masquerading as a country.” It is their principal export and what they use to fuel their economy and, unfortunately, what they use to arm themselves when they invade neighboring countries like Ukraine.

So oil and gas is how they do that, and they somehow had convinced the Europeans that they were a reliable, sole source for that energy.

Well, they learned the hard way after Russia invaded Ukraine. Following Russia’s invasion, Putin became persona non grata on the world stage. No one wanted to do business with Russia. They didn’t want to purchase Russian oil and gas that would help Putin finance his barbaric war, and they certainly didn’t want their energy supply to be subject to the whims of a cruel and vindictive dictator.

Our friends in Europe turned to the United States for LNG, and, fortunately, we were able to fill the gap. Liquefied natural gas exports to Europe more than doubled between 2021 and 2022. That was only possible because of America’s energy producers.

You know, it wasn’t that long ago I remember we were seeing terminals built for the importation of liquefied natural gas from other parts of the world to the United States. But it is a testament to the innovation and the investment in America’s natural resources that allowed, as I said, America to be the No. 1 exporter. So rather than importing that energy from other countries, we are supplying that energy to friends and allies around the world.

Thanks to our energy industry and the incredible men and women behind it, we had the supply, the export terminals, and the ability to send our allies the energy they needed at a critical moment. Had this freeze been issued several years ago—the one President Biden announced last week—that may not have been the case because producers can’t ramp up production and

increase exports overnight. It requires a lot of preparation. It requires infrastructure. It requires deploying your assets strategically. It is not like a faucet you can turn off and on in an instant. The production of energy takes time, investment, infrastructure, and a whole lot of certainty because investors will not invest in something that does not have a reasonable chance of producing a return. Now, with the stroke of a pen, President Biden has virtually eliminated that certainty.

President Biden’s pause, as he calls it, has thrown future LNG projects into limbo, and our allies are understandably spooked. They don’t know if they can continue to count on the United States for the affordable energy they need to keep the lights on, to heat their homes, and to cook their food.

The Biden administration has offered some ambiguous assurances that this decision won’t impact our ability to export LNG to our allies in the near term—whatever that means—but it doesn’t offer much peace of mind, and it certainly doesn’t offer the sort of predictability that the marketplace needs in order to incentivize investment in this energy production. So our allies now are left to question if or when American LNG will stop serving global markets. Today, they are wondering if they should ride this wave while they can or whether it is time to start looking for another seller.

The Biden administration has created unnecessary chaos and confusion on our allies, and for what? A new talking point in a political campaign ad? It just does not make sense in any other context.

It simply is disingenuous to suggest that this is a way to combat climate change, because curbing LNG exports won’t change the reality of the situation we are in today. If countries can’t get access to relatively clean natural gas, what are they going to use? Coal, for example? Certainly nothing as clean as American-produced liquefied natural gas. They can’t just flip a switch and turn to wind, solar, and renewables. At the end of the day, they are going to need fossil fuels for a baseline to keep the lights on.

Texas, I am proud to say, is an “all of the above” State. We produce more electricity from wind than any other State in the Nation. I know we are thought of as exclusively an oil and gas State, but that is simply not factually true, although the Permian Basin, for example, does produce the lion’s share of natural gas for not only America but that we use for export.

At the end of the day, we are going to have to transition. I know people think—again, some people in their fevered dreams think that you can automatically do away with fossil fuels and go to wind turbines and solar panels and renewables. Well, we do need to transition, but we can’t transition overnight. It is going to take time.

I believe America’s innovators, our job creators, will come up with other

ways to generate access to energy that will allow us over time to transition. It is inevitable. We have always been in a period of transition. But it can’t be forced overnight like the Biden administration seems to think it can.

Well, as I said, maybe our allies will turn to coal. Maybe they will purchase natural gas from Russia again or Saudi Arabia, which don’t have nearly the same environmental standards we have in the United States. At the end of the day, one thing is certain: Restricting the supply of American liquefied natural gas isn’t going to make the world’s energy consumption any cleaner, and it is sure to jeopardize global energy security.

Once again, President Biden has missed the forest for the trees. He is so focused on pleasing climate activists that he has lost sight of the bigger picture. American LNG is not the enemy here. In fact, it is a vital security tool.

We have to uplift our closest allies and provide energy at an affordable cost to American families. It gives other countries the ability to source their energy from a stable democracy rather than a temperamental or volatile dictator, and it gives countries lower emissions options—something you would think the Biden administration would want to encourage. Of course, as I mentioned, it creates jobs in places like Texas, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania and lifts up the entire U.S. economy.

The Biden administration’s decision to halt new export projects puts all that in jeopardy at the worst possible time. It weakens U.S. energy security, it kills American jobs, it kneecaps our energy industry, and it sends more business to Russia and Iran.

This isn’t a climate victory. It isn’t an economic victory. It certainly isn’t a victory for our security. This is an unforced error and a pretty transparent attempt to try to please climate activists. The climate-first approach to energy policy isn’t just foolish, it is extremely dangerous. It is hurting our allies and helping our adversaries.

But I want to be clear. I support efforts to diversify our energy sources and reduce emissions. As I mentioned, my State has embraced an “all of the above” energy strategy, which includes oil and gas, solar, wind, and nuclear. But on top of that, Texas-based companies are making enormous strides in energy innovation. Every day, they are finding new ways to make our most prevalent and affordable energy sources cleaner.

I believe we should do more to encourage innovation and diversify our energy sources, but those efforts must come second to energy security. Our top priority must be to ensure the United States and our allies have access to the energy they need to keep the lights on. It is embarrassing that even after what we have witnessed over the last few years, President Biden still hasn’t learned that important lesson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Ohio.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST  
PALESTINE DERAILMENT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today on a pretty solemn occasion in Eastern Ohio. Frankly, I rise today to recognize a town in Eastern Ohio, one that most of my colleagues probably didn't even know existed a year ago.

On February 3, 2023, less than a year ago, 38 railcars from a train spanning 1½ miles—think about that: a train spanning 1½ miles—derailed and overturned right outside the center of East Palestine, OH. Flames flared and thick, black plumes of smoke billowed into the sky. Toxic chemicals started spewing into the air and the water and the ground. We saw the footage. We all saw that footage that dominated the news. People read the articles. They scrolled through it on social media.

Americans watched it, but the people of East Palestine lived it. They had to pack up and evacuate their homes in the middle of the night. They didn't know if the air they were breathing and the water coming from their faucets was safe. Their lives were turned upside down.

My job is to always, always fight for Ohio. When disaster struck, we got to work.

Residents in the surrounding area needed air, water, and soil testing. We secured it.

They needed initial health screenings. We made it happen, and we got the Centers for Disease Control to support a free health clinic.

They needed answers and help with cleanup. We got that done.

Local business owners and farmers and manufacturers needed investment to keep their community alive. We delivered through a loan program through the Department of Agriculture.

Now, essentially, the reporters have packed up and the cameras left the community to chase the next big story, but the people of East Palestine are still there, trying to move forward. Over the last year, I have visited East Palestine a number of times. Our staff is there even more often. Each time, we ask residents what we can do.

They want the contamination cleaned up completely. They want continuous monitoring of the air they breathe, the water they drink, and screenings to see if their long-term health has been impacted. They want assurance that they won't be hit by a surprise tax bill this season, and we included a provision in the bipartisan tax deal to guarantee that—that tax deal that included breaks for our research and development and the child tax credit, voted out of the House Ways and Means Committee 40 to 3.

We are fighting for all of it. We are not giving up. We will keep asking and listening and making sure they get what they need.

As we sat at roundtables of their local businesses and toured the health

clinic and walked through the fields of their family farms, I had the privilege of getting to know better this town and the people who call East Palestine home.

They have a rich history. For decades, this community, this county, manufactured ceramics in this area, and their economy boomed. And like my hometown of Mansfield, when bad trade deals shipped those jobs overseas and the factories closed their doors, the community came together and persevered.

I listened to their family stories, their hopes for their hometown, and their concerns for its future. In every visit, every conversation, every interaction, I saw determination and heart. When I think about East Palestine, I don't just think about a train derailment; I think about the resilience they have shown the world. I think about firefighters who were first on the scene that night of the derailment, having no idea what they were exposing themselves to; but that was their job. And all but one at the fire department—the chief is the exception—all but one of them is a volunteer. They have returned to work every day, despite what they found, to serve their community.

I think about the parents who fought to make sure the town will still be their home and where their families feel safe. I think about the business owners and farmers and manufacturers working to resume pre-derailment operations, and I have no doubt they will.

The people of East Palestine want the support and the compensation they are owed. They do not want this derailment to define them. I don't want that either. I don't want any other community in Ohio or around the country to have to deal with a disaster like this ever again.

Make no mistake, this derailment was preventable. The train barreled past sensors that raised the alarm, but Norfolk Southern didn't tell the crew to stop. Norfolk Southern laid off a third of their workers in the last decade. Now, they are trying to take even more crew members off trains—trains that can be miles long and carry dangerous chemicals.

Understand that in the 10 years leading up to this, a third of Norfolk Southern workers were laid off. There were stock buybacks, big dividends for the executives, and look what happened to public safety. The company is known to rush safety inspections—inspections that could help spare communities from disaster.

It paints a picture of a company culture obsessed with profits at the expense of safety and the communities their trains pass through. It is the Wall Street business model: cut costs to boost your stock price, cash out millions in executive bonuses, dole out eye-popping stock buybacks—the people of East Palestine be damned.

We aren't letting Norfolk Southern get away with it again. We aren't going to let them dismiss another vibrant

heartland town as collateral damage. We have to make sure it doesn't happen again.

One month after the derailment, Senator VANCE and I teamed up to introduce the bipartisan Railway Safety Act to hold big rail companies accountable and to stop a disaster like this from ever happening again.

I spent last year advocating for rail safety across Ohio in cities and towns that have had train derailments. It is not just East Palestine. It is Steubenville. It is Ravenna. It is Sandusky. It is Springfield. It is Massillon and more. All had Norfolk Southern derailments within a year of the East Palestine crash. Each one of these communities is another reason why we must get this commonsense bill across the finish line and hold Norfolk Southern accountable.

After the derailments in Sandusky and Springfield, Norfolk Southern refused to pay what they owe. When local leaders came to us, we demanded they make their payments; and, finally—of course, reluctantly, because it affected their bottom line—they did.

That is how I approach this job. I listen to the people we serve. Here is my message to the people of East Palestine and every single Ohioan from Cincinnati to Ashtabula, from Toledo to Athens, and everywhere in between: I will continue to fight for Ohio every single time. When disaster strikes, we show up. We find ways to make sure every community gets what they need. We fight to make sure these tragedies never happen again.

I have told the people of East Palestine—and I keep telling them—that I am there for the long haul. I can count the number of times that people said: Well, nobody will come back once the cameras leave.

Well, the cameras have mostly left. I have been there eight times. I will continue to be there. I will continue to fight for the people of Columbiana County. I will always fight to hold Norfolk Southern accountable. I will always fight to make our railways safer.

NOMINATION OF JOSHUA PAUL KOLAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm U.S. Magistrate Judge Joshua Kolar to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

After receiving his B.A. and J.D. from Northwestern University, Judge Kolar worked in private practice and clerked for Judge Wayne R. Andersen on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. From 2007 to 2018, Judge Kolar was an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana. He prosecuted a range of cases, including public corruption, terrorism-related offenses, violent crimes, narcotics conspiracies, and firearms offenses. Over the course of his legal career, Judge Kolar tried 16 cases to verdict and briefed or argued 20 appeals before the Seventh Circuit.

In 2019, Judge Kolar was selected by the district judges of the Northern District of Indiana to be a magistrate judge, where he presides over civil and criminal cases. Since 2009, Judge Kolar has also honorably served his country as a Reservist and on Active Duty in the U.S. Navy. Judge Kolar has the strong support from his home State Senators, Mr. YOUNG and Mr. BRAUN. In addition, he was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Taken together, Judge Kolar's service to his country in the military and as a prosecutor, his extensive appellate experience, and his service as a magistrate judge make him well-suited to serve on the Seventh Circuit with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Kolar's nomination.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON KOLAR NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kolar nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Capito	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Cassidy	Menendez	Thune
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Coons	Moran	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Mullin	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Cramer	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Ernst	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young

#### NAYS—25

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Schmitt
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	
Hagerty	Ricketts	

#### NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso	Graham	Manchin
Crapo	Johnson	Risch
Fetterman	Lee	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 477.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

#### 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 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. 477, Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

#### 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. 476.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 476, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 30, be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale



may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-23, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Croatia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Exports Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Croatia.

(ii) Total Estimate Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$250 million.  
Other \$250 million.  
Total \$500 million.

Funding source: Foreign Military Financing and National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quality or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Eight (8) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.  
Nineteen (19) T700-GE 701D engines (16 installed, 3 spares).

Twenty (20) AN/ARC-231A RT-1987 very high frequency (VHF)/ultra high frequency (UHF)/Line of Sight (LOS) satellite communications (SATCOM) radios.

Ten (10) AN/AAR-57 Counter Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

Twenty (20) H-764U Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) and Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (or future replacement).

Eighteen (18) M240H machine guns.

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A (or future replacement) VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios; APR-39C(V)1/4 radar warning receivers; AVR-28 laser detecting sets; APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders (or future replacement); ARC-220 high frequency (HF) radio with KY-100M; VRC-100 ground stations; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL); KIV-77 Common Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) crypto applique computers; KY-100M; communications security (COMSEC) encryption devices AN/ARN-147(V) VHF Omni-Directional Range (VOR)/instrument landing systems (ILS) receiver radio; AN/ARN-149(V) low frequency

(LF)/automatic direction finder (ADF) radio receiver; AN/ARN-153 tactical air navigation system (TACAN) receiver-transmitter; AN/APN-209 radar altimeter; AN/ARC-210 radios; EBC-406HM emergency locator transmitter (ELT); Encrypted Aircraft Wireless Intercommunications Systems (EAWIS); Improved Heads-Up Display (IHUD); signal data converters for IHUD; signal data converters for heads-up display (HUD); forward-looking infrared (FLIR) with electro-optical and infrared (EO/IR) capabilities; EO/IR cabin monitoring systems; EO/IR digital video recorder; AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D (or future replacement); Enhanced Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (EBAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion & Extraction System (FRIES); External Rescue Hoist (ERH); rescue hoist equipment sets; Dual Patient Litter System (DPLS) Sets; Martin Baker palletized Crew Chief/Gunner seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); Integrated Tow Plates Production Assets; universal software loading kits; 60k volt-ampere (VA) generator kits; instrumental panel sets; external gun mount systems; Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT); Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer (BHMT-M); Black Hawk Avionics Trainer; Maintenance Blended Reconfigurable Avionics Trainer (MBRAT); training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational support equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army HR-B-UCH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: 7L-B-UGK, HR-B-UBQ, HR-B-UBT.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 26, 2024.

\* As defined in section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Croatia—UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters

The Government of Croatia has requested to buy eight (8) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters; nineteen (19) T700-GE 701D engines (16 installed, 3 spares); twenty (20) AN/ARC-231A RT-1987 very high frequency (VHF)/ultra high frequency (UHF)/Line of Sight (LOS) satellite communications (SATCOM) radios; ten (10) AN/AAR-57 Counter Missile Warning Systems (CMWS); twenty (20) H-764U Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) and Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (or future replacement); and eighteen (18) M240H machine guns. Also included are: AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A (or future replacement) VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios; APR-39C(V)1/4 radar warning receivers; AVR-28 laser detecting sets; APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders (or future replacement); ARC-220 high frequency (HF) radio with KY-100M; VRC-100 ground stations; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL); KIV-77 Common Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) crypto applique computers; KY-100M; communications security (COMSEC) encryption devices AN/ARN-147(V) VHF Omni-Directional Range (VOR)/instrument landing system (ILS) receiver radio; AN/ARN-149(V) low frequency (LF)/automatic direction finder (ADF) radio receiver; AN/ARN-153 tactical air navigation system

(TACAN) receiver-transmitter; AN/APN-209 radar altimeter; AN/ARC-210 radios; EBC-406HM emergency locator transmitter (ELT); Encrypted Aircraft Wireless Intercommunications Systems (EAWIS); Improved Heads-Up Display (IHUD); signal data converters for IHUD; signal data converters for heads-up display (HUD); forward-looking infrared (FLIR) with electro-optical and infrared (EO/IR) capabilities; EO/IR cabin monitoring systems; EO/IR digital video recorder; AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D (or future replacement); Enhanced Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (EBAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion & Extraction System (FRIES); External Rescue Hoist (ERH); rescue hoist equipment sets; Dual Patient Litter System (DPLS) Sets; Martin Baker palletized Crew Chief/Gunner seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); Integrated Tow Plates Production Assets; universal software loading kits; 60k volt-ampere (VA) generator kits; instrumental panel sets; external gun mount systems; Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT); Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer (BHMT-M); Black Hawk Avionics Trainer; Maintenance Blended Reconfigurable Avionics Trainer (MBRAT); training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Croatia's capability to deter current and future threats and support coalition operations as well as promote interoperability with the United States and other NATO forces. Croatia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky, in Stratford, CT. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately fifteen (15) U.S. Government and/or fifteen (15) contractor representatives to travel to Croatia for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The UH-60M aircraft is a medium lift four bladed aircraft which includes two (2) T-701D engines. The aircraft has four (4) Multi-function Displays (MFD), which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems. The instrumentation panel includes four (4) Multi-function Displays (MFDs), two (2) Pilot and Co-Pilot Flight Director Panels, and two (2) Data Concentrator Units (DCUs). The Navigation System will have Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGIs), and two (2) Advanced Flight Control Computer Systems (AFCC), which provide 4 axis aircraft control:

a. The AN/ARC-201 very high frequency (VHF)—frequency modulation (FM) (VHF-FM) Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS) is a reliable, field-proven voice and data communication system used with the UH-60. A non communications security (COMSEC) export variant of this radio that meets these requirements will be provided.

b. AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A (or future replacement) VHF/UHF/LOS satellite communications (SATCOM) Radios. The AN/ARC-231 is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz frequency range. It covers both line-of-sight ultra high frequency (UHF) and VHF bands with amplitude modulation (AM), FM, and SATCOM capabilities.

c. The AN/ARC-231A is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz frequency range. No designated exportable, non-COMSEC capable version is planned. The AN/ARC-231A supports both line-of-sight UHF and VHF bands with AM, FM, and SATCOM capabilities. It also includes embedded frequency agile modes, Electronic Counter-Countermeasures (ECCM), anti-jam waveforms including Have Quick and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS), Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA), and Integrated Waveform (IW). It provides simultaneous, real-time participation in tactical voice and data communications networks. The RT-1987 will provide National Security Agency (NSA) Tactical Secure Voice Cryptographic Interoperability Specification (TSVCIS) 3.1.1 crypto modernization compliance. Operator selectable air (raffle control channel spacing of 5, 8.33, 12.5, and 25 kHz steps, and other data link and secure communications features, provide battlefield interoperability.

d. The AN/ARC-210 is a family of radios for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 to 512+ MHz frequency range. It covers both UHF and VHF bands with AM, FM, and SATCOM capabilities. The ARC-210 radio also includes embedded anti-jam waveforms, including Have Quick and SINGARS, and other data link and secure communications features, providing total battlefield interoperability and high-performance capabilities in the transfer of data, voice, and imagery. The software-programmable encryption is under the NSA Cryptographic Modernization Initiative.

e. The AN/ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) Airborne Communication System provides rotary-wing aircraft with advanced voice and data capabilities for short- and long-distance communications. The system is software programmable with a frequency range of 2.0000–29.9999 MHz, in 100 Hz steps and provides for providing embedded automatic Link establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging, GPS position reporting, and anti-jam (ECCM) functions.

f. The AN/APX-123A (or future replacement) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder is a space diversity transponder and is installed on various military platforms. When installed in conjunction with platform antennas and the remote control unit (or other appropriate control unit), the transponder provides identification, altitude, and surveillance reporting in response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based, and surface interrogators. The transponder will be classified SECRET if MODE IV, MODE 5, or MODE S fill is installed in the equipment with a crypto device. This item contains sensitive technology.

g. The VRC-100 HF Communication System is the ground station version of the AN/

ARC-220 for use in Aviation Operation Centers. It provides for advanced voice and data capabilities for short- and long-distance communications. The system is software programmable with a frequency range of 2.0000–29.9999 MHz in 100 Hz steps and provides embedded Automatic Link Establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging, GPS position reporting, and anti-jam (ECCM) functions. The system is purchased with all required mounts, amplifiers, antennas, power supplies, and accessories.

h. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment. The AN/PYQ-10(C) Simple Key Loader (SKL) will contain the KOV-21 COMSEC card, which is a Controlled Cryptographic Item (CCI). Cryptographic functions are performed by an embedded KOV-21 card developed by the NSA.

i. The KIV-77 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Crypto Applique provides cryptographic and time-of-day services for a Combined Interrogator/Transponder (CIT) or individual interrogator or transponder Mark XIIA (Mode 4 and Mode 5) IFF system deployed to identify cooperative, friendly systems. The KIV-77 contains embedded security, and when keys are loaded is classified up to Secret.

j. The KY-100M is a self-contained terminal including COMSEC that provides for secure voice and data communications in tactical airborne and ground environments. It is an integral part of U.S. Forces' and Federal law enforcement agencies' networks and provides half-duplex, narrowband, and wideband communications. Its flexible interfaces increase compatibility with a wide range of voice, data, radio, and satellite equipment. The KY can support Tier I crypto.

k. The AN/APR-39C(V)1/4 Radar Warning System detects radar-based rangefinders, target designators, and beam rider systems targeting an aircraft or vehicle. The APR-39 is a detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by laser designated or guided weapons. This item contains sensitive technology.

l. The AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver detects laser rangefinders, target designators, and beam rider laser-aided systems targeting an aircraft or vehicle. The AVR-2B is a detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by laser designated or guided weapons. This item contains sensitive technology.

m. The AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is an integrated infrared (IR) countermeasures suite utilizing ultraviolet (UV) sensors to display accurate threat location and dispense countermeasures either automatically or under pilot or crew control to defeat incoming missile threats.

n. Embedded GPS/Inertial Navigation System INS (EGI) provides GPS and INS capabilities to the aircraft. The EGI will include Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security modules to be used for secure GPS Precise Positioning Service (PPS) if required. The Embedded GPS/INS within the SAASM contains sensitive technology.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the infor-

mation could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Croatia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to Croatia.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, from January 8, 2024, through January 11, 2024, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes due to illness. However, had I been present, I would have voted as follows.

On the rollcall vote No. 1, on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of John A. Kazen to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, I would have voted yea.

On the rollcall vote No. 2, to confirm the nomination of John A. Kazen to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, I would have voted yea.

On the rollcall vote No. 3, on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of S. Kato Crews to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, I would have voted yea.

On the rollcall vote No. 4, to confirm the nomination of S. Kato Crews to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, I would have voted yea.

On the rollcall vote No. 5, on the question of whether to override the President's veto of S.J. Res. 32, a resolution of disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, I would have voted nay.

On the rollcall vote No. 6, on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Erika L. McEntarfer to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, I would have voted yea.

On the rollcall vote No. 7, to confirm the nomination of Erika L. McEntarfer to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, I would have voted yea.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING PENN DRUG COMPANY

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Penn Drug of Sidney, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Penn Drug Company was founded by John Newton Penn in 1863 after he moved to Southwest Iowa from Pennsylvania to open a medical practice. He

purchased the medicine he needed from a local doctor and, in 1864, built the drugstore at 714 Illinois Street in downtown Sidney, the same building Penn Drug continues to operate in today.

After years of serving the community, John Newton Penn sold Penn Drug to his son Alphonso Valdeze Penn in 1876. In addition to being one of the first registered pharmacists in the State of Iowa, Alphonso Valdeze Penn served in the Iowa General Assembly from 1909 until 1911. Alphonso Valdeze Penn's son Alphonso "Val" Valdeze Penn, Jr., began working at Penn Drug in 1910. Val Penn took over the family business with his wife Christena Penn in 1925. In 1970, William "Bill" A. Penn, Val Penn's son, became the owner of Penn Drug after working at the store since 1949. Bill Penn ran the store with his son Jeffrey Penn, the fifth generation of the Penn family in the 1990s.

In addition to being a community pharmacy, Penn Drug also offers delicious drinks from a soda fountain. Initially installed in the store in 1898, the soda fountain was expanded in 1946 to serve customers lunch in addition to ice cream and sundaes while they wait for their prescriptions.

Today, Penn Drug is owned by Angie and Leo Ettleman and Mark Vogt, who purchased the store in 2015. Angie Ettleman is no stranger to Penn Drug. She started working at the drugstore in 1990 at the store's soda fountain. Penn Drug has the distinction of being the oldest pharmacy in Iowa, which is largely due to the dedication of each new owner to maintain a piece of Iowa history and honor the Penn family legacy.

Penn Drug is active in the Sidney community. Over the years, the team has hosted events, including Christmas open houses and customer appreciation days. Penn Drug also provides delivery options for prescriptions from the pharmacy throughout Southwest Iowa. In 2024, Penn Drug celebrated its 161st business anniversary.

Penn Drug's commitment to providing rural healthcare services while preserving a historic Iowa business is clear. I want to congratulate Angie and Leo Ettleman, Mark Vogt, the Penn family, and the entire team at Penn Drug for their continued dedication to the Sidney community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DENECEE G. HUFTALIN

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the exemplary service and leadership of Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin, who will soon conclude a decade of service as the eighth president of Salt Lake Community College, SLCC.

Deneece grew up in Millcreek, UT, and studied at the University of Utah, where she fell in love with university life and decided to dedicate her profes-

sional career to advancing higher education. After working at several education institutions throughout the country, Deneece returned to Utah and joined Salt Lake Community College in 1992. She has been a fixture at SLCC ever since, holding various roles at the college before being inaugurated as its president in 2014. Throughout her more than three decades at SLCC, she displayed an unwavering devotion to community and State service commitments while balancing the demands of a young family.

During her tenure, the college has experienced significant growth. SLCC now boasts the largest and most diverse student body of any 2-year college in the State, with 10 campuses throughout Utah. Students come from an array of backgrounds to pursue studies in more than 200 degree and certificate programs. At SLCC, students succeed in pursuing their passions, in large part because of how President Huftalin has created innovative educational opportunities.

A champion of the learner, regardless of background, President Huftalin has consistently created education pathways instead of barriers. Some of her crowning achievements include expanding initiatives that bolster college readiness for high schoolers, providing funding for students when Federal aid falls short and making online education resources mainstream and accessible. The Open Educational Resources initiative alone has saved students more than \$21 million. Another program which President Huftalin was instrumental in creating, SLCC's Prison Education Program, made a difference in the lives of many. One of the program's graduates spoke about its impact, saying: "For many of us, education served as a lifeline, a way to rise above our circumstances and make a difference . . . it became important to me to take charge of my life to secure my future and try to enlighten those around me."

Buoyed by the dedication of remarkable students and the tireless work of the entire SLCC faculty and staff, President Huftalin has created a ripple effect that will long outlast her tenure. Her family—husband Tim and sons Max and Eli—have supported her throughout her journey and helped make it all possible. I have no doubt that Deneece will continue to serve those around her in meaningful ways. The State of Utah thanks her for tireless service to the noble endeavor of education. Thank you.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY LAWLER

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Mary Lawler of Jaffrey as January's Granite Stater of the Month. After retiring from a 50-year nursing career, Mary has continued to volunteer at Monadnock Community Hospital—MCH—for the past 12 years, helping to welcome new employees and set them up for success.

Mary has always had a close connection to the hospital, which is where her mother worked as a nurse and where Mary herself started her career, working in the operating room. MCH is also where Mary gave birth to her children. She says that the hospital staff is very close-knit, with everyone making an effort to be friendly and make people feel comfortable. The hospital's focus on taking excellent care of patients and building such a strong community is a big part of what draws her to continue volunteering even at age 86.

Mary hopes to keep volunteering as long as possible. Her medical experience lends itself to many different potential roles at the hospital, but she most often volunteers in the human resources department because that is where they need her help the most. Mary is driven by the example that her mother set when she worked at the hospital; Mary was inspired to become a nurse in part after seeing her mother's career, and she has always admired her mother's compassion for others.

Mary's work ethic, generosity, and kindness is emblematic of the Granite State spirit of rolling up our sleeves and pitching in to help out, recognizing that, regardless of our stage in life, we can always make a difference. I am proud to recognize Mary's dedication to supporting the staff and the patients of Monadnock Community Hospital.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3427. An act to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3865. An act 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. An act 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".

H.R. 5528. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1 of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board Act (2 U.S.C. 154), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five-year term: Ms. Cynthia Fisher of Newton, Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 9803(d)(1)(C) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Mr. MILLER of Ohio. And from private life: Mr. Marshall Billingslea of Montgomery, Alabama.

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3865. An act 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"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3947. An act 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"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5528. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2003. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3679. A bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3680. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the paid family and medical leave credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3681. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool

programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 3682. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the obligation of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to reclaim any overpayment of special financial assistance payment under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, including amounts paid on behalf of a deceased participant or beneficiary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3683. A bill to ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3684. A bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3685. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit leave for bone marrow or blood stem cell donation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3686. A bill to prevent anticompetitive conduct through the use of pricing algorithms by prohibiting the use of pricing algorithms that can facilitate collusion through the use of nonpublic competitor data, creating an antitrust law enforcement audit tool, increasing transparency, and enforcing violations through the Sherman Act and Federal Trade Commission Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3687. A bill to direct the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to implement anti-trafficking recommendations of the Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3688. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 7.4 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3689. A bill to establish the Office to Enforce and Protect Against Child Sexual Exploitation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3690. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the application of certain private land use restrictions to amateur station antennas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3691. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a cost-of-living adjustment to the non-labor related portion for hospital outpatient department services furnished in Alaska and Hawaii; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3692. A bill to prohibit the use of algorithmic systems to artificially inflate the price or reduce the supply of leased or rented residential dwelling units in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3693. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and imitation meat and imitation poultry products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3694. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the taking, importation, exportation, and breeding of certain cetaceans for public display, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 3695. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain eligibility provisions for loan forgiveness for teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3696. A bill to improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 535. A resolution recognizing January 30, 2024, as "Help America Vote Day"; considered and agreed to.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 95

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 95, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 341

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 341, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1202

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1202, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 1237

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to restore the exemption of family farms and small businesses from the definition of assets under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1408, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration of disputes involving race discrimination.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1570

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Texas

(Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1839

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to make commodities available for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 3068

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3068, a bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3074

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3074, a bill to prohibit schools that receive certain support from the Federal Communications Commission from allowing access to social media platforms on subsidized services, devices, or networks, and for other purposes.

S. 3109

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3109, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to protect survivors from brain injury by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data on the prevalence of brain injuries resulting from domestic and sexual violence.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3192, a bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes.

S. 3196

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3196, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a State option to extend Medicaid coverage for foster care children while receiving treatment from a qualified residential treatment program.



S. 3341

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3341, a bill to improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3558

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3558, a bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3609

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3609, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are informed of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child, before giving their informed consent to receive an abortion.

S. 3632

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3632, a bill to prohibit the use of Department of Homeland Security grant funds for politically biased activities.

S. 3666

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3666, a bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment without delay.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 534

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 534, a resolution expressing support for the recognition of January as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3696. A bill to improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3696

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits Act of 2024" or the "DEFIANCE Act of 2024".

### SEC. 2. CIVIL ACTION RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE IMAGES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1309(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting "competent," after "conscious";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) DIGITAL FORGERY.—The term 'digital forgery' means any intimate visual depiction of an identifiable individual created through the use of software, machine learning, artificial intelligence, or any other computer-generated or technological means, including by adapting, modifying, manipulating, or altering an authentic visual depiction, to appear to a reasonable person to be indistinguishable from an authentic visual depiction of the individual, regardless of whether the visual depiction indicates, through a label or some other form of information published with the visual depiction, that the visual depiction is not authentic.";

(5) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking "(5) DEPICTED" and inserting "(5) IDENTIFIABLE"; and

(B) by striking "depicted individual" and inserting "identifiable individual"; and

(6) in paragraph (6)(A), as so redesignated—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking "individual;" and inserting "individual; or"; and

(ii) by striking subclause (III); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) an identifiable individual engaging in sexually explicit conduct; and".

(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Section 1309(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking paragraph (A) and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (5)—

"(i) an identifiable individual whose intimate visual depiction is disclosed, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce, without the consent of the identifiable individual, where such disclosure was made by a person who knows or recklessly disregards that the identifiable individual has not consented to such disclosure, may bring a civil action against that person in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3);

"(ii) an identifiable individual who is the subject of a digital forgery may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3) against any person that knowingly produced or possessed the digital forgery with intent to disclose it, or knowingly disclosed or solicited the digital forgery, if—

"(I) the identifiable individual did not consent to such production, disclosure, solicitation, or possession;

"(II) the person knew or recklessly disregarded that the identifiable individual did not consent to such production, disclosure, solicitation, or possession; and

"(III) such production, disclosure, solicitation, or possession is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce or uses any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce; and

"(iii) an identifiable individual who is the subject of a digital forgery may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3) against any person that knowingly produced the digital forgery if—

"(I) the identifiable individual did not consent to such production;

"(II) the person knew or recklessly disregarded that the identifiable individual did not consent to such production; and

"(III) such production is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce or uses any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce.";

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting "IDENTIFIABLE" before "INDIVIDUALS"; and

(ii) by striking "an individual who is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, the legal guardian of the individual" and inserting "an identifiable individual who is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, the legal guardian of the identifiable individual";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting "identifiable" before "individual";

(ii) by striking "depiction" and inserting "intimate visual depiction or digital forgery"; and

(iii) by striking "distribution" and inserting "disclosure, solicitation, or possession"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting "identifiable" before individual;

(ii) by inserting "or digital forgery" after each place the term "depiction" appears; and



(iii) by inserting “, solicitation, or possession” after “disclosure”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) **RELIEF.**—In a civil action filed under this section—

“(A) an identifiable individual may recover the actual damages sustained by the individual or liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000, and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney’s fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and

“(B) the court may, in addition to any other relief available at law, order equitable relief, including a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to cease display or disclosure of the intimate visual depiction or digital forgery.

“(4) **PRESERVATION OF PRIVACY.**—In a civil action filed under this section, the court may issue an order to protect the privacy of a plaintiff, including by—

“(A) permitting the plaintiff to use a pseudonym;

“(B) requiring the parties to redact the personal identifying information of the plaintiff from any public filing, or to file such documents under seal; and

“(C) issuing a protective order for purposes of discovery, which may include an order indicating that any intimate visual depiction or digital forgery shall remain in the care, custody, and control of the court.”;

(5) in paragraph (5)(A), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “image” and inserting “visual depiction or digital forgery”; and

(B) by striking “depicted” and inserting “identifiable”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—Any action commenced under this section shall be barred unless the complaint is filed not later than 10 years from the later of—

“(A) the date on which the identifiable individual reasonably discovers the violation that forms the basis for the claim; or

“(B) the date on which the identifiable individual reaches 18 years of age.

“(7) **DUPLICATIVE RECOVERY BARRED.**—No relief may be ordered under paragraph (3) against a person who is subject to a judgment under section 2255 of title 18, United States Code, for the same conduct involving the same identifiable individual and the same intimate visual depiction or digital forgery.”

(c) **CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL LAW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act shall not be construed to impair, supersede, or limit a provision of Federal, State, or Tribal law.

(2) **NO PREEMPTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a State or Tribal government from adopting and enforcing a provision of law governing nonconsensual activity involving a digital forgery, as defined in section 1309(a) of the Consolidated Appropria-

tions Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851(a)), as amended by this Act, that is at least as protective of the rights of a victim as this Act.

### SEC. 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of and amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provision or amendment held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 535—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 30, 2024, AS “HELP AMERICA VOTE DAY”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 30, 2024, as “Help America Vote Day”;

(2) recognizes the need for, and appreciation of, the service of poll workers;

(3) encourages eligible people to help American citizens to vote in the 2024 elections by serving as poll workers; and

(4) encourages voters to contact or visit the website of their local election office for accurate and up-to-date information on voter registration and casting a ballot.

### RECOGNIZING JANUARY 30, 2024, AS HELP AMERICA VOTE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 535, 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. 535) recognizing January 30, 2024, as “Help America Vote Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion 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. 535) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

## ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 31; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, 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 Mehalchick nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Sherriff nomination, followed immediately by a vote on cloture on the Mehalchick nomination; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture has been invoked on the Mehalchick nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture has been invoked on the Goffman nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday’s session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m.

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 30, 2024:

### THE JUDICIARY

JOSHUA PAUL KOLAR, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. MICHAEL NORMAN

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in recognition and honor of Dr. Michael Norman, for his contributions to Christian Music and leadership at the 2024 State of the Church Summit, in Miami, Florida.

Whereas, Dr. Michael Norman, the second of five siblings, born in Orlando, Florida, to Carey and Mary Norman, has displayed exceptional talents and contributions throughout his life; and

Whereas, from the tender age of five, Michael exhibited prodigious skills in playing the piano, evolving into the primary church musician by the age of eight, laying the foundation for his future as a performer, orator, and proficient leader; and

Whereas, Michael's journey began as a gifted musician, attributing his musical prowess to his mother's prayers and divine intervention, turning away from potential pitfalls during the challenging times of the 80s; and

Whereas, his remarkable musical journey has culminated in numerous accolades, including multiple awards for Best New Artist, highlighting his ability to resonate with diverse audiences through the universal language of music; and

Whereas, Dr. Michael Norman is a native of Orlando, Florida, and, for the past 25 years, has been in a sacred union with Prophetess Francina Norman, demonstrating a commitment to marital bliss and spiritual partnership. Dr. Norman and Prophetess Francina Norman have traversed the globe, establishing churches, overseeing ministries, and providing valuable consultation to Pro Athletes, Celebrities, and Political figures, contributing to the betterment of societies both foreign and domestic; and

Whereas, Dr. Michael Norman, alongside his cherished wife Francina, serves as pastors of The Movement Church in Orlando, FL, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the spiritual growth and well-being of their community; and

Whereas, Dr. Michael Norman holds a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Counseling, as well as an Honorary Doctorate from All Nations Christian University, attesting to his scholarly pursuits and commitment to expanding his knowledge for the betterment of others; and

Whereas, Dr. Michael Norman is the esteemed founder of MCN Productions International, a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence in the realms of recording artistry and production; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FedERICA S. Wilson, a member of the United

States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, recognize Dr. Michael Norman's outstanding accomplishments, unwavering commitment to community, and his dedication to the betterment of individuals and relationships.

HONORING DANIEL EAGLE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Eagle, an officer with the Clearlake Police Department. I have named Mr. Eagle as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 4th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Mr. Eagle was born in Clearlake, California, and grew up in Lake County, California, graduating from Middletown High School in 2013. Mr. Eagle attended college in New Mexico where he obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management.

From an early age, Mr. Eagle had the desire to become a police officer and to help our community. Today, at the Clearlake Police Department, Mr. Eagle serves as a police officer, field training officer and canine handler. Mr. Eagle has been with his canine partner, Zeus, for several years now. Mr. Eagle is also the president of the Police Officer Association and enjoys working with local leaders on community improvement projects.

Mr. Eagle has a passion for traffic enforcement and investigations. This includes infractions such as driving under the influence (DUI), stolen vehicles and traffic collisions. Mr. Eagle has conducted numerous DUI investigations which resulted in the prosecution of over 25 DUI arrests. For his selfless work, Mr. Eagle received an award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 2023. Mr. Eagle was also presented with the Law Enforcement and Prosecution Recognition award. Mr. Eagle's dedication to our community continues as he strives to address traffic-related issues within the city of Clearlake, making it a safer place to live, work and visit.

Outside of his service, Mr. Eagle enjoys playing golf with friends, restoring vehicles and participating in off-road activities. Mr. Eagle is proudly married to Taylor Eagle and is the father of a 2-year-old daughter named Brinley.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Eagle for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

**HON. BURGESS OWENS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country program, a testament to the dedication, hard work, and indomitable spirit of Utah's student-athletes. In just 18 short months since its inception, Salt Lake Community College's Cross Country program has soared to remarkable heights. The women's Cross-Country team achieved an outstanding 3rd place at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Cross Country National Championship, securing victory at the 2023 Scenic West Championship.

Equally impressive, the men's team claimed the 8th spot nationally and conquered the 2023 Scenic West Championship. Unsurprisingly, 77 percent of the women athletes and 65 percent of the men's team hail from the great state of Utah, showcasing the program's commitment to nurturing local talent. On November 11, 2023, the men's team displayed their prowess as Runner-Ups at the NJCAA National Championship in Huntsville, Alabama, with JQ Harris, an SLCC runner, clinching the men's Individual Championship.

The women's Cross-Country team went even further, securing not one but two national championships. On November 11, 2023, they triumphed at the NJCAA National Championship in Huntsville, Alabama, and two days later, they emerged victorious at the Half Marathon National Championship. These victories marked a historic moment for SLCC, claiming their first national championships in women's sports. The college now boasts an impressive tally of five national championships across women's and men's sports.

Behind this success are the dedicated coaches and leaders I would like to recognize: Head Coach Isaac Wood, named the NJCAA National Coach of the Year for Cross-Country; Assistant Coaches Kelsey Gilbert, Aiden Carlson, Tom Gruenewald; and Athletic Director Kevin Dustin.

As a former athlete and Chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, I am proud of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country program's remarkable achievements, embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship, resilience, and dedication. I thank them for their example as their continued success inspires aspiring athletes across Utah and beyond.

• 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 DR. TRAGIL WADE-JOHNSON

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Tragil Wade-Johnson, a distinguished entrepreneur, philanthropist, inspirational speaker, life coach, and author.

Dr. Wade-Johnson has dedicated her life to the pursuit of improving the lives of others through education, empowerment, encouragement, and enlightenment. As the former caregiver and devoted sister to retired NBA Champion Dwyane Wade, her family's journey from tragedy to triumph inspired her to commit her life to supporting underprivileged youth. Dr. Wade-Johnson's passion for children led her to found America's Big Sisters Foundation which seeks to change the narrative for youth facing challenges similar to those she and her brother overcame.

Establishing America's Big Sisters Foundation in 2017 as a 501(c)3 organization, Dr. Wade-Johnson continues her mission to empower, encourage, and educate young ladies in underserved communities. The foundation's annual Empowerment Conference, uniting girls across backgrounds and providing strategies to overcome societal challenges, has grown exponentially, impacting the lives of thousands. With a city tour reaching multiple states, this visionary leader aspires to touch the lives of 2,500 girls in 2023 alone.

Dr. Wade-Johnson's educational achievements, including degrees in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education, coupled with her certifications in ministry, leadership, and trauma-informed care, underscore her commitment to lifelong learning and personal development.

Her illustrious career path encompasses roles as a teacher, principal, and executive director, reflecting her diverse skill set and dedication to shaping young minds. Notably, as the Executive Director of Wade's World Foundation from 2006 to 2017, she led the organization in raising more than \$3.4 million and garnered numerous awards. Recognitions such as the BET Humanitarian Award, Woman of Excellence, and the Dr. Rita Marley Ambassador Award underscore her impactful presence in the philanthropic landscape.

Dr. Tragil Wade-Johnson's dedication to positive change and her unwavering commitment to uplifting the next generation epitomizes the transformative power of education, resilience, and compassionate leadership, inspiring us all to strive for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Tragil Wade-Johnson for all she has achieved, and for her commitment, dedication and service to our community.

RECOGNIZING MS. AMY CHAVERS BOWDEN, OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Okaloosa County School District

Teacher of the Year. Ms. Amy Chavers Bowden, for her exceptional efforts in advancing youth education and dedication to positively impacting the lives of countless students at Antioch Elementary School.

A fourth-grade teacher, Ms. Bowden's reputation precedes her as a woman of motivation, kindness, inspiration, and most of all, an unwavering commitment to the betterment of her students. Her leadership with the Hope Squad, Drone Team, and Young Astronauts Club exemplifies her message that all children are capable of achieving success. Each Monday, the scent of freshly made hot chocolate fills her classroom as her students each contribute to their class newspaper, demonstrating elementary comradery made possible through a teacher who serves as a role model and leads by example. Ms. Bowden's aspiration to evoke joy in her students makes her beloved by her students.

I am proud to know that so many children in my district have had the opportunity to have been taught by Ms. Bowden. Her stated mission to change the world has certainly been achieved and her lessons of leadership are sure to remain through many generations to come. It is for these reasons that I congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING CAPTAIN CHRISSY VALADEZ

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chrissy Valadez, a paramedic and fire captain with the Northshore Fire Protection. I have named Ms. Valadez as Public Safety Heroes of the Year from Lake County in California's 4th District because of her extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Ms. Valadez was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Robert and Tina Allen. She attended Mendocino College Fire Academy and Paramedic program and earned her associate degree in emergency management from Coastline College in Costa Mesa, California. Ms. Valadez began her career in 2003 with Lucerne Fire Department which consolidated and formed Northshore Fire Protection District in 2006. She has served as Northshore Fire Protection District's EMS Liaison since 2007. She is also a part of the Lake County Emergency Medical Care Committee and has been a Field Training Officer precepting paramedic interns since 2008. Having worked for nearly 21 years in Lake County, she has assisted in many of the major wildfires, including the 2018 Ranch Fire that devastated our community.

Ms. Valadez has been serving her community for over two decades. She teaches CPR to a wide range of community members including high school students and school staff. She's also been educating community and tribal organizations on Narcan administration, tackling the opioid crisis head-on. As the driving force behind the Every-15-Minutes program at Upper Lake High School, she has been helping students understand the dangers of driving under the influence. Ms. Valadez is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in science education with an end goal of teach-

ing health science and emergency medical services (EMS) to high school students.

Three years ago, Ms. Valadez started working on a new passion in her spare time. She serves as a Regional Advisor for International Student Exchange, facilitating and supporting high school students in Lake and Mendocino Counties who are studying abroad in the United States for a cultural exchange experience. She is a local point of contact for any inquiries and emergencies, ensuring that the students have a positive and enriching experience while adjusting to life in a new culture. Ms. Valadez also organizes events and activities to promote cultural exchange and community integration to better connect international students and their host communities.

When she is not on duty, Ms. Valadez enjoys spending time with her husband, Ronnie, and three daughters, Regan (14), Charlotte (9) and Clara (2). Her crew members at the firehouse describe her as a dedicated worker who does her best to provide solutions even in the most stressful of times. She is a wonderful daughter, a caring sister, an amazing mother and a loving wife, and our community is grateful for her hard work and service.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Ms. Valadez for her persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING LEE CAPLIN

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lee Caplin, a businessman and philanthropist.

As an attorney, entrepreneur, and educator, Mr. Caplin's contributions span over 25 years, including co-founding Penske Media and serving as the Special Assistant Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Duke University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia Law School, Mr. Caplin has been an influential figure in various fields, embodying a commitment to education, innovation, and the arts.

Mr. Lee Caplin generously donated \$10 million to Florida International University College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) to establish the CARTA Lee Caplin School of Journalism & Media, marking one of the most substantial contributions to a journalism and media program in the history of the State University System of Florida.

The donation will empower a multitude of initiatives to support students, encompassing the strengthening of the curriculum, faculty, and professional staff to ensure graduates are well-prepared for interdisciplinary, high-demand professions. Additionally, it will involve the enhancement of the renowned South Florida Media Network, now rebranded as Caplin News, providing immersive professional learning experiences with news bureaus in Miami and Washington, D.C. The initiative extends to the development of engaging and inclusive coursework, fostering an experiential "learn by doing" teaching philosophy and equipping students with essential skills to combat misinformation and disinformation. Furthermore, it

aims at establishing a diverse and accomplished faculty of practitioners and scholars, providing instruction in the use of industry-standard equipment, software, and the latest immersive technologies. The donation will also contribute to capital improvements in facilities and equipment to create state-of-the-art learning spaces, along with offering student scholarships and financial assistance.

This significant gift reinforces the Caplin School's dedication to inclusivity, with 86 percent of students identifying as minorities, and its commitment to providing access to excellence, fostering "techquity," and preparing proficient, multilingual professionals in journalism, digital media, animation, broadcast media, and film (proficient in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole).

Lee Caplin, Founder and Chairman of Picture Entertainment Corporation, has a prominent role in the multimedia and telecommunications industry, serving as the Executive Producer of the Academy Award-nominated film "Ali" and leading initiatives such as the Immersive Studio for Altered Reality (iStar) at Florida International University.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Lee Caplin for all he has achieved, and for his commitment, dedication and service to our community.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

##### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Holocaust Learning Experience, hosted by MorseLife in my Congressional District. This year, International Holocaust Remembrance Day marks 79 years since the liberation of the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by the Red Army and Allied troops. On January 27, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly officially reminded the world of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution. We should never forget the atrocities of the Holocaust. At liberation, allies witnessed the devastation of human remains and the destruction of the human spirit. This is the day we also acknowledge the multigenerational impact of the horror and terror perpetrated against innocent women, men and children.

Globally, we are witnessing an alarming rise in antisemitism, and it is more important than ever to recognize the critical lessons from the Holocaust. I am proud to recognize the Holocaust Learning Experience, to continue to develop, deploy and deliver Holocaust education to public schools. Last year, the Holocaust Learning Experience was awarded seed funding from the state of Florida to cast the education statewide, scalable, and the Holocaust Learning Experience is poised to be in the 67 school districts, impacting approximately 2.1 million students.

I wish to congratulate and encourage the Holocaust Learning Experience to continue changing lives of our nation's young people. Each day, the Experience teaches students to stand up, not stand by.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 363; NAY on Roll Call No. 637; NAY on Roll Call No. 636; and NAY on Roll Call No. 648.

#### HONORING ANDREW TOMELLOSO

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Tomelloso, a fire captain with the Dixon Fire Department. I have named Mr. Tomelloso as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 4th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication and service to others.

Mr. Tomelloso was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in Dixon, California where he earned his high school diploma. Since then, Mr. Tomelloso has completed the National College of Technical Instruction Paramedic Program, the State Fire Marshal Company Officer Program and is a certified California Specialized Training Institute Hazmat Technician. He is currently enrolled at Columbia Southern University to complete an AS/BS degree. Mr. Tomelloso is the proud father of 15-year-old Owen Tomelloso and 14-year-old Marina Tomelloso.

Mr. Tomelloso began his career assisting emergency room patients, until he joined the Dixon Fire Department in February 2014 where he has since been serving as a firefighter and paramedic. Mr. Tomelloso's calm demeanor and approachability within the Dixon Fire Department makes him a valued leader and a respected colleague. As a newly promoted captain he is playing an essential role in helping make the department stronger, more resilient and more capable. Mr. Tomelloso is the Dixon Professional Firefighters Association (DPFA) Local 4665 Vice President, the grant committee chair, the Dixon Fire Department public education lead and a Solano County Hazmat team member as well as being the Solano County Rotary Firefighter of the Year for both the years of 2017 and 2020.

As a captain and paramedic, Mr. Tomelloso is tasked with public education within the fire department. He demonstrates incredible willingness to contribute and respond to the needs of our community in fire safety, adult and youth education programs and CPR training. Mr. Tomelloso's dedication to the Dixon Fire Department and our community has resulted in top caliber public education that improves the lives and wellbeing of our citizens.

Mr. Tomelloso is a standup citizen working with the community CPR program and contributing to public outreach events such as school festivals, Dixon May Fair, fire prevention week and senior resource fairs. Additionally, he was a member of the Solano County Urban Search and Rescue Team and the former president of the Dixon Firefighters Charitable Fund. Cur-

rently Mr. Tomelloso serves as the lead chair for both the Dixon Fire Department CPR program and DPFA annual Santa run.

From school programs to Fire Prevention Week events, to presentations with homeowner groups, to coordinating the Santa Run during the holidays to spread a bit of joy, his professionalism and dedication to making our community a smarter and safer place goes far and above the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Tomelloso for his persistence, service, and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### HONORING RICHARD CUFF

##### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard Cuff, a businessman, philanthropist, and friend.

Born and raised in Miami, the vibrant city within Florida's 24th Congressional District, Richard Cuff brought with him a wealth of experiences and a deep-rooted sense of community when he relocated to Jacksonville. His journey from the heart of Miami to becoming an integral part of the Jacksonville community reflects the interconnectedness of our great state. His commitment to bridging the gap between communities, fostering inclusivity, and celebrating diversity is a testament to the values instilled in him from his early days in Miami, the place he still calls home.

Richard Cuff, a dedicated and compassionate resident of Florida, has significantly contributed to the lively fabric of our community. Richard has selflessly devoted his time to enriching the lives of underprivileged youth through the art of music, sharing his passion and skill by teaching violin lessons through his Guiding Success Program. His comedic talents have not only brought joy and laughter to many but also served as a testament to his versatile and creative spirit. Richard's commitment to civic engagement has been demonstrated through his candidacy for public office, showcasing his unwavering dedication to making positive changes within local government.

Richard Cuff's influence extends beyond the realms of music, comedy, and politics. His fervent dedication to community service is evident through his leadership in various local initiatives. From spearheading neighborhood clean-up projects to organizing charity events, Richard consistently demonstrates a profound commitment to the well-being of our community.

In the realm of education, Richard has not only shared his musical expertise but has also actively engaged in promoting literacy and learning. His involvement in literacy programs for children and adults alike underscores his belief in the transformative power of knowledge and the importance of fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

As a staunch advocate for social justice, Richard has fearlessly addressed issues of inequality and worked towards building bridges between communities. His efforts to foster understanding and unity have not only resonated locally but have also inspired others to join the

cause of creating a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Richard is founder of the Cora Lee Cuff Fund, named for his late mother, founder of NASEMBA Business Alliance, and C.E.O. of ConcinTel, LLC. He serves as Executive Director of League of Florida Orchestras, Inc., a capacity-building nonprofit organization.

In acknowledgment of these accomplishments and the countless other ways Richard Cuff has enriched the lives of our residents, we celebrate not only his birthday but also the indelible mark he has left on our community. Happy Birthday to Richard, and I thank him for being an exemplary force for positive change.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Richard Cuff for all he has achieved, and for his commitment, dedication and service to our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2023 I missed votes due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 702 and NAY on Roll Call No. 703.

**MOURNING THE LOSS OF DR. JOHN BROOKS SLAUGHTER, FORMER CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Dr. John Brooks Slaughter—a towering figure in academia and the science community in America. He passed away last month at the age of 89.

Some will remember John as the gifted engineer who devoted the first 15 years of his career to supporting the crucial work at the U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory as a civilian employee. Later, he became the director of the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington, and assistant director for Astronomics, Atmospheric, Earth, and Ocean Sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Others will remember John for his leadership in academia and the sciences—especially after President Jimmy Carter selected him to serve as the sixth Director of the NSF in 1980. He excelled in that position during his two years, advocating for greater investment in science education, including at minority-serving institutions.

In Maryland, we will remember John as the man who transformed the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) for the better as its Chancellor between 1982 and 1988—the first Black American to hold the position. He made our university more efficient, inclusive, diverse, collaborative, and prosperous. John was beloved by UMD's students, faculty, and staff

alike. The same was true at Occidental College, where John served as President between 1989 and 1999, and at the University of Southern California, where John was appointed the Melbo Professor of Leadership in Education in 1999.

I'm sure John's wife Bernice, their two children Jacqueline and John, and the rest of his relatives will remember him as a devoted family man.

No matter who we are or how we knew John, however, we will remember him as a man of high intellect, great character, and unwavering devotion to serving others. For that, he has the gratitude of this Congress and this country. I hope all my colleagues will join me in mourning him and praying for his family.

#### HONORING SHIRLEY GIBSON

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Shirley Gibson, a mother, public servant, and friend.

Shirley Gibson, hailing from Camilla, Georgia, was the eldest among six siblings. Her family's journey took them from Camilla to the Florida Keys when she was just 10 years old. Subsequently, they relocated to Miami's Liberty City neighborhood before finally settling in Carol City, now known as Miami Gardens—the largest predominantly Black community in South Florida, which she led the charge in the city's creation.

Shirley Gibson's remarkable journey in public service began as a Miami-Dade police officer before she served as Miami Gardens' mayor from the city's establishment. Her dedicated public service extended from the city's inception in 2003 until 2012 at the conclusion of her second term as mayor. During her tenure, Mayor Gibson displayed unwavering commitment to fostering civic pride.

Mayor Gibson established a benchmark for leadership in the newly formed municipality. A trailblazer and visionary, she foresaw the potential for growth, prosperity, and unity within the community. Her leadership was characterized by an enduring commitment to inclusivity, equity, and transparency. Under Mayor Gibson's guidance, Miami Gardens thrived. Her policies and initiatives were centered on enhancing the residents' quality of life, driving economic progress, and fortifying public safety. She championed the people, advocating for improved education, upgraded infrastructure, and the strengthening of community bonds.

Mayor Shirley Gibson's legacy transcends administrative and political spheres. She was deeply devoted to building bridges between diverse communities, fostering an environment of unity and harmony. Her remarkable ability to connect with individuals from all walks of life undoubtedly contributed to her leadership success. She demonstrated a sincere concern for the welfare of her constituents, tirelessly working to enhance their lives in every conceivable manner. Her accomplishments reflected her dedication to crafting a flourishing, inclusive, and vibrant Miami Gardens. In early 2023, her pride in the city was evident as she beamed during the celebration that marked the city's 20th anniversary.

Shirley Gibson was a proud alumna of St. Thomas University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in 1981 and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries in 2023. Her remarkable contributions were further recognized when, in 2013, she was conferred with an honorary Doctorate from the University.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the late Shirley Gibson for all she has achieved, and for her commitment, dedication and service to our community.

#### RECOGNIZING MOBILE COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY AS RECIPIENT OF THE IMPACT AWARD

### HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company as recipient of the Impact Award. The Impact Award recognizes a company that is dedicated to making their community a better place. Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company is a sales, distribution, and production center of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. (UNITED). Mobile Coca-Cola UNITED is engaged in the production, marketing, and distribution of a diverse portfolio of sparkling and still products, non-alcoholic brands under exclusive franchise agreements principally with The Coca-Cola Company. For more than 120 years, Coca-Cola UNITED has remained true to its foundational core values of Quality, Excellence, Integrity, and Respect. Local relationships, personalized customer service and strong community engagement have been the foundation of this business for more than a century and continue to be strong today. Coca Cola has been impactful in this community for over 100 years. They have been building strong relationships, engaging volunteers, and providing financial and in-kind support to organizations, institutions and programs that make a positive impact in our local communities. Coca-Cola UNITED focuses its philanthropy in key strategic areas: education and youth development; empowerment; the well-being of local communities and stewardship of the environment. Just this past year they have donated to local food banks, Christmas Give Backs, First Responder recognition, Annual corporate events, community outreach like Kids Day 2023. Coca Cola has survived a true test of time for a business model in our community for over a century. This is truly evidence of sustainability for jobs, community outreach as well as community improvements through their philanthropy and outreach. They are great partners and supporters of the SWMC Chamber.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

### HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to recognize the extraordinary achievements of

the Herriman High School Varsity Boys Cross Country Team, who recently made history as the first Utah team ever to win the first-place title at the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Oregon.

These talented young men were among 22 seven-person clubs in addition to 50 male and female individuals who competed for the coveted Winged Goddess of Victory championship trophy. Going into Nationals, the Herriman High Varsity Boys Cross Country Team was ranked 4th among the teams competing. Overcoming adversity and from behind, the team is now bringing the championship home.

Their victory marks a historic moment for the Jordan School District and the entire State of Utah. I would also like to recognize the dedicated coaches and leaders who believe in and support this remarkable team: Coach Doug Soles, Athletic Directors Brad Tingey and Laurel Bigler, Principal Todd Quarnberg, and Superintendent Anthony Godfrey.

As a former athlete and Chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, I am immensely proud of the Herriman High School Varsity Boys Cross Country Team, their coaches, parents, and supporters. I wish them continued success in both athletics and academics and look forward to seeing more championships brought back home to Utah.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2024, I did not vote on Roll Call votes 20 and 21 as my flight was significantly delayed. Had I been present I would have voted: AYE on Roll Call No. 20, H.R. 5528, the Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act; and AYE on Roll Call No. 21, S. 3427, the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act.

#### CELEBRATING NISHNA PRODUCTIONS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Nishna Productions on their 50th anniversary of providing tremendous community support and opportunity to individuals with disabilities in Southwest Iowa.

What began as a humble operation in 1974 has continued to grow in size and scope over the last five decades. Today, the committed staff at Nishna Productions assist individuals with disabilities along the path to being as independent as possible in their communities by providing them with opportunities to gain vocational skills training, community involvement, and socialization as well as the resources to find and maintain employment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nishna Productions for this incredible milestone. I specifically want to recognize their incredible staff for selflessly working to better

the lives of others. Their dedication has not only touched the lives of countless individuals and their families but serves as an inspiration to us all.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MR. SANDERS ALEXANDER MARSHALL, JR.

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Sanders Alexander Marshall, Jr. He was a pharmacist, community leader, and a staunch advocate for the integration of public places in Fort Worth.

Sanders was a Fort Worth native who had both a deep love of country and giving back to the community. He graduated from I.M. Terrell High School in 1951 and immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force to serve honorably for four years overseas in the Korean War. After completing his military service, he returned to Fort Worth for a few years before enrolling at Texas Southern University in Houston to pursue his passion for helping people through being a pharmacist.

Sanders went on to become a civil rights trailblazer in North Texas. He broke barriers in hiring practices by becoming the first black pharmacist to serve non-black customers in Fort Worth. Among his many accomplishments, he was recognized as a Pioneer in North Texas Pharmacy by the University of North Texas System College of Pharmacy. He went on to serve his community for multiple decades, and even after retirement, he continued giving back by mentoring many other young pharmacists.

He was also a man of faith. He was baptized at an early age and was a life servant of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where he served as a deacon and head of the Brotherhood for over 50 years. Most importantly, he was a devoted family man.

Sanders will forever be remembered for his commitment to justice and the love he shared with his family and community. My prayers are with his loved ones and with the countless community members whose lives he profoundly impacted.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my vote for S. 3427. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 21.

#### HONORING J.C. GREENBERG

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John (J.C.) Greenberg, a

Battalion Chief with CAL FIRE's Sonoma-Lake Napa Unit. I have named Mr. Greenberg as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 4th District as a result of his extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

Mr. Greenberg was born and grew up in Vallejo, California. He earned an associate degree in Fire Science Technology from Santa Rosa Junior College. Mr. Greenberg also achieved Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Financial Management from California State University, Chico.

Mr. Greenberg has dedicated much of his life to protecting our community from fire danger, working as a member of the Napa County Fire Department since the year 2000. In 2019, he became a member of the Napa Firewise Foundation (NCF) Board of Directors which maps out Napa County's wildfire risks to public lives, residential communities, critical infrastructures, habitat protection and protection of the economies of tourism and agriculture. Mr. Greenberg is the operations branch director of CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 5 and a helitack crew member with the CAL FIRE Aviation Program. Over the past four years Mr. Greenberg has spearheaded efforts made by Napa Firewise and CalFire to reduce wildland fire impacts via pre-fire fuel reduction. These projects protect the public along evacuation routes, enhance defensible space among community sub-divisions of residential structures, re-establish historical dozer lines for containment of future wildland fires and manage our rural lands utilizing prescribed fires and grazing.

On July 5, 2023, a vegetation fire threatened multiple residents and Silverado Middle School in the Coombsville area of Napa County. This fire started during peak hours at 1:35 pm and was influenced by a 13-mph wind on a grassy slope surrounded by residential homes. Led by Mr. Greenburg, the City of Napa Fire Department, CAL FIRE and the Napa County Fire Department quickly defended the structures under threat and provided perimeter control from further fire growth. This response demonstrated the effectiveness of strong cooperative relations among centralized emergency responders and Mr. Greenberg's quick and effective leadership certainly prevented further damage to our community.

Mr. Greenberg is married to Natalie Greenberg and the two reside in Napa County with their two boys, 13-year-old Andrew Greenberg and 10-year-old Grant Greenberg.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Greenberg for his persistence, service and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ALMEDA LEE STANFIELD

#### HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Almeda Lee Stanfield who celebrated her 100th birthday on December 16, 2023. Mrs. Stanfield is a proud mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, and leads a life of great service and care for her community.



Almeda was born in Ferguson, Arkansas, grew up in Rochester, New York, and settled in Sacramento County in 1967. She is known to be a caring friend, neighbor, church leader, and civic volunteer, and her loving presence is known to be unmistakable in her community. Sacramento is lucky to have someone with such incredible dedication, sacrifice, and service to our county.

Almeda's life of service and dedication is commendable and worthy of recognition. I want to extend both my gratitude and my best wishes to Mrs. Stanfield for her lifelong commitment to Sacramento and the entire Nation. Her commitment and care for those around her is highly remarkable. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Mrs. Stanfield's outstanding life's work and wishing her a very happy 100th birthday.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2024, I missed two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yes on Roll Call No. 20, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5528; and Yes on Roll Call No.

21, On motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3427.

#### HONORING CLARKSBURG FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Clarksburg Fire Protection District. I have named them as Public Safety Heroes of the Year from Yolo County in California's 4th District because of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

The Clarksburg Fire Protection District is an all-volunteer organization that has provided fire protection to the community of Clarksburg and the surrounding area for the past 78 years. Currently, the fire protection district has 23 trained volunteers who respond to fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and public service calls. The fire district has proven its effectiveness by responding to multiple emergency calls simultaneously, up to five at one time, without calling for aid from other agencies.

As the only chartered division of government in the Clarksburg township, the fire district has led numerous community events to

organize discussions about the needs of the area. 90 percent of the fire district's volunteers live in the community creating a "neighbors helping neighbors" dynamic in many of the emergency responses. The volunteer firefighters are also very active in other aspects of our community and support numerous charitable and civic organizations.

As evidence of their importance to our community, in the end of 2022, extreme wind and weather events left Clarksburg without power and operational wells for days. The fire district responded by delivering water to the community for sanitation and opening the fire station as an emergency depot and warming station. Another instance of service came in recent years when a fire threatened Clarksburg. Within two minutes, firefighters were on the scene and suppressing the fire, beating the National Fire Protection Association rural response time standards by a wide margin.

Along with serving Clarksburg, the fire district participates in several mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with neighboring districts, neighboring departments, the county of Yolo, the state of California, and some federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Clarksburg Fire Protection District for their persistence, service, and commitment to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S277–S290*

**Measures Introduced:** Eighteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3679–3696, and S. Res. 535. **Page S287**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 2003, to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S287**

**Measures Passed:**

**Help America Vote Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 535, recognizing January 30, 2024, as “Help America Vote Day”. **Pages S287, S290**

**Wang Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Page S283**

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 Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S283**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S283**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S283**

**Laroski, Jr., Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Page S283**

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 Lisa W. Wang, of the District

of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Page S283**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S283**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S283**

**Mehalchick, Sherriff, and Goffman Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, to be immediately followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick; that if cloture has been invoked on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S290**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 66 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. EX. 25), Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Pages S277–83**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S286**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S287**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S287–89**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S289–90**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S285–86**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—25) **Page S283**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S290.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 7126–7154; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 107–108; and H. Res. 984–986, were introduced.

Pages H314–16

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages H317–18

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1727, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–363);

H.R. 2882, to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–364, Part 1);

H.R. 4385, to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (H. Rept. 118–365);

H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–366);

H.R. 3415, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–367);

H.R. 4051, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–368);

H.R. 1240, to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–369); and

H.R. 2997, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–370).

Page H314

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Stauber to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H275

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Page H279

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Jack Hibbs, Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, Chino, California.

Pages H279–80

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Page H288

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:40 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m.

Page H296

**Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act:** The House passed H.R. 5585, to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, by a yea-and-nay vote of 271 yeas to 154 nays, Roll No. 25.

Pages H281–88, H288–89, H289–96, H296–98

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–21 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill.

Page H294

Agreed to:

Molinaro amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–362) that adds a reporting requirement to include the number of people who were charged, apprehended but not charged, committed the violation but not apprehended, and the penalties sought and imposed against violators.

Pages H295–96

Rejected:

Crockett amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–362) that sought to strike “actively assisting, or” from the offense position (by a recorded vote of 201 yeas to 224 noes, Roll No. 24).

Pages H296–98

H. Res. 980, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5585), (H.R. 6678), (H.R. 6679), and (H.R. 6976) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 216 yeas to 210 noes, Roll No. 23, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 22.

Pages H288–89

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H288–89, H289, H296–97, and H297–98.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **EXPOSING PRESIDENT BIDEN’S PLAN TO DISMANTLE THE SNAKE RIVER DAMS AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO THE UNITED STATES**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “Exposing President Biden’s Plan to Dismantle the Snake River Dams and the Negative Impacts to the United States”. Testimony was heard from John Hairston, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, Portland, Oregon; Michael L. Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), U.S. Army; Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; Jeremiah Baumann, Senior Advisor, Director of Policy and Implementation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

### **FIGHTING THE MISUSE OF BIDEN’S GREEN BANK GIVEAWAY**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Fighting the Misuse of Biden’s Green Bank Giveaway”. Testimony was heard from Zealan Hoover, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

### **BETTER INVESTMENT BARRIERS: STRENGTHENING CCP SANCTIONS AND EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO BUREAUCRATIC REGIMES**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Better Investment Barriers: Strengthening CCP Sanctions and Exploring Alternatives to Bureaucratic Regimes”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY EXPOSED: EXAMINING THE AGENCY’S MISSION AND FAILURES**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability; and Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a joint hearing entitled

“UNRWA Exposed: Examining the Agency’s Mission and Failures”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee began a markup on H. Res. 863, Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): INNOVATIONS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence (AI): Innovations within the Legislative Branch”. Testimony was heard from Hugh Halpern, Director, Government Publishing Office; Judith Conklin, Chief Information Officer, Library of Congress; John Clocker, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives; and Taka Ariga, Chief Data Scientist and Director, Innovation Lab, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, Government Accountability Office.

### **THE SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE STATES**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government held a hearing entitled “The Southern Border Crisis: The Constitution and the States”. Testimony was heard from Brent Webster, First Assistant Attorney General, Texas; and public witnesses.

### **EXAMINING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF LAND CONSOLIDATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “Examining the Opportunities and Challenges of Land Consolidation in Indian Country”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **AMERICA’S REPORT CARD: OVERSIGHT OF K–12 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing entitled “America’s Report Card: Oversight of K–12 Public Education”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: REAUTHORIZING THE EARTHQUAKE AND WINDSTORM HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAMS**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “From Risk to Resilience: Reauthorizing

the Earthquake and Windstorm Hazards Reduction Programs”. Testimony was heard from Jason Averill, Deputy Director of the Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce; Edward Laatsch, Director, Safety, Planning, and Building Science Division, Risk Analysis, Planning and Information Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Gavin Hayes, Earthquake Hazards Program Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and Susan Margulies, Assistant Director for Engineering, National Science Foundation.

### **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS AND EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES**

*Committee on Small Business:* Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Pathways to Success: Supporting Entrepreneurs and Employees with Disabilities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MENACE ON THE RED SEA: SECURING SHIPPING AGAINST THREATS IN THE RED SEA**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Menace on the Red Sea: Securing Shipping Against Threats in the Red Sea”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE ONE PERCENT: SUPPORTING AMERICA’S SURVIVING MILITARY FAMILY COMMUNITY**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The One Percent: Supporting America’s Surviving Military Family Community”. Testimony was heard from Joshua Jacobs, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

### **AUTHORITARIAN ALIGNMENT: THE CCP’S SUPPORT FOR AMERICA’S ADVERSARIES**

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Authoritarian Alignment: The CCP’s Support for America’s Adversaries”. Testimony was heard from Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary, Department of State; and a public witness.

## ***Joint Meetings***

No joint committee meetings were held.

## **NEW PUBLIC LAWS**

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D61)

S. 3222, to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators. Signed on January 26, 2024. (Public Law 118–36)

S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Signed on January 26, 2024. (Public Law 118–37)

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### **Senate**

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine Artificial Intelligence and housing, 10 a.m., SD–538.

*Committee on the Budget:* to hold hearings to examine expanding housing affordability, 10 a.m., SD–608.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine avoiding, detecting, and capturing methane emissions from landfills, 10 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Finance:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, and Rebecca Lee Haffajee, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Corey Anne Tellez, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Andrew G. Biggs, of Oregon, Kathryn Rose Lang, of Maryland, and Sharon Beth Lewis, of Oregon, each to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, 10 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at 75, focusing on past successes and planning for the future, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* business meeting to consider S. 3664, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, S. 3626, to clarify task and delivery order solicitation and contract requirements, S. 3635, to improve the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competitions, S. 3613, to require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, S. 3558, to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, S. 1524, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, S. 3654, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to require the timely appointment of agency transition officials, to ensure adequate performance and oversight of required transition-related preparation, to require new guidance for agencies and possible transition teams, S.

3648, to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, S. 3139, to ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, S. 2367, to improve border security through regular assessments and evaluations of the Checkpoint Program Management Office and effective training of U.S. Border Patrol agents regarding drug seizures, S. 3594, to require Governmentwide source code sharing, S. 3015, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, S. 2143, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South 2nd Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the “Staff Sergeant Robb Lura Roling Post Office Building”, S. 2274, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, as the “Dessie A. Bebout Post Office”, S. 2717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 231 North Franklin Street in Greensburg, Indiana, as the “Brigadier General John T. Wilder Post Office”, S. 3267, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the “First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building”, S. 3357, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5120 Derry Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Hettie Simmons Love Post Office Building”, S. 3419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the “John Charles Traub Post Office”, S. 3639, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Robert Hayden Post Office”, S. 3640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office”, H.R. 292, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the “William L. Reynolds Post Office Building”, H.R. 996, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Blvd., in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the “Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office”, H.R. 2379, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the “Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office”, H.R. 3944, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Church Street in Mount Vernon, Georgia, as the “Second Lieutenant Patrick Palmer Calhoun Post Office”, and the nominations of Adrienne Jennings Noti, Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, Danny Lam Hoan Nguyen, Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha, 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, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine Big Tech and the online child sexual exploitation crisis, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine Vet Centers, focusing on supporting the mental

health needs of servicemembers, veterans and their families, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

## House

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Quality of Life Review—Perspective from Senior Enlisted Leaders”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Creating a Culture of Fiscal Responsibility: Assessing the Role of the Congressional Budget Office”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6951, the “College Cost Reduction Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Health Care Spending in the United States: Unsustainable for Patients, Employers, and Taxpayers”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “TV Timeout: Understanding Sports Media Rights”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Ensuring the Cybersecurity of America’s Drinking Water Systems”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Rules Without Analysis: Federal Banking Proposals Under the Biden Administration”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; and Subcommittee on Africa, joint hearing entitled “The Future of Peacekeeping and the Increasing Role of Private Military Companies in Africa”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 674, the “Root and Stem Project Authorization Act of 2023”; H.R. 4297, the “Bolts Ditch Act”; H.R. 5443, the “Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act”; H.R. 6994, the “Restoring Our Unopened Trails for Enjoyment and Safety Act”; and H.R. 7072, the “Wabeno Economic Development Act of 2024”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 2925, the “Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023” H.R. 6862, to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes; H.R. 7003, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2024”; and H.R. 7004, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability,* Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “Overseeing the Department of Health and Human Services’ Compliance with Congress”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5450, the “Enhancing Competition in Contracting



Orders”; H.R. 6591, the “Encouraging Success Act”; legislation on the Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act; legislation on the Agency Accountability Act; H.R. 6156, the “Child Care Small Business Insight Act”; legislation on the National SBSC Advisory Board Improvement Act; legislation on the WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act; legislation on the WOSB Integrity Act of 2024; and legislation on the Put America on Commission Act of 2024, 9:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7023, the “Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act”; H.R. 5089, the “Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act”; H.R. 6248, the “Think Differently About Transportation Act”; and H.R. 7070, the “Wildfire Response Improvement Act”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The CCP Cyber Threat to the American Homeland and National Security”, 11 a.m., 390 Cannon.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: to hold hearings to examine eyewitness accounts from Ukrainian children and adult civilians abducted by Russia, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth Building.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 31 through February 2, 2024

### Senate Chamber

On *Wednesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services*: February 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: January 31, Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine Artificial Intelligence and housing, 10 a.m., SD-538.

February 1, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine scams and fraud in the banking system and their impact on consumers, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on the Budget*: January 31, to hold hearings to examine expanding housing affordability, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: January 31, to hold hearings to examine avoiding, detecting, and capturing methane emissions from landfills, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance*: January 31, business meeting to consider the nominations of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, and Rebecca Lee Haffajee, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Corey Anne Tellez, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Andrew G. Biggs, of Oregon, Kathryn Rose Lang, of Maryland, and Sharon Beth Lewis, of Oregon, each to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: January 31, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at 75, focusing on past successes and planning for the future, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*: January 31, business meeting to consider S. 3664, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, S. 3626, to clarify task and delivery order solicitation and contract requirements, S. 3635, to improve the President's Cup Cybersecurity Competitions, S. 3613, to require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, S. 3558, to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, S. 1524, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, S. 3654, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to require the timely appointment of agency transition officials, to ensure adequate performance and oversight of required transition-related preparation, to require new guidance for agencies and possible transition teams, S. 3648, to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, S. 3139, to ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, S.

2367, to improve border security through regular assessments and evaluations of the Checkpoint Program Management Office and effective training of U.S. Border Patrol agents regarding drug seizures, S. 3594, to require Governmentwide source code sharing, S. 3015, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, S. 2143, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South 2nd Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the “Staff Sergeant Robb Lura Roling Post Office Building”, S. 2274, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, as the “Dessie A. Bebout Post Office”, S. 2717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 231 North Franklin Street in Greensburg, Indiana, as the “Brigadier General John T. Wilder Post Office”, S. 3267, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the “First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building”, S. 3357, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5120 Derry Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Hettie Simmons Love Post Office Building”, S. 3419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the “John Charles Traub Post Office”, S. 3639, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Robert Hayden Post Office”, S. 3640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office”, H.R. 292, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the “William L. Reynolds Post Office Building”, H.R. 996, to

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*Committee on the Judiciary:* January 31, to hold hearings to examine Big Tech and the online child sexual exploitation crisis, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* January 31, to hold hearings to examine Vet Centers, focusing on supporting the mental health needs of servicemembers, veterans and their families, 3:30 p.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* January 31, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

### House Committees

No hearings are scheduled.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* January 31, to hold hearings to examine eyewitness accounts from Ukrainian children and adult civilians abducted by Russia, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth Building.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 31

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Sen-

ate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m. (*Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.*)

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 31

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 6678—Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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