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No. 28

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

## House of Representatives

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 13, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CELESTE MALOY 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 1:50 p.m.

### NO PRODUCTS MADE WITH SLAVE LABOR SHOULD BE BOUGHT AND SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as we speak, the Chinese Communist Party continues to imprison and detain more than 1 million Uyghurs in western China with as many as 100,000 subjected to forced labor. That is slavery.

This is a clear violation of human rights by the Chinese Communist Party who have continued to jail those who speak out against their oppression, and that includes Christian ministers. It is time for the United States to send a clear message that no products made with slave labor should be bought and sold in these United States.

It is time to pass the No Dollars to Uyghurs Forced Labor Act and prevent the State Department or U.S. agencies from purchasing any goods made by forced labor under the Chinese Communist Party. We cannot stand by as clothes, as sneakers, as batteries, and solar panels are manufactured under these conditions.

It is time to stand up against the Chinese Communist Party and put a stop to this human rights abuse.

#### LET'S STOP LIBERAL SPENDING PRIORITIES AHEAD OF FISCAL SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week a report from the Congressional Budget Office delivered the news that President Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act would ultimately cost an additional \$428 billion over the next 10 years.

This runaway spending from Biden is yet another example of putting liberal spending priorities ahead of fiscal responsibility. Instead of using natural gas, coal, and Marcellus shale that is

underneath the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania, the Biden administration is using taxpayer dollars to incentivize Americans to buy electric vehicles that rely on batteries and parts manufactured under the Chinese Communist Party.

Let's be clear: A car made with a battery from China is a Chinese car. It is time to put a stop to failed EV subsidies that continue to push our Nation deeper into debt.

As I travel throughout central and southwestern Pennsylvania, I hear from constituents about electric vehicles that are ineffective during our harsh winters, and I hear from car dealers who tell me that these overpriced vehicles sit on their lots unable to be sold.

President Biden shouldn't be telling Americans what type of vehicles they can drive and what type of vehicles they cannot drive. It is time to unleash American energy dominance right here at home and put an end to the Green New Deal initiatives, the initiatives that are causing spending out of control.

### AMERICA MUST CONTINUE TO OPPOSE BASHAR AL-ASSAD'S BARBARIC REGIME

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, it has been more than a dozen years since the Syrian revolution

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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began against Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship. In that time, America and our allies have stood together in opposition to Assad's barbaric regime.

Some in the region may be ready to look past the atrocities committed by Assad's forces. Some countries are even willing to recognize the Assad regime. America must not.

We must go further. We must use our diplomatic strength to counter these misguided steps. Assad, his regime, and their backers have given us no basis whatsoever to justify normalizing relations with a government responsible for the slaughter of 600,000 men, women, and children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the Assad Anti-Normalization Act.

PAKISTAN'S ELECTIONS MUST REFLECT THE WILL OF ITS PEOPLE, NOT ITS MILITARY

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I will address the results of Thursday's elections in Pakistan and the ongoing vote count there.

I am deeply disturbed by the numerous reports that Pakistan's military is engaging in vote-rigging and violence to overturn the results of Thursday's elections.

These latest actions follow months of targeted suppression, politically motivated arrests, and brutal intimidation tactics.

The results of Pakistan's elections must reflect the will of its people, not its military. It is imperative that every effort is made to ensure that every vote is counted fairly and accurately, and that violence is prevented at all costs.

As we continue to monitor the results out of Pakistan, I urge the State Department to delay recognizing a winner until these allegations are fully reviewed.

#### STOP FUNDING FOREIGN WARS AND GOVERNMENTS WITH TAX-PAYER DOLLARS

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

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the House and the Senate together to consider what terrible days we are in for the American taxpayer.

America has been enslaved in \$34 trillion in debt, and yet over the weekend, the Senate went into overtime throughout the Super Bowl and beyond into the early morning hours to pass a \$95 billion package to fund foreign wars—\$95 billion, and not a penny of that goes to anything for any American.

Our border is completely being invaded every single day by millions and millions of people from all over the world, over 160 countries. Over 2 million got-aways are in America today.

A got-away is a person from a country we do not know where they are from, we do not know where they are inside our country, what State they are

in, what city they are in. We do not know what they are going to do here on our homeland, but we have lost them.

Over 10 million people have crossed the border during the Biden administration, yet the Senate works overtime to fund foreign wars—\$95 billion, and \$60 billion of that is to go to Ukraine.

America has already sent \$113 billion to the failing war in Ukraine. It is a complete buzz saw for an entire generation of Ukrainian men. This is a land where there should be peace talks continuously ending this war, not a place where we continue to write blank checks and keep the money laundering going, keep the corruption going, keep selling our weapons to lands and countries and governments we do not know.

There is so many stories of corruption coming from Ukraine, but they claim that we have to fight for the democracy of Ukraine. That is a lie. Ukraine suspended their elections.

If we are fighting for democracy, why do we fight for a country that suspends their election, locks up American journalists, and destroys free speech.

This is nothing but a money laundering scheme all on the backs of the American taxpayer while the American taxpayer is punched in the gut every single day as our border is kept wide open.

The American people do not support continuing this war. The American people work hard for every single penny they earn, and it is time for the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to remember our oath of office. It is time for us to serve the American people, the American interest, American causes, American businesses, and the American border.

Yet, this institution has lost its way. Madam Speaker, we are \$34 trillion in debt, and the only thing that we are talking about is the continued funding of a war in Ukraine and funding a war in Israel.

That is a danger for Israel. If Israel takes America's money, they open themselves up to the Biden administration and the State Department getting their hooks in their government and telling them what to do in their war.

Israel doesn't need to be told what to do in their war. They need to be allowed to conduct their war as they see fit. They were attacked horrendously by Hamas who are terrorists.

We need to leave Israel alone and let them fight their war, but no. Every single time we come back into town, the main issues we talk about here are how to fund foreign countries, foreign wars, and foreign governments while the entire world invades our country, and the American taxpayers are forced to pay for it all.

This is a complete failure for the American taxpayer. It is a betrayal of our citizens. This institution, the House and the Senate, need to remember our one constitutional duty, and that is to create a budget, a budget that funds our government for our people; a budget that does not enslave our

people into further debt, and yet we have failed to do that. We have only passed 7 of our 12 appropriation bills and the Senate has not finished passing their appropriation bills either.

I am here to urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate that we must come together and remember our oath of office, remember the people that we serve, and do our jobs. We serve the American people, and we should be serving the United States of America.

#### SUPPORTING THE SUPPLEMENTAL AID PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the supplemental aid package for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

This morning, the Senate passed the aid package with nearly all Senate Democrats voting in favor of the bill. I thank Senate Democrats for their tireless leadership on this issue and their commitment to democracy around the world.

Madam Speaker, 22 Republicans also voted with nearly all Senate Democrats to move this bill to the House; 22 Senate Republicans voted to put country over party; 22 Senate Republicans voted to put democracy over Donald Trump.

This bill includes funding to stand with our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. It also includes \$9.2 billion in humanitarian assistance that is desperately needed to provide food, water, shelter, and medical care for the civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, Ukraine, and other war zones around the world.

Now, Madam Speaker, the eyes of the world are watching the House of Representatives. Russia is watching. China is watching. Iran is watching. North Korea is watching.

Authoritarian regimes around the world are watching the House. They are watching the people's House to see if we will honor our commitments and stand with democracies around the globe.

We must stand with Ukraine and our allies.

Madam Speaker, the world is watching the United States House of Representatives.

Just last night, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON said that the bill was dead on arrival in the House, saying: “[In] the absence of having received any single border policy change from the Senate, the House will have to continue to work its own will on these important matters.”

He is reading straight out of the Vladimir Putin playbook. Inaction would be a gift to Russia and Vladimir Putin. By doing nothing, we would hand over Ukraine to Russia and Putin.

Madam Speaker, Russia would not stop at Ukraine. As soon as Ukraine

falls, they would move directly to another NATO ally.

Now many of my constituents rightly question the high cost of this aid package. Support for Ukraine and our allies is in our national interest. It is a national security issue. If we hand over Ukraine to Russia, then Putin will win. Our alliances will crumble.

While the costs are high, we will spend 100 times more containing an aggressive Russia around the globe if we do nothing. We must stand with our allies. This will be a vote where Members will be forced to choose between democracy and authoritarianism. That is the great challenge of our time, and we cannot fail.

If Speaker JOHNSON fails to bring this bill to the floor, I believe the House will work its own will on this issue.

□ 1215

Our Speaker has made it clear that he is totally beholden to far-right MAGA extremists—like we just heard from on the floor. It is the tail wagging the dog. However, I believe that a majority of the Republican Conference would vote for the Senate aid package if they were allowed to work their own will on the bill and this issue. However, if Speaker JOHNSON brings the bill to the floor, I believe he will be sacked by MAGA extremists in the Republican Conference. Let's be clear, it is the far right that is running the show in the House Republican Conference today.

Far too much attention has been given to far-right extremists in this Congress. Much more attention should be given to the members of the Republican Conference who are retiring.

Madam Speaker, any one Member can come down to the floor to offer a motion to vacate the chair. Only four House Republicans are needed to elect a new Speaker. If MIKE JOHNSON fails to act, I believe there are many Republicans in the House who agree with the 22 Republicans in the Senate on this issue.

I don't think we would have a Democratic Speaker. I believe, though, there is support for a temporary Speaker, a moderate to move bills that can get 60 votes in the Senate and move those through the House. Maybe a temporary Speaker for 2 or 3 weeks? That is what the Nation wants: Members of Congress willing to work together to get things done and to solve our Nation's toughest problems.

We have just seen 22 Republicans in the Senate willing to vote country over party on this issue, and I believe there are Republicans in the House willing to do the same. That is the way we get bipartisan immigration reform and border security. It is the way we pass this supplemental appropriations bill to stand with our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

House Republicans have a choice, Madam Speaker. Are they prodemocracy, or are they pro-Putin? House Republicans can choose country over party or Russia over the United States.

House Republicans can stand with our allies, or they can stand with Donald Trump.

Will House Republicans stand with democratic nations like Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, or will they stand with authoritarian regimes like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea? I have hope for the retiring Members of the Republican Conference, and I believe there are Members willing to stand with democracy over Donald Trump.

Madam Speaker, you have heard House Democrats come to the floor and talk about voting to put people over politics. This is an issue that is people over politics, and we must not fail.

#### SECRETARY MAYORKAS MUST BE HELD TO ACCOUNT

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote again on two Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

A lot of attention has been paid to the fact that the impeachment vote failed to pass the House last week due to a Republican being absent for health reasons. While I would have, of course, rather that it had passed, it did serve to highlight that House Republicans are largely in this fight to secure our national borders all by ourselves.

House Democrats know that Secretary Mayorkas has intentionally failed to secure our borders, but most agree with President Biden's open-border policy, so not one single House Democrat joined with us to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. Essentially, they like the job he is doing or, should I say, not doing.

The Immigration and Nationality Act requires that those who clearly do not meet the requirements for asylum be detained for removal. Yet, in 2021, Secretary Mayorkas wrote to ICE officials: "The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them."

The law says an alien who is deportable on certain criminal and terrorism-related grounds should be taken into custody. Again, Secretary Mayorkas wrote: "Personnel should not rely on the fact of conviction . . . alone."

Our laws say parole can only be granted on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. That is far from what is happening. Secretary Mayorkas has sat at the helm of a historic, unconstitutional catch and release scheme that has resulted in tens of thousands of illegal immigrants being released into the United States with no way of tracking them.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded in *Texas v. Biden* that Mayorkas' DHS was ignoring the limits Congress placed on their parole author-

ity. Let me say that again. The court found that DHS was ignoring the limits placed on their parole authority.

There have been more than 8.3 million illegal immigrant encounters under Secretary Mayorkas' watch, more than 1.7 million known gotaways, and more than 360 attempted crossings by immigrants on the terrorist watch list. Yet, unfortunately, we will likely see another party-line vote later today.

A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll last month found that 35 percent of registered voters approve of the President's handling of immigration, and 68 percent of registered voters say they believe the administration should make it tougher to enter the United States illegally. Half of those voters identified as Democrats. This shouldn't be a party-line vote, Madam Speaker.

Contrary to what we hear coming from many in the mainstream media, last week's vote was not so much a defeat for House Republicans as it was a defeat for our national security and the rule of law. When the executive branch goes rogue, the Constitution doesn't request, it requires that the legislative branch holds it to account.

We are already getting a look at what this fiscal year will bring. Numbers show we have already reached more than 1 million encounters since October 1. In that time, Customs and Border Protection officials have encountered 50 more people whose names are on the terrorist watch list. This further underscores the dereliction of duty taking place at the Department of Homeland Security.

Last week, Democratic Senator CHRIS MURPHY referred to illegal immigrants as undocumented Americans and called them "the people we care about most." That refers to what the Democratic Party cares about most. I could not disagree with that statement more. I care most about the hard-working Tennesseans I represent, those who play by the rules and embrace legal immigration. It is with them in mind that I will proudly vote again to impeach Secretary Mayorkas.

#### REMEMBERING RAYMOND L. CORDOVA

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my very good friend, Raymond "Ray" Cordova, and his legacy of service.

Ray was a proud Vietnam war vet. After serving in Vietnam, he returned home to help build our Nation through his work with the Communications Workers of America.

Ray didn't care who you were, Democrat or Republican. Ray represented every working man and woman, and he fought for the rights of every worker that he came across. In fact, Ray Cordova is the only man I know that debated Jimmy Hoffa and outlived

Jimmy Hoffa and lived to tell the story about how he debated Jimmy Hoffa.

He was a staple in our community, and I was lucky to call him my very good friend. Ray will be remembered for his tremendous service not only to his country but to his family and community.

**CONGRATULATING DR. RAFAEL LUEVANO UPON  
GRISSET CHAIR APPOINTMENT**

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my very good friend, Dr. Rafael Luevano, for his appointment as a Griset Chair in Bible and Christian Tradition at Chapman University.

Dr. Luevano is an accomplished scholar from Santa Ana, and his contributions to religious studies have shaped how we see religion in the context of our communities. His dedication to teaching students makes him an excellent choice for this prestigious position.

Dr. Luevano's students will continue to have an opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized religious scholar as well as having their own priest at Chapman University.

I congratulate Dr. Luevano, my good friend, today on his appointment on being the Griset Chair at Chapman University.

**HONORING DR. WILLIAM KOTT**

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my very good friend, Dr. Bill Kott, and to celebrate the dedication and naming of the Anaheim post office after Dr. Bill Kott.

Dr. Kott was the son of immigrants. Dr. Kott was born in Philadelphia, and he served our Nation in the U.S. Army during World War II. He fought against Nazi Germany, and Dr. Kott showed his bravery and determination by walking across three nations to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a first responder who liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp.

After returning home, Dr. Kott opened his own dentistry practice in Anaheim. He also served as the chairman of the California Republican Assembly of Orange County. As a member of the Anaheim City Council, he did great deeds for the Anaheim community.

The dedication of this post office is an honor that Dr. Kott earned through his dedication to his family, community, and country. We will always remember Dr. Kott's contributions to our country, to our Nation, and to the city of Anaheim.

**HONORING ARNOLDO GUTIERREZ**

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who made a resounding impact on both me personally and also the Tucson community: My mentor, my pastor, and my friend, Arnoldo Gutierrez.

Throughout his life, Pastor Gutierrez played many roles, from Air Force veteran to pastor and loving father and grandfather.

Having served his Nation during the Vietnam war, he taught me how to live my faith, how to live a life of public service, and how to live a life with a strong sense of true patriotism. While he and his generation fought a thankless war in Vietnam, Arnoldo Gutierrez remained an unwavering patriot and was the perfect example of the American Dream.

He immigrated to the United States when he was 3 years old. He was a standout high school athlete who enlisted in the United States Air Force in his senior year of high school. He met the love of his life while he was serving in Spain, Belen.

He retired after 21 years of service, founded a church in south Tucson, and continued his service to his community that way.

Today, I extend my deepest appreciation to Arnoldo Gutierrez and all those who served our Nation. He passed away Thanksgiving weekend of 2017. Not a day goes by when I don't remember him and the lessons he taught me.

Today he is laid to rest in Tucson, Arizona, but I know his legacy will live on forever in our community and in all those whose lives he touched.

In honoring Arnoldo Gutierrez, we not only recognize his contributions but also recognize the sacrifice and bravery of all our veterans. May he rest in peace.

**RECOGNIZING SKILLSUSA REGION 6 COMPETITORS**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding southern Arizona high schoolers who showcased their construction skills at the SkillsUSA Region 6 construction competition.

Hosted at Catalina High School, this event welcomed 120 high school students eager to put their skills to the test. These students worked over the weekend in seven distinct construction-related categories, from plumbing to cabinetmaking.

SkillsUSA, a national organization dedicated to promoting career and technical education, hosts competitions annually at local, State, and national levels. The competition wasn't limited to construction alone. Other SkillsUSA events span various categories, from robotics to media arts, and took place throughout the entire weekend in Tucson.

Participating high schools came from all across southern Arizona, including Benson Unified School District, Bisbee Unified School District, Douglas Unified School District, Duncan Unified School District, Sierra Vista Unified School District, Pima County JTED, Pima Unified School District, and many more.

It is inspiring to see the dedication and talent of these hardworking students. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.

**□ 1230**

**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MINING SCHOOL**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arizona San Xavier Mining Lab where our next generation in the mining industry is growing and learning.

The School of Mining and Geological Engineering dates back to 1885, standing as one of University of Arizona's founding programs. This lab has notable achievements, including being ranked first nationally in metallurgical engineering and fourth nationally in mining engineering programs. In addition, it also has a commendable track record of 100 percent job placement for graduating seniors.

Recently, I led a group of my Western Caucus colleagues on a trip to the San Xavier mining site where they were able to meet students and see firsthand the innovation happening there. This program is leading the country in developing our future leaders in mining. They have set the standard for mining engineering programs and are an incredible point of pride for our community.

I recognize the students, professors, and stakeholders who work tirelessly as a part of this program. Of course, Bear Down.

**ENCOURAGING NEWS IN  
CONNECTICUT**

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise before the House today as the Member from eastern Connecticut having the honor to represent the Second Congressional District to report on some encouraging news on probably one of the most gut-wrenching, disheartening problems that our Nation faces, which is the epidemic of opioid overdoses.

In the State of Connecticut, like other parts of the country, the rise of opioid deaths from 2012 up until 2021, 2022, has been 300 percent.

People are more likely to die from opioid overdoses than they are from motor vehicle accidents, and eastern Connecticut was no exception.

Again, in 2021, the number of opioid deaths in New London County, which takes up the largest portion of eastern Connecticut by population, peaked at 134 deaths.

Starting at that point, people decided it was time to get serious about trying to come up with ways to create more prevention and also remediation and recovery for people suffering from addiction.

In 2022, that number dropped from 134 to 125. A couple days ago, the 2023 numbers were reported, and it dropped to 71 deaths.

This did not happen by itself. It was in collaboration with the community of New London, the New London Overdose Action Team, which was led by

Margaret Lancaster from the Ledge Light Health District created in collaboration with the New London Police, the New London EMS, and social services agencies to get more Narcan kits out into the community and to educate people in terms of what to do in these situations, these crisis situations, and it is showing real results.

In Norwich, which is also one of the larger communities that was hard hit, the Norwich Opioid Task Force was created, led by Kate Milde, who is the director of Norwich Human Services, again, in collaboration with the Norwich Police Department, EMS, the youth prevention team, and the Recovery Coach Program, which is led by Michael Doyle from Reliance Health.

The Reliance Recovery Coach Program is a model with trained, street-smart staff that are out in the community street by street, tracking where overdoses have occurred and distributing Narcan kits—500 in 2023, and the number of deaths dropped from 34 to 17 in that community.

Again, I salute Michael and his team who are amazing people doing hard work, saving lives, and getting this country better positioned to deal with this crisis.

Again, I said it was encouraging news. We cannot end our efforts. We cannot stop there. We have more work to do in terms of making sure, through budgets in Washington and in State governments, that these incredible individuals are able to continue to do their work in collaboration with law enforcement and in collaboration with hospitals and EMT professionals to make sure that we save lives, get people into recovery, change lives, and get them up on their feet and contributing to our community.

Madam Speaker, I end by saluting their great work and encouraging them to continue. We are watching you, and we are cheering you on.

#### CONGRATULATING RON WANEK

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader, innovator, industrialist, and philanthropist on the occasion of his induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Hall of Fame.

Ron Wanek founded Arcadia Furniture in 1970 in the small western Wisconsin town of Arcadia. Back then, Mr. Wanek employed just 35 people.

In 1982, Arcadia Furniture and Ashley Furniture Corporation merged into Ashley Furniture Industries. Today, Ashley has grown to become the world's largest manufacturer of home furnishings with over 30 million square feet of worldwide manufacturing and distribution capacity and Ashley retail locations throughout the United States and 67 countries. Ashley employs 16,000 Americans, including 3,000 in my home State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Wanek is the personification of the phrase "business is a force for good." Not only is Ashley Furniture Industries a massive economic driver in Wisconsin and beyond, but the Ronald and Joyce Wanek Foundation has contributed tens of millions of dollars in support of a multitude of important charities.

Mr. Wanek is an unmatched supporter of technical and STEM education at both the K-12 and secondary levels. Through its various programs and partnerships, the Ronald and Joyce Wanek Foundation aims to inspire and empower students to pursue careers in STEM fields and improve the quality of life in our communities.

In addition, Mr. Wanek is a passionate supporter of veterans. Just one example is his establishment of the incredible Soldiers Walk at Memorial Park in Arcadia, Wisconsin, which is a premier war memorial outside of Washington, D.C., that has 29 monuments, honoring all who have served our Nation.

Finally, Mr. Wanek is not only the great embodiment of the American Dream, but he actively promotes it through his unwavering and ardent support of the free enterprise system, which has made this Nation the greatest country in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that Ron Wanek's contributions to my State and this Nation be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for posterity.

#### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of career and technical education.

Our education system needs to empower students to pursue the type of education that works best for them—be it an apprenticeship, a trade school, or a 4-year college.

That is why I joined the bipartisan Congressional Career Technical Education Caucus, or CTE, which is committed to supporting and promoting CTE for all Americans.

These programs prepare students for jobs in STEM disciplines such as healthcare, agriculture, information technology, manufacturing, the skilled trades, and many more.

There are more than 9 million job openings in the United States, and many are within the industries with noted skilled labor shortages.

Madam Speaker, 55 percent of the jobs in my home State of Wisconsin require CTE skills training but do not require a 4-year degree.

There are men and women working downstairs in this building and in other buildings in the woodshop and in the upholstery shop. We have pipe fitters, steam fitters, and we have welders.

I encourage every one of my colleagues, if they have a chance, to go down and visit these men and women that keep this building running. These are fantastic jobs, and they do not require a 4-year degree.

I remind the American people that the lights in this hallowed Chamber are

not on because someone got a master's in French poetry. They are on because someone went to trade school and became a master electrician.

#### SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY AID

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs, I rise in strong support of emergency aid for our Democratic ally and partner and for the people of Ukraine, now entering the third year of their fight for freedom and democracy in the face of the brutal invasion launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2022.

This morning, the United States Senate passed a bipartisan foreign aid package that included vital Ukraine assistance by a wide vote of 70-29.

In stark contrast to this bipartisan effort, the House Republican leadership continues to fall in line behind former President Trump, refusing to act swiftly on Ukraine funding on purely partisan political grounds.

Regrettably, Speaker JOHNSON has already dismissed the Senate bill as a status quo measure.

Madam Speaker, this is a missed opportunity. Members of this House should have the right to vote on a package of Ukraine funding, Israel funding, and greater security funding for our southern border.

On the issue of Ukraine funding in particular, this political impasse comes at the great expense of U.S. national security, international peace, and the freedom of the Ukrainian people.

It also follows repeated warnings from the Biden administration that the failure to enact additional aid will kneecap Ukraine on the battlefield. It will allow Putin, an autocratic dictator, to prevail and simply pave the way for a Russian military victory.

Even the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee recently reported that with the Ukrainian armed forces now desperately rationing munitions, "We have to get this done. . . . If we do not move, this will be abandoning Ukraine."

The Ukrainian people deserve better. They are valiantly defending their country against relentless campaigns of state-sponsored terrorism that the United Nations reports has killed more than 10,000 and injured nearly 20,000 Ukrainian civilians.

The war has also forcibly displaced an estimated 10 million people, including 6.3 million people, Ukrainian refugees, who have fled to neighboring countries.

With Putin vowing to continue this unlawful war until Russia achieves its nationalist and imperialist objectives, I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to abandon their misguided and dangerous deference to Donald Trump.

At a campaign rally this past weekend, the current standard-bearer of the Republican Party actually stated that if one of our 31 NATO allies did not meet their defense spending goals, he would not protect them as President of the United States in honoring our obligations to NATO.

In fact, he said he would encourage Russia “ . . . to do whatever the hell they want.” He would treat the surrender of millions of Ukrainian people as a transaction.

We must instead be guided by our own founding Democratic principles, enduring defense of freedom and human rights around the world.

Indeed, the House Republican leadership would also be wise to recall their own longstanding commitment to a strong national defense and embrace American global leadership as a bulwark against expansionist schemes undertaken by brutal dictatorships.

The Ukrainian people deserve better. They are defending their country against a relentless campaign of state-sponsored terrorism that the United States reports has killed more than 10,000 people.

“ . . . people are at last free to determine their own destiny,” said Ronald Reagan, who also demanded of Putin’s President, Mr. Gorbachev, “Tear down this wall.” He was a defender of a free and democratic Europe.

I recently returned from a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine where I met with President Zelenskyy and examined the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. There is zero evidence that the Government of Ukraine is directing resources anywhere but toward its singular goal of preserving Ukrainian sovereignty and independence.

I urge my colleagues to support additional aid for Ukraine.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Send, O Lord, Your spirit to move among us in this place. Guide us into Your truth, a truth that is not of our authority nor bound by our place in time.

Reveal to us a truth beyond our every memory, greater than our best

knowledge, deeper than we can possibly imagine. May our hearts, our heads, and our wills be open to that which is Your truth alone. May we let go of our own designs, loose our certain grip on our desires, and yield to Your righteous plan for us and for all creation.

Great Creator, use this day to give us a fresh anointing to serve Your people. Life bestower, give us, in this moment, a new awakening to lay hold of the hope You set before us.

Eternal advocate, equip and empower us with the truth You reveal and uphold us with the strength You supply this day and always.

In Your sovereign name we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

#### EXPOSING WOKE KINDERGARTEN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, at a San Francisco Bay Area school, only 16 percent of students were reading at grade level and only 8 percent were proficient at math.

The school spent \$250,000 in taxpayer money on a group called Woke Kindergarten to help boost test scores for some of the country’s lowest performing schools.

However, after 2 years with Woke Kindergarten, student scores are worse. Now, only 12 percent are reading at grade level and fewer than 4 percent are proficient in math.

There is more. The head of Woke Kindergarten is on record wanting “a world free of the U.S. empire”; believing space aliens are oppressed; and supporting “a free Palestine from the river to the sea.”

A teacher who questioned the program has been put on leave.

I wish this were made up, but it is real and, sadly, encapsulates so much of what is wrong with our education system.

#### BRING OMER NEUTRA HOME

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Omer Neutra, a Binghamton University student.

Omer is 22 years old. Omer’s friends and family describe him as a true American kid whose fun-loving personality shines the brightest when he is cheering on his favorite team, the New York Knicks.

On October 7, Omer was one of more than 240 men, women, and children who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists. He and 133 hostages are still held captive today, enduring unthinkable torture and trauma.

I join my colleagues in demanding that Hamas release Omer immediately, along with the remaining hostages. Those who have been released have shared horror stories of sexual abuse, children being forced to take drugs, and inhumane and barbaric conditions.

I continue to stand with Israel as it works to eradicate Hamas and free the innocent people wrongfully held by this terrorist group. It is time to bring Omer home. It is time to bring them all home.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP CREATES JOBS

(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, families in South Carolina have been negatively affected by the failed policies of Biden, with the highest inflation in 40 years destroying jobs.

Gratefully, in South Carolina, with the leadership of Republican Governor Henry McMaster, all statewide officials, and supermajorities in the General Assembly, budget surpluses have been achieved with responsible spending creating jobs.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce, led by Secretary Harry Lightsey, announced \$9.2 billion in investments with 14,000 new jobs.

This is in the tradition of Governor Jim Edwards, recruiting the largest Michelin facilities in the world, and Governor Carroll Campbell groundbreaking the largest BMW assembly plant in the world. Governor Nikki Haley saved Boeing jobs, and Senator TIM SCOTT, with President Donald Trump, developed opportunity zones.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, failing to enforce laws. We don’t need new laws as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING COAST GUARD  
CAPTAIN ZEITA MERCHANT

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

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today to recognize U.S. Coast Guard Captain Zeita Merchant, commander of the Port of New York, based in my district in Staten Island. With the announcement that she will be promoted to Rear Admiral in the Coast Guard, Captain Merchant is making history by becoming the highest ranking African-American woman in the U.S. Coast Guard's 233-year history.

Throughout her nearly 27-year career, she has commanded maritime operations in Chicago, Texas, Miami, New Orleans, and New York, many times being either the first minority or the first woman to hold her position. In many cases, she was both.

On top of her workplace accolades, she has also received more than a dozen academic, community service, and military honors.

On Staten Island, Captain Merchant has overseen the busiest port in our Nation to keep our maritime commerce moving, stop the flow of drugs coming over our borders, conduct search and rescue missions, and protect our national security at sea. She has managed more than 1,000 personnel in 12 commands over an area spanning more than 6,000 square miles.

On a personal note, I admire Captain Merchant's dedication and commitment to protecting New York City's waters. She will be truly missed by me and our entire community. We know that she will make us proud as she assumes her new role here in Washington, D.C.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS MUST BE  
REMOVED

(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, the case for impeaching DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is even stronger today than it was last week.

In the last 7 days, there have been tens of thousands more illegal immigrant encounters at our southern border. That is not from Customs and Border Protection officials. They don't release daily or weekly numbers. This is just based on what we have come to expect every month, every week, under his and President Biden's leadership.

There were more than 302,000 encounters in December, more than 9,700 people a day, and more than 400 every hour.

The case is also stronger because we know we are on track to break another illegal immigration record this fiscal year. Fewer than 5 months into the year, encounters have already surpassed 1 million.

Secretary Mayorkas continues to subvert Federal immigration law and must be removed from office.

tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia) at 4 p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 12, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 709.

That the Senate passed S. 1147.

That the Senate agreed to relative to the death of the Honorable Jean A. Carnahan former Senator from the State of Missouri, S. Res. 553.

Appointment:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 13, 2024, at 9:05 a.m.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 815.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 29.

Appointment:

Member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

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

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

## UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2023

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2766) to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2766

*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 "Uyghur Policy Act of 2023".

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China and other areas of their habitual residence.

(2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities historically making up the majority of the XUAR population, have maintained throughout their history a distinct religious and cultural identity.

(3) Human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs' unique Muslim identity are legitimate interests of the international community.

(4) The People's Republic of China has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and has also signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chinese migration into the XUAR has placed immense pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups.

(6) PRC authorities have supported an influx of Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR, implemented discrimination against Uyghurs and other minorities in hiring practices, and provided unequal access to healthcare services.

(7) The authorities of the People's Republic of China have manipulated the strategic objectives of the international war on terror to mask their increasing cultural and religious oppression of the Muslim population residing in the XUAR.

(8) Following unrest in the region, in 2014, Chinese authorities launched their "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, in which dubious allegations of widespread extremist activity were used as justification for gross human rights violations committed

against Uyghurs and members of other minority communities in the XUAR.

(9) PRC authorities have made use of the legal system as a tool of repression, including for the imposition of arbitrary detentions and for torture against members of the Uyghur community and other minority populations.

(10) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured citizenship or permanent residency outside of the PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment, and surveillance by PRC officials.

(11) Reporting from international news organizations has found that over the past decade, family members of Uyghurs and other minority groups living outside of the PRC have gone missing or been detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to the PRC or silence their dissent.

(12) Credible evidence from human rights organizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other Muslim ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in “political reeducation” centers.

(13) Independent accounts from former detainees of “political reeducation” centers describe inhumane conditions and treatment including forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, and food deprivation.

(14) Former detainees of PRC so-called “political reeducation” centers also confirmed that they were told by guards the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty to the PRC Government and the Chinese Communist Party.

(15) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to assist Uyghurs remains muted in much of the world, including in most Muslim majority nations.

(16) Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Former Secretary of State Michael Pompeo have stated that the PRC government has committed genocide and crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the XUAR.

(17) Government bodies of multiple nations have also declared that PRC government atrocities against such populations in the XUAR constitute genocide, including the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Canada.

### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Government of the People’s Republic of China should immediately open the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) to regular, transparent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the press, international organizations including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, academic and human rights research institutions, as well as foreign delegations including from the United States Congress;

(2) Government of the People’s Republic of China should recognize, and take tangible steps to protect and preserve, the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

(3) the Government of the People’s Republic of China should cease all government-sponsored crackdowns, imprisonments, and detentions of people throughout the XUAR aimed at repressing their ethnic, cultural, political, or religious identities;

(4) it is commendable for countries to provide shelter and hospitality to Uyghurs and other minority group members in exile, as Turkey, Albania, and Germany have done;

(5) urges all countries, especially fellow democracies and those with sizeable Muslim populations, to condemn and address the plight of Uyghurs and other minority communities in the XUAR;

(6) the Government of the PRC should immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners detained for their ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities, or for expressing their political or religious beliefs in the XUAR, including—

(A) Ekper Asat, who participated in the Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated after returning to the XUAR, and is now serving a 15 year prison sentence on charges of “inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination”;

(B) Dr. Gulshan Abbas, a retired medical doctor and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained in the XUAR on September 11, 2018, and unjustly sentenced to 20 years in prison in retaliation for her sister’s advocacy for Uyghur human rights issues; and

(C) Kamile Wayit, a university student and Uyghur, who was wrongfully detained on December 12, 2022, after returning to the XUAR while on break from studying during the winter holiday;

(7) the Government of the PRC should facilitate access for international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to the “political reeducation” centers in the XUAR to ensure prisoners are not being mistreated and are receiving necessary medical care; and

(8) the United States Agency for Global Media should continue to facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to the international community on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups in the XUAR.

### SEC. 4. UNITED STATES SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR UYGHUR ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be within the Department of State a United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues (in this section referred to as the “Special Coordinator”), to be designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall consult with the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives prior to the designation of the Special Coordinator.

(c) CENTRAL OBJECTIVE.—The Special Coordinator should seek to promote the protection and preservation of the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities of the Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (in this Act referred to as the “XUAR”).

(d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Coordinator should, as appropriate—

(1) coordinate United States Government policies, programs, and projects concerning the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

(2) vigorously promote the policy of seeking to protect the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of the Uyghurs and other minority groups and seek improved protection of human rights in the XUAR;

(3) maintain close contact with Uyghur religious, cultural, and political leaders, including seeking regular travel to the XUAR and to Uyghur populations in Central Asia, Turkey, Albania, Germany, and other parts of Europe;

(4) lead coordination efforts for the release of political prisoners in the XUAR who are

being detained for exercising their human rights;

(5) consult with the United States Congress on policies relevant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

(6) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to administer aid to Uyghur rights advocates; and

(7) make efforts to establish contacts with foreign ministries of other countries, especially in Europe, Central Asia, and members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of promoting greater respect for human rights and religious freedom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups from the XUAR.

(e) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State shall ensure the Special Coordinator has adequate resources, staff, and administrative support to carry out this section.

(f) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary of State has not designated the Special Coordinator by the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report detailing the reasons for the delay.

(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the designation of the Special Coordinator.

### SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES TO CONDUCT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the U.S. Speaker program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026 is authorized to be made available to support human rights advocates working on behalf of the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups from the XUAR that are persecuted in the PRC, whose names may be provided by the Department of State and the United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues in consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur community, to speak at global public diplomacy forums, particularly those in which Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries and other Muslim-majority countries are present, on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC.

### SEC. 6. ACCESS TO DETENTION FACILITIES AND PRISONS AND THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

(a) STRATEGY ON POLITICAL REEDUCATION AND DETENTION FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State should, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, develop a strategy to cooperate with like-minded partners to pressure the People’s Republic of China to—

(1) close all detention facilities and “political reeducation” camps housing Uyghurs and members of other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR;

(2) allow unhindered access to detention facilities and “political reeducation” camps in the XUAR by independent media, researchers, international organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation; and

(3) protect human rights and preserve the distinct religious and cultural identity of the Uyghurs and the other religious and ethnic minority communities in the XUAR.

(b) REPORT ON STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of

the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes—

- (1) the strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a); and
- (2) all the steps taken pursuant to the objectives described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of such subsection.

**SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.**

(a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—The Secretary of State shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that—

- (1) Uyghur language training is available to Foreign Service officers as appropriate; and

(2) every effort is made to ensure that at least one Uyghur-speaking member of the Foreign Service (as such term is defined by section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is assigned to each United States diplomatic or consular post in China.

(b) REPORT.—No later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Foreign Service Institute shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that outlines all the steps taken to implement subsection (a).

**SEC. 8. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.**

The President should direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

(1) oppose any efforts to prevent consideration of the gross violation of internationally recognized human rights in the XUAR in any body of the United Nations;

(2) oppose any efforts to prevent the participation of any Uyghur human rights advocates in nongovernmental fora hosted by or otherwise organized under the auspices of any body of the United Nations; and

(3) support the appointment of a special rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the purposes of monitoring human rights violations and abuses in the XUAR, and for making reports available to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Commission, the General Assembly, and other United Nations bodies.

**SEC. 9. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 2766, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2023.

The Uyghur Policy Act of 2023 comes at a critical time. Chairman Xi is trying to rebrand Xinjiang as a business and tourist destination and seeks to erase Uyghurs from the international community's memory.

The Chinese Communist Party continues to deny carrying out genocide against the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, and we have verified reports of forced sterilization, forced labor, brainwashing, and gang rape in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Despite the CCP being exposed for these crimes, Chairman Xi is doubling down. In a visit to the region recently, he called for stricter regulations on the practice of religion and protection of "hard-won stability."

We are running out of time to act.

The Uyghur Policy Act of 2023 will help us lead from a position of strength and will address several shortcomings in our existing approach in responding to these human rights abuses.

It authorizes the State Department to appoint a special coordinator for Uyghur issues, which will consolidate the State Department's diplomatic strategy to ensure that department-wide resources are better coordinated to respond to the Uyghur genocide.

The United States must show, through words and through actions, that we will have Uyghurs' backs in their fight against the CCP's tyranny.

H.R. 2766 mandates Uyghur language instruction at the Foreign Service Institute and requires the State Department to station a Uyghur-fluent officer at mission China locations.

The bill also authorizes support for Uyghur human rights activists and directs the U.S. Agency for Global Media to disseminate news and information regarding the Uyghur genocide.

We must act now to leverage U.S. soft power, garner international support for Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and equip the State Department with the tools it needs to better respond to Xi Jinping's genocidal campaign.

I thank Ranking Member AMI BERA of the Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific for leading this legislation with me and the 106 bipartisan cosponsors who helped me get this legislation to the House floor.

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2766, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2023, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I thank my good friends, Representatives YOUNG KIM and AMI BERA, the chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific, for introducing this important bill, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Over the last several years, we have heard horrific accounts of the genocide taking place in Xinjiang against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

Beijing has tried to hide its atrocities and prevent all of us from discovering what is really happening in Xinjiang.

Despite Beijing's efforts, we cannot ignore what is happening in Xinjiang. A 2022 report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that the extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of the Uyghur and predominantly Muslim groups . . . may constitute international crimes, in particular, crimes against humanity," and that "serious human rights violations have been committed" in Xinjiang.

Last Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing to take heartbreaking testimony about the crimes being committed against the Uyghur people in Xinjiang.

The committee passed a bipartisan resolution led by Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member MEEKS condemning the PRC's genocide in Xinjiang, as well as passed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which President Biden signed into law.

However, as long as Beijing's genocide continues, Congress must continue to act. H.R. 2766 calls for the creation of a special coordinator for Uyghur issues to protect the distinct identities of Uyghurs and other minority groups in Xinjiang.

It also provides the State Department and our diplomats with tools to enhance our diplomatic efforts and programs in support of those suffering under the PRC's repression.

Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to speak out against clear violations of fundamental human rights around the world.

This measure is a clear statement that the United States Congress stands in support of Uyghurs and other religious and ethnic minority communities in Xinjiang that are suffering under Beijing's authoritarian and inhumane rule.

H.R. 2766 will ensure that the United States plays a leadership role in holding the PRC accountable and in providing political and diplomatic support for Uyghurs around the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2766, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative AMI BERA for co-leading this legislation with me. I thank Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member MEEKS, and Representative KATHY MANNING for their support and the many human rights organizations who helped build support for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for the Uyghur Policy Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

But more than expressing strong support for this necessary piece of legislation, all of us

must continue to show strong support for the oppressed people of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and beyond.

This bill supplements both the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, passed in the last Congress, and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, for which I was the lead Republican cosponsor.

It is important that we call what the government of the People's Republic of China is doing to the Uyghurs by what it is—genocide. The bill does just that.

The bill also would create a special coordinator for Uyghur issues at the State Department—something that I have long advocated for and tried to pass, for a special envoy really. Such a focus is particularly necessary, given the amount of repression directed by the Chinese Communist Party at the Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim Central Asian people, including the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz.

Make no mistake, this is Xi Jinping's genocide; he is directly responsible for this.

We know that there are recordings of him saying, "show no mercy," as people are being dragged into concentration camps. Forced abortion, forced sterilization, and a whole host of human rights abuses are being committed right up to this very moment.

We must not allow Xi Jinping to whitewash his crimes.

We cannot allow U.S. businesses and business leaders to subsidize his genocide.

This bill keeps the spotlight on one of this century's greatest crimes and I urge my colleagues to give it their strongest support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2766, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### NO DOLLARS TO UYGHUR FORCED LABOR ACT

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4039) to prohibit the use of funds supporting any activities within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4039

*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 "No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act".

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS SUPPORTING ANY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE XINJIANG UYGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No funds available to the Department of State or the United States

Agency for International Development may be used to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a policy, program, or contract that knowingly uses goods, wares, articles, or merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China or produced by a covered entity, unless such activity is specifically authorized pursuant to subsection (b).

(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State may specifically authorize an activity otherwise prohibited by subsection (a) if—

(1) the Secretary—

(A) obtains in writing an assurance from the relevant program partner, implementor, or contractor that such partner, implementor, or contractor—

(i) will not use goods, wares, articles, or merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the PRC with respect to the program; and

(ii) will develop a system to ensure compliance with the requirements in subsection (a); and

(B) provides notice to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate not later than 15 days before authorizing the activity; and

(2) the activity is not otherwise prohibited.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on an annual basis for three years that describes—

(1) all activities prohibited by subsection (a) that were carried out in violation of such prohibition and not specifically authorized pursuant to subsection (b) in the previous year;

(2) any challenges in enforcing the requirements of this section; and

(3) a plan to improve enforcement of the requirements of this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered entity" means an entity listed pursuant to clause (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) of section 2(d)(2)(B) of Public Law 117-78 (135 Stat. 1527) under the strategy developed by section 2(c) of such Public Law 117-78.

(2) The term "forced labor" has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 4039, the No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act.

The Chinese Communist Party is engaged in a terrible genocide against the Uyghur Muslims. Through their Belt and Road Initiative, the CCP fuels these atrocities by trapping nations in debt and by exploiting their weakness to finance the CCP's nefarious activities.

We must not stoop to the level of the Chinese Communist Party. America and our values are better than that.

The No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act ensures that no American taxpayer dollars may be used to give the CCP profit for goods or raw materials produced using forced labor in the Xinjiang region in China.

Many basic goods such as bricks, cotton, and hair products are being produced in the Xinjiang region. These are all fundamental resources to commerce.

However, the U.S. has strength in our companies and global partners to build robust supply chains free of this forced labor that is being used to bankroll genocide.

I thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. MORAN), for introducing this bill, of which I am a proud cosponsor. The bill received unanimous support from the Foreign Affairs Committee at our markup last year.

Madam Speaker, I urge strong support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4039, No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act, as amended.

In both this Congress and the last Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee has shed light on the People's Republic of China's grave human rights abuses, including holding a hearing on the ongoing genocide in Xinjiang and advanced efforts to hold the PRC accountable for its use of forced labor.

In April 2021, the committee marked up the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, probably the most significant human rights legislation dealing with China in decades. The bill, which passed the committee and the House, both as a standalone measure and as part of our China-focused competition legislation, was eventually signed into law by President Biden.

That bill's purpose was to ensure that goods made with forced labor would not end up on American store shelves and, in turn, in American homes.

Today, we want to make sure that the standards we use at home also apply to American activities abroad. That is why H.R. 4039 calls on the State Department and USAID to verify that they are not funding any programs or projects that unwittingly use goods or materials made using forced labor.

□ 1615

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MORAN for introducing this bill, as

well as Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member MEEKS for their leadership in passing it out of committee in a bipartisan manner.

When it comes to genocide and forced labor, Congress must be clear. There is no place in this world for such brutality.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this bill.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4039, the No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important measure.

Slavery in any form is repugnant and morally wrong. America—the home of the brave and the land of the free—should not be complicit in the Chinese Communist Party's genocide, oppression, and enslavement of Uyghur Muslims.

Currently, the China Communist Party is using over 100,000 Uyghur Muslims as slave labor. The No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act will ensure that the U.S. plays no part in this atrocity.

Specifically, H.R. 4039 prohibits the State Department and USAID from developing or designing international contracts with companies that import or source any raw materials or goods that were manufactured, produced, or mined from the Xinjiang region of China.

My legislation would also require a report to Congress identifying all violations in the previous year with a plan to improve enforcement and compliance.

Xinjiang is an important region to China's economy. It represents one-sixth of China's land mass, and is home to most of their cotton, coal, and natural gas reserves. It is considered the core hub for China's Belt and Road Initiative, which is China's primary tool to exert economic influence across the globe.

Many basic goods that we consider to be part of our everyday lives are being produced by forced labor in Xinjiang—raw materials like yarn, bricks, nails, cotton, hair products, gloves, and polysilicon, which is commonly used for solar panel manufacturing—all essential resources for global commerce.

There is no excuse for the United States to continue in any partnership with companies that do business in Xinjiang and perpetuate these gross human rights abuses that the CCP has been committing against ethnic minorities for decades.

In addition to those enslaved, between 1 and 2 million people have been detained arbitrarily by the CCP and placed in what they call reeducation centers where they have little to no freedom and undergo intense indoctrination at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

Many who have endured these centers note that they were just paid 2 pennies or less to make a pair of gloves. Those who are enslaved are unable to leave, see their families, or communicate with their loved ones.

The CCP's tactics of threats, intimidation, confinement, and physical and emotional abuse is intended to oppress its people, force assimilation, and in the process, grow its economic influence worldwide.

Victims have no hope of life elsewhere. They know they will be monitored by police through oppressive surveillance systems. Survivors recount that the CCP cancel passports and lure minorities to China only then to detain them and use them for forced labor.

The CCP reels in Uyghurs by offering free health services and then invades their lives and privacy by taking their DNA, fingerprints, and blood samples, which are then exported to malign actors. Unfortunately, this is just the beginning of their captivity and their oppression.

If that is the society that the CCP is creating, we in the United States must act aggressively and immediately to make perfectly clear that we will not condone such brutality and such a cruel regime. What is more, the United States will not be a party to these atrocities.

America must continue to act with strength on the foreign stage. We cannot allow totalitarian regimes to grow in strength and influence around the world. If we do, then what is happening to the Uyghurs in China will surely follow wherever China builds its empire. We simply cannot let this happen.

We, in the United States, must stand for morality, we must stand for goodness, and we must stand for freedom.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to do just that by passing H.R. 4039.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4039 builds on the important work Congress has already done to rid our domestic supply chains of forced labor goods by ensuring that our global programs aren't supporting such goods either. By asking our State Department and USAID program partners and contractors to ensure they aren't using forced labor goods, we will help make global supply chains freer.

This is a preventative measure meant to guarantee that U.S. international projects and programs are beyond reproach and fully consistent with our values. In so doing, H.R. 4039 will ensure that we practice our principles when it comes to human rights.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MORAN for his leadership on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 4039, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4039, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROMOTING A RESOLUTION TO THE TIBET-CHINA DISPUTE ACT

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 533) to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 533

*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 "Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It has been the long-standing policy of the United States to encourage meaningful and direct dialogue between representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences.

(2) Nine rounds of dialogue held between 2002 and 2010 between the People's Republic of China authorities and the 14th Dalai Lama's representatives failed to produce a settlement that resolved differences, and the two sides have held no formal dialogue since January 2010.

(3) An obstacle to further dialogue is that the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to impose conditions on substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama, including a demand that he say that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times, which the Dalai Lama has refused to do because it is inaccurate.

(4) Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provide that "All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development".

(5) The United States Government has never taken the position that Tibet was a part of China since ancient times.

(6) China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on October 5, 1998, and ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on March 27, 2001.

(7) Under international law, including United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625, the right to self-determination is the right of a people to determine its own destiny and the exercise of this right can result in a variety of outcomes ranging from independence, federation, protection, some form

of autonomy or full integration within a State.

(8) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1723, adopted on December 20, 1961, called for the “cessation of practices which deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination.”

(9) Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a May 26, 2022, speech entitled “The Administration’s Approach to the People’s Republic of China,” said that the rules-based international order’s “founding documents include the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined concepts like self-determination, sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes. These are not Western constructs. They are reflections of the world’s shared aspirations.”

(10) The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), as amended by the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020, in directing the United States Government “to promote the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people” acknowledges that the Tibetan people possess a distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity.

(11) Department of State reports on human rights and religious freedom have consistently documented systematic repression by the authorities of the People’s Republic of China against Tibetans as well as acts of defiance and resistance by Tibetan people against the People’s Republic of China policies.

(12) The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), as amended by the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020, specifies that the central objective of the United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues is to promote substantive dialogue between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community.

### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) that the Tibetan people are a people with a distinct religious, cultural, linguistic and historical identity;

(2) that the dispute between Tibet and the People’s Republic of China must be resolved in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter, by peaceful means, through dialogue without pre-conditions;

(3) that the People’s Republic of China should cease its propagation of disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama;

(4) to encourage the People’s Republic of China to uphold all its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; and

(5) in accordance with the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020—

(A) to promote substantive dialogue without pre-conditions, between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, or explore activities to improve prospects for dialogue, that leads to a negotiated agreement on Tibet;

(B) to coordinate with other governments in multilateral efforts towards the goal of a negotiated agreement on Tibet; and

(C) to encourage the Government of the People’s Republic of China to address the aspirations of the Tibetan people with regard to their distinct historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity.

### SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) claims made by officials of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times are historically inaccurate;

(2) the current policies of the People’s Republic of China are systematically suppressing the ability of the Tibetan people to preserve their religion, culture, language, history, way of life and environment;

(3) the Government of the People’s Republic of China is failing to meet the expectations of the United States to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives or to reach a negotiated resolution that includes the aspirations of the Tibetan people; and

(4) United States public diplomacy efforts should counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions including that of the Dalai Lama.

### SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE TIBETAN POLICY ACT OF 2002.

(a) TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.—Section 613(b) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) efforts to counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions including that of the Dalai Lama.”

(b) UNITED STATES SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR TIBETAN ISSUES.—Section 621(d) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) work with relevant bureaus of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure that United States Government statements and documents counter, as appropriate, disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions including that of the Dalai Lama.”

(c) DEFINITION.—The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

### SEC. 622. DEFINITION.

“For purposes of this Act, the term ‘Tibet’ refers to the following areas:

“(1) The Tibet Autonomous Region.

“(2) The areas that the Government of the People’s Republic of China designated as Tibetan Autonomous, as of 2018, as follows:

“(A) Kanhuo (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Pari (Tianzhu) Tibetan Autonomous County located in Gansu Province.

“(B) Goluo (Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Malho (Huangan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsojang (Haibei) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsolho (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsonub (Haixi) Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Yulshul (Yushu) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Qinghai Province.

“(C) Garze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Ngawa (Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, and Muli (Mili) Tibetan Autonomous County, located in Sichuan Province.

“(D) Dechen (Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Yunnan Province.”

### SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION ABOUT TIBET.

Amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available under section 346 of subtitle E of title III of division FF of Public Law 116-260 (“Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020”) are authorized to be made available to counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions including that of the Dalai Lama.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 533, Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the exile of the Dalai Lama.

The Tibetan people have suffered 70 years of Chinese Communist Party oppression and control. From forced labor, forced sterilization, arbitrary detention, the banning of Tibetan education, religious practices, and language, the CCP will not stop until it has erased Tibetan culture.

Last year, the CCP released a white paper on its policies in Tibet. In that document, the party doubles down on its oppression and crackdown on the religious and economic freedom of Tibetans.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this bipartisan bill, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), and the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee (Mr. McCaul).

The CCP has refused to speak with the Tibetan Central Authorities since 2010, essentially putting the future of Tibet, and the safety of millions of Tibetans, at suspended risk.

This bill helps Tibetans in two main ways:

First, it pushes back against CCP propaganda about the history of Tibet. It is simply not true that Tibet has been, as the CCP claims, a “part of China since ancient times.” U.S. policy has never accepted that false claim.

For that reason, this legislation clarifies U.S. policy, highlights the unique language, religion, and culture of the Tibetan people, and directs U.S. diplomats to push back against CCP propaganda.

Second, this bill ensures that Tibetans have a say in their own future. It stresses the need for a direct dialogue between the CCP and the democratically elected leaders of Tibet, and that any resolution must be peaceful and include the voice of the Tibetan people.

Tibetans are democracy-loving people who wish to freely practice their religion and have their distinct identity acknowledged and respected.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to play a small part in supporting this dream for the Tibetan people. I urge all my colleagues to help push back against the Chinese Communist Party's crackdown against the Tibetan people by voting in favor of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 533, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 533, Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. McGOVERN and Mr. McCaul for introducing this bill and working with Ranking Member MEEKS to pass it out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and bring it to the House floor today.

Representative McGOVERN is a champion of human rights. With this bill, he is asking all of us to stand up for the people of Tibet.

I also thank Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI for her tireless work in holding the People's Republic of China responsible for its human rights violations and her long-time advocacy for the Tibetan people.

In recent years, Beijing has tightened its repressive grip over the Tibetan areas in China and attempted to dilute the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people. Since 2010, Beijing has also refused to meet its international obligations to engage the Dalai Lama and his representatives to resolve the Tibet issue through dialogue. At the same time, Beijing has unleashed a disinformation campaign to mislead the world about Tibet and its history.

For this reason, we must pass H.R. 533, which calls the PRC out for its repression and unwillingness to engage the Tibetan people. H.R. 533 highlights the need to preserve Tibetan identity, language, and culture. It calls on the State Department to counter PRC disinformation efforts to undermine the aspirations of Tibetan people.

H.R. 533 also calls on Beijing to live up to its commitments to engage in a genuine dialogue with Tibetan representatives to reach a negotiated resolution on the question of Tibet.

By passing this timely bill, the people's House would be standing up for

the universal rights and aspirations of the Tibetan people.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I speak in strong support of H.R. 533, which would amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002.

This bill was introduced by Congressman JIM McGOVERN, House ranking member on the Congressional Executive Commission on China, which I chair, along with Chairman McCaul. I am proud to be listed among the many cosponsors.

Tibet and the Tibetan people face new and ever worsening challenges from the Chinese Communist Party's repressive rule. After decades of unspeakable cruelty by the Chinese Communist Party against Tibetans, we are seeing an increase that is occurring and an effort that looks just like genocide.

Threats to Tibetan linguistic, religious, and cultural heritage have expanded exponentially in recent years, and now an estimated 80 percent of all children in the Tibet Autonomous Region are separated from their families and educated in a massive system of colonial boarding schools—separating them from parents and indoctrinating and brainwashing them each and every day.

□ 1630

In recent years, Chinese police in Tibet have conducted mass DNA collection and iris scanning programs in wide swaths of Tibetan society, including in monasteries and primary schools, a sinister endeavor to harvest biometric data and one which implicated an American company, Thermo Fisher Scientific.

While, thanks to pressure from many, including our commission, Thermo Fisher has announced it will cease cooperation in this area, though they still do business in China that is problematic. We need to drive home the message to American businesses: Stop cooperating with a brutal regime and stop subsidizing tyranny.

Amid these threats to Tibetans in Tibet, the Chinese Communist Party also seeks to extend its repressive reach abroad, targeting for surveillance and harassment Tibetan diaspora communities in the United States, India, and Nepal.

The Chinese Communist Party has long engaged in crimes against humanity in Tibet and against Tibetans, plain and simple. I have chaired multiple hearings with my good friend and colleague, Mr. McGOVERN, at the Lantos Commission and at the Congressional

Executive Commission on China, including one in March of last year, called "Preserving Tibet: Combating Cultural Erasure, Forced Assimilation and Transnational Repression," which featured the Sikyong, the head of Tibet's government in exile, as well as Richard Gere, who is a passionate and amazingly articulate advocate for Tibet.

This bill authorizes the State Department to take action to counter Chinese Communist propaganda directed against Tibet and its history and its institutions. For that reason alone, it ought to be strongly supported.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN).

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina, the gentlewoman from California, and the gentleman from New Jersey, who just spoke, not just for their support for this bill but for their leadership on human rights in general.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 533, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act.

I thank my co-lead, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman McCaul, and Ranking Member MEEKS for their work to bring this bill to the floor today. This is important.

It has been more than 60 years since the People's Republic of China forced His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama into exile and took control of Tibet against the will of its people.

The dispute between the Chinese and the Tibetans over Tibet's status and governance has persisted ever since, in spite of the willingness of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people to resolve Tibet's status and governance through dialogue.

With dialogue blocked, the PRC has continued its unceasing efforts to erode Tibetan history, Tibetan language, Tibetan culture, and Tibetan religion.

A few years ago, I was on a delegation with Speaker PELOSI. We went to Tibet and saw firsthand the PRC's repression against the people of Tibet, essentially trying to erase the Tibetans as a people.

This bill that we are discussing here today seeks to end that by explicitly recognizing that the Tibetan people are a people with a distinct religious, cultural, and historical identity; by reminding all concerned that peoples, and not least the Tibetan people, have a right to self-determination under international human rights law; and by requiring the U.S. Government to actively counter the PRC's propaganda about Tibet, like the false claim that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times, a position that the United States has never accepted. There is no basis for such a claim.

Through these measures, we hope to kick-start dialogue between Tibet and China, in keeping with longstanding U.S. policy.

Madam Speaker, any one of us reading the news these days knows that the

world is awash in conflict. At the heart of most, if not all of those conflicts, lies the systematic denial or violation of a people's human rights.

The decades-old dispute between Tibet and China started as an armed conflict of invasion, resistance, and insurgency. In the long run, the only guarantee against the resumption of large-scale violence is for the PRC to fully respect the human rights and dignity of the Tibetan people.

A vote for this bill is a vote to recognize the rights of the Tibetan people and a vote to insist on resolving the dispute between Tibet and the People's Republic of China peacefully, in accordance with international law, through dialogue, and without pre-conditions.

There is still an opportunity to do this, but time is running out. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it is about standing up for human rights. It is about standing up for the Tibetan people, a people who have been repressed for far too long.

Madam Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for their support.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

The people of Tibet have persevered through decades of repression. The PRC subjugates the Tibetan people, even though all they are asking for is the opportunity to live freely and safely. They simply want to be given the autonomy they have been promised. They want to teach their children their language, their customs, and their traditions. They want to preserve their culture, their religious identity, and their dignity as a distinct people.

I urge the House to pass H.R. 533 so that we may honor the Tibetan people and make clear that Beijing's repression and unwillingness to engage in dialogue cannot stand.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I again thank Mr. McGOVERN, Chairman McCaul, and Ranking Member MEEKS for introducing this legislation. I urge the passage of H.R. 533, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 533, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### IGO ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 3016) to amend the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply the provisions of that Act to international governmental organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

#### H.R. 3016

*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 "IGO Anti-Boycott Act".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT OF 2018.

The Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 1772 (50 U.S.C. 4841), by inserting "or international governmental organization," after "foreign country" each place it appears.

(2) In section 1773 (50 U.S.C. 4842), in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "or international governmental organization," after "foreign country";

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the first sentence, by inserting "or international governmental organization" after "boycotting country"; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), in the first sentence, by inserting "or international governmental organization" after "boycotting country".

(3) In section 1773(a) (50 U.S.C. 4842(a)), by adding at the end the following:

"(6) ANNUAL REPORT.—The President shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on an annual basis a report that contains—

"(A) a list of those foreign countries and international organizations that foster or impose boycotts and with respect to which this section applies; and

"(B) a description of those boycotts.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3016, the IGO Anti-Boycott Act, a bill I introduced with my colleague and great friend from New Jersey, Congressman JOSH GOTTHEIMER, this past spring.

After Hamas' October 7 massacre of over 1,200 innocent people in Israel, including Americans, we need to do everything we can to stand with our friend and ally.

In the south, Israel is fighting a war to dismantle Hamas, whose leader said that October 7 was just a rehearsal. In the north, Israel is defending itself

from missiles and rockets from Iran's deadly proxy Hezbollah.

However, there are many in the world who want to fault Israel, blame Israel, and delegitimize Israel for doing what is necessary to protect its citizens and its sovereignty.

One of the most egregious bastions of anti-Israel bias and bigotry is the United Nations. We are deeply concerned that the U.N. could weaponize its institutions against Israel.

Years ago, the U.N. Human Rights Council authorized the creation of a database of companies doing business beyond Israel's 1949 armistice lines. The implications of this were clear: Create a list of companies and then boycott them. That list is now published and updated by the United Nations.

Boycotts such as these are contrary to American values and foreign policy. It is critical that we protect U.S. companies from being coerced into providing information that would facilitate these boycotts.

For over 40 years, it has been illegal for U.S. companies to cooperate with foreign boycotts that the United States is not participating in. The reason is because foreign countries should not be able to use U.S. companies to undermine U.S. foreign policy. These laws were passed in response to the Arab League's boycott of Israel.

Now, the good news is that today, many fewer countries in the Arab League are adhering to the boycott of Israel. In fact, some of them have normalized relations with Israel, opening trade as well as diplomatic ties.

We are faced with the potential that U.S. companies might be pressured to cooperate with this U.N. list and subsequent boycott of Israel. If that were to happen, the U.N. would be using U.S. companies to undermine U.S. foreign policy. That is simply unacceptable.

This bill adds four words, "or international governmental organizations," to existing anti-boycott law to include organizations like the U.N.

It is my sincere hope that the U.N. will not foster such a boycott against Israel as Israel is responding to the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust.

This bill is especially necessary with the constant anti-Israel bias emanating from the U.N. Just recently, we confirmed that UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, has deep ties to Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Israeli intelligence recently released reports that many UNRWA workers actually worked as Hamas operatives and assisted in the October 7 attacks. It is absolutely disgusting that employees of a U.N. agency had a role in this attack. We will see now what the U.N. does in response to these allegations.

We cannot stand idly by while our contributions to UNRWA potentially aid and abet terrorists. Our support must only go to organizations that uplift humanity, not those who undermine peace and security.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill today so that we can take a stand against the U.N. and other IGOs and the anti-Israel bias present at UNHRC and UNRWA. This bill is just a start. The American people stand with Israel.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in strong support of H.R. 3016, the IGO Anti-Boycott Act.

I strongly support legislative efforts to combat international boycotts that target U.S. companies engaged in business activities in countries friendly to the United States, including Israel. That is why I support H.R. 3016, bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend, Representative MIKE LAWLER, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and by my great friend, Representative JOSH GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey.

This legislation reinforces existing anti-boycott laws and U.S. policies to combat those international boycotts. I will continue to support ways to protect U.S. businesses from being pressured into complying with unsanctioned foreign boycotts against Israel.

It is already U.S. policy, per the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018, which H.R. 3016 would amend, to oppose restrictive trade practices and boycotts imposed by any foreign countries or entities against Americans and countries friendly to the United States, and which discourages or prohibits U.S. companies from taking actions to support unsanctioned foreign boycotts.

□ 1645

There are, of course, limitations to what we can do. The United States cannot unilaterally stop other countries from adopting policies that we do not agree with, nor could other countries prevent the United States from adopting policies they do not agree with.

However, through bodies like the U.N., as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the United States is able to use its voice and veto to combat policies, including biased and harmful boycott, divestment, and sanctions, or BDS, campaigns against our partners and allies like Israel.

Furthermore, policies adopted by international bodies do not bind U.S. citizens. Americans are only bound by American law. An act of Congress is required for international law to become our law. No intergovernmental organization will ever supersede U.S. law or sovereignty.

From the Arab League boycott to the global BDS campaign against Israel, Congress has repeatedly stood united in a bipartisan way against this hateful campaign to isolate, single out, and economically punish the State of Israel. No American citizen or company should be coerced into participating in an unsanctioned boycott against Israel or any other partner or

ally of the United States. That is why I support this bill to update the 2018 Anti-Boycott Act.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, this piece of legislation is a bad idea.

The right to participate in a boycott is an expression of free speech and free association that has been enshrined in American law since our Nation's founding. This bill would allow the President, any President, to compel the speech of Americans. That is unconstitutional and dangerous.

Let me lay out a few scenarios that this bill would enable: An international organization calls for a boycott of goods made through forced Uyghur labor in China. An American citizen, concerned about the ongoing Uyghur genocide, vocally expresses support for this boycott and participates in it.

Under this bill, a President could decide that China is a "friend to the United States" and penalize one of our own fellow citizens with a \$1 million fine and 20 years in prison.

Under this bill, an American citizen who participates in a European Union boycott of goods made in Russian-occupied Ukraine could be jailed for 20 years under an American President who was friendly to the invasion.

There are no safeguards under this law. The President has the complete power to decide when a country is covered by this law. That, I cannot support.

If an American chooses to participate in such a boycott, it should be their decision and theirs alone, not the United States Government's.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, to my colleague from Texas, we accepted one of his amendments during the markup to address some of his accountability concerns.

Let's be clear. This is not an anti-First Amendment bill. This bill adds four words to existing law. It does absolutely nothing unprecedented. It only expands coverage of existing protections to include IGOs. The bill is not discriminatory against proponents of the BDS movement, rather it prevents discriminatory actions against Israel and other countries friendly to the United States so as not to undermine U.S. foreign policy.

IGOs, like the United Nations, continue to impose one-sided and biased policies against the State of Israel.

Madam Speaker, you can't wait until after the fact to protect Israel and the Jewish people, as we saw on October 7.

While the E.U. doesn't maintain a similar blacklist, there have been E.U.-based efforts to create one and further other BDS initiatives at the E.U. For example, just last year in February of 2022, pro-BDS activists launched a campaign to call on the E.U. Commission to propose a new law to stop trade with settlements.

Luckily, the campaign didn't reach the number of signatures it needed to be brought before the E.U. Commission.

Now, let's be clear. The BDS movement is anti-Semitic. The BDS is one tactic in a long history of campaigns and efforts to delegitimize and isolate the State of Israel. It also applies a double standard to Israel. The BDS campaign does not support constructive measures to build Israeli-Palestinian engagement, nor does it promote peace negotiations or a mutually negotiated two-state solution to the conflict. Rather, BDS presents a biased and simplistic approach to the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict positioning this dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault of only one party, the State of Israel, while ignoring other actors and dynamics such as Palestinian-shared responsibility for the continuation of the conflict.

BDS advocates for self-determination for Palestinians while denying to Jews that same right.

So many of our colleagues who have, for instance, called for cease-fires say nothing about Hamas' barbaric, horrific, and brutal attacks on October 7. The duplicity when I hear some of my colleagues talk about this issue is pathetic.

The BDS movement uses divisive and inaccurate terms like "apartheid," "genocide," "settler colonialists," and "supremacists" to refer to aspects of Israeli action or policy they criticize. This language serves to demonize the Jewish State and those who support its very existence. So the intent here is to expand existing law to include IGOs. Four words are added to the existing law. That is all this bill does.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), who is the co-chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus and a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MANNING for her leadership on this and so many important issues for our country.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing the IGO Anti-Boycott Act. I am particularly honored to have helped introduce this bipartisan legislation with my very good friend and fellow Problem Solvers Caucus member MIKE LAWLER from New

York. I am grateful for his leadership as well and the words he has just spoken.

On October 7, the world watched Hamas terrorists invade Israel and brutally kidnap, torture, rape, burn alive, and murder innocent babies, children, women, men, and the elderly, including dozens of Americans. Americans remain hostage to this day.

This unprovoked war has underscored why I will always stand with Israel and support our key democratic ally's right to defend herself from those who seek her destruction.

This bipartisan legislation is a key step to counter anti-Israel bias and anti-Semitic BDS movements strong along by enemies of our Nation. As my colleagues have said, the BDS movement is anti-Semitic. We must move quickly to stop international governmental organizations from unfairly and unjustly alienating Israel. It is unacceptable.

Speaking, as my colleague did, about the United Nations and UNRWA, in particular, and what has come out even in the last days about UNRWA—which is, again, part of the United Nations playing host to a Hamas data center—we know that a significant number of Hamas fighters are employees at UNWRA. I just want people to understand that funding from the United States of America should not be supporting any terrorist fighters like those in Hamas. It is totally unacceptable, and that is not where dollars from the United States should be going.

Right now, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric has spread across the country and the world. According to the ADL, between October 7 and January 7, there were more than 1,300 instances of anti-Semitic acts and expressions of support for terrorism against the State of Israel.

Today, we have a chance to stand up for our ally, Israel, and to stand up against anti-Semitism and all of the disinformation which continues to spread around the world on sources like TikTok.

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. We know that on TikTok, which is supported by the Chinese Government, the CCP is continuing to spread disinformation. Disinformation is also coming out from many of these organizations. We must stand up against it.

This legislation does nothing to violate the First Amendment. In fact, the importance of being able to stand strong with the First Amendment is what allows legislation like this to make it to the floor in Congress. Leadership from Mr. LAWLER and others and the excellent work here of Ms. MANNING is the kind of leadership that is critical.

So, Madam Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to vote for and help

pass the Anti-Boycott Act. We must stand strong up against Hamas.

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill and the underlying provision of law it seeks to amend which works to protect U.S. businesses from being targeted by foreign boycotts, particularly against nations friendly to the United States like Israel.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 3016, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my Democratic co-lead, Congressman JOSH GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey, who is the co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and all of our bipartisan cosponsors for working with me on this important bill to update our anti-boycott laws and to respond to potential threats facing the United States and our ally, Israel. We must stand with our ally Israel and not allow rampant, institutionalized anti-Israel bias and bigotry at the United Nations to delegitimize the State of Israel.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of H.R. 3016, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my good friend Mr. LAWLER for authoring the IGO Anti-Boycott Act, which amends the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply its provisions also to international governmental organizations.

When this bill becomes law, it will prevent U.S. companies from supporting boycotts of U.S. allies if those boycotts are promoted or imposed by intergovernmental organizations.

What is at issue here are boycotts of Israel organized by the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement, has enlisted the United Nations and European Union into its attempt to blacklist Israel—really to make Israel into a pariah state.

I thank Mr. LAWLER as this bill will be a very effective tool in the global fight against antisemitism.

As to the UN's blacklist, meant to be an authoritative guide to anti-Israel boycotters, it lists companies operating inside disputed territories—but the UN provides no similar list for any other disputed territory in the world. This is a clear double standard against Israel—it fails Natan Sharansky's "3Ds" test according to which we can see the antisemitism of actions toward Israel that apply a double standard against Israel, seek to delegitimize it, or demonize it.

In the last 9 months I have chaired or co-chaired three hearings on the United Nations and its pervasive antisemitism. We have heard the testimony and seen the documentation. Make no mistake, antisemitic bigotry is at the root of the UN's hostility to Israel, which is ugly, evil, and manifests in almost every UN entity.

The United Nations is unquestionably the world's foremost legitimizer of antisemitism, in-

cluding in its most virulent and violent forms. The monstrous and genocidal atrocities we have seen pouring out of Gaza since October 7 are antisemitic hate crimes, the logical consequence of the unbridled antisemitism fomented and enabled by the United Nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3016, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IGO ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3202) to prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3202

*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 "Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT.

(a) CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT.—Section 7412 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "the President shall impose" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting "the President"—

"(A) shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign person that the President determines—

"(i) knowingly engages, on or after such date of enactment, in an activity described in paragraph (2);

"(ii) is an adult family member of a foreign person described in clause (i), unless the President determines there is clear and convincing evidence that such adult family member has disassociated themselves from the foreign person described in such clause and has no history of helping such foreign person conceal assets; or

"(iii) is owned or controlled by a foreign person described in clause (i) or (ii); and

"(B) may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign person that the President determines knowingly provides, on or after such date of enactment, significant financial, material, or technological support to a foreign person engaging in an activity described in any of subparagraphs (B) through (H) of paragraph (2);"

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

"(i) the Government of Syria (including any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria), a senior political figure of the Government of Syria, a member of the People's Assembly of Syria, or a senior foreign political figure (as such term is defined

in section 101.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party of Syria, including any such senior foreign political figure who is—

“(I) a member of the Central Command, Central Committee, or Auditing and Inspection Committee of such Party; or

“(II) a leader of a local branch of such Party;”;

“(II) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

“(III) in clause (iii), by striking the semicolon and inserting “; or”; and

“(IV) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) Syria Arab Airlines, Cham Wings, or any foreign person owned or controlled by Syria Arab Airlines or Cham Wings;”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or spare aircraft parts—

“(i) to the Government of Syria; or

“(ii) for or on behalf of the Government of Syria to any foreign person operating in an area directly or indirectly controlled by the Government of Syria or foreign forces associated with the Government of Syria;”;

“(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

“(iv) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) by striking “construction or engineering services” and inserting “construction, engineering, or commercial financial services”; and

(II) by striking the closing period and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(F) purposefully engages in or directs—

“(i) the diversion of goods (including agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical devices), or any international humanitarian assistance, intended for the people of Syria; or

“(ii) the dealing in proceeds from the sale or resale of such diverted goods or international humanitarian assistance, as the case may be;

“(G) knowingly, directly or indirectly, engages in or attempts to engage in, the seizure, confiscation, theft, or expropriation for personal gain or political purposes of property, including real property, in Syria or owned by a citizen of Syria;

“(H) knowingly, directly or indirectly, engages in or attempts to engage in a transaction or transactions for or with such seized, confiscated, stolen, or expropriated property described in subparagraph (G); or

“(I) knowingly provides significant financial, material, or technological support to a foreign person engaging in an activity described in subparagraph (A).”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(4) TRANSACTION DEFINED.—For purposes of the determination required by subparagraph (a)(2)(A), the term ‘transaction’ includes in-kind transactions.

“(5) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL SERVICES.—The term ‘commercial financial services’ means any transaction between the Government of Syria and a foreign bank or foreign financial institution operating in an area under the control of the Government of Syria that has a valuation of more than \$5,000,000.

“(B) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘financial institution’ means a financial institution specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (K), (M), (N), (P), (R), (T), (Y), or (Z) of section 5312(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

“(6) SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION CLARIFIED.—In this section, the term ‘significant trans-

action’ includes any natural gas, electricity, or other energy-related transaction.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a foreign person knowingly engages in an activity described in subsection (a)(2) the President shall—

“(1) make the determination specified in subsection (a)(1) with respect to that foreign person; and

“(2) submit to such chairman and ranking member that submitted the request a report with respect to such determination that includes a statement of whether the President has imposed or intends to impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to that foreign person.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF SUNSET.—Section 7438 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 31, 2032”.

(c) DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA TRUST FOR DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act, the President shall—

(A) determine whether the nonprofit organization chaired by Asma Al-Assad, the First Lady of Syria, known as the “Syria Trust for Development” meets the criteria for the imposition of sanctions—

(i) under section 7412(a) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by subsection (a);

(ii) under Executive Order 13894 (84 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property and suspending entry of certain persons contributing to the situation in Syria); or

(iii) by nature of being owned or controlled by a person designated under any executive order or regulation administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control; and

(B) submit to the appropriate congressional committees each such determination, including a justification for the determination.

(2) FORM.—The determination under paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but the justification specified in such paragraph may be included in a classified annex. The unclassified determination shall be made available on a publicly available website of the Federal government.

(3) SANCTIONS RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS UNCHANGED.—Paragraph (1) may not be construed to create any new authorities or requirements to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(d) FINDINGS ON APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES, CHAM WINGS AIRLINES, AND RELATED ENTITIES.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2013, the President identified Syrian Arab Airlines as a blocked instrumentality or controlled entity of the Government of Syria and concurrently sanctioned Syrian Arab Airlines pursuant to Executive Order 13224 for acting for or on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force of Iran.

(2) In 2016, the President sanctioned Syria-based Cham Wings Airlines pursuant to Executive Order 13582 for having materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the Government of Syria and Syrian Arab Airlines.

(3) Section 7412(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) mandates the application of sanctions against any foreign person that “knowingly provides significant financial, material, or technological support to, or knowingly engages in a significant transaction with . . . a foreign person subject to sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions with respect to Syria.”, which applies to airport service providers outside of Syria.

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF RECOGNITION OF ASSAD REGIME.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) not to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad due to the Assad regime's ongoing crimes against the Syrian people, including failure to meet the criteria outlined in section 7431(a) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019;

(2) to actively oppose recognition or normalization of relations by other governments with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar Al-Assad, including by fully implementing the mandatory primary and secondary sanctions in the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order 13894; and

(3) to use the full range of authorities, including those provided under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order 13894, to deter reconstruction activities in areas under the control of Bashar al-Assad.

(b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection (a), no Federal official or employee may take any action, and no Federal funds may be made available, to recognize or otherwise imply, in any manner, United States recognition of Bashar al-Assad or any Government in Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad.

### SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO COUNTER NORMALIZATION WITH ASSAD REGIME.

(a) REPORT AND STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State (in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report and strategy to describe and counter actions taken or planned by foreign governments to normalize, engage with, or upgrade political, diplomatic, or economic ties with the regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria (in this section referred to as the “Assad regime”).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The elements of the report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of violations of international law and human rights abuses committed by Bashar al-Assad, the Government

of the Russian Federation, or the Government of Iran and progress towards justice and accountability for the Syrian people;

(B) a full list of diplomatic meetings at the Ambassador level or above, between the Syrian regime and any representative of the Governments of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, or Lebanon, respectively;

(C) a list including an identification of—

(i) any single covered transaction exceeding \$500,000; and

(ii) any combination of covered transactions by the same source that, in aggregate, exceed \$500,000 and occur within a single year;

(D) for each identified single transaction or aggregate transactions, as the case may be, included in the list described in subparagraph (C), a determination of whether such transaction subjects any of the parties to the transaction to sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by section 2;

(E) a description of the steps the United States is taking to actively deter recognition or normalization of relations by other governments with the Assad regime, including specific diplomatic engagements and use of economic sanctions authorized by statutes or implemented through Executive Orders, including—

(i) the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note);

(ii) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (22 U.S.C. 2151 note);

(iii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

(iv) Executive Order 13894 (84 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property and suspending entry of certain persons contributing to the situation in Syria);

(v) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.);

(vi) the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9401 et seq.); and

(vii) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and

(F) an assessment of how recognition or normalization of relations by other governments with the Assad regime impacts the national security of the United States, prospects for implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254, prospects for justice and accountability for war crimes in Syria, and the benefits derived by the Government of the Russian Federation or the Government of Iran.

(b) SCOPE.—The initial report required by subsection (a) shall address the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, and each subsequent report shall address the one-year period following the conclusion of the scope of the prior report.

(c) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex. The unclassified section of such a report shall be made publicly available on a website of the United States Federal Government.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-

fairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(e) COVERED TRANSACTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered transaction” means a transaction, including an investment, grant, contract, or donation (including a loan or other extension of credit)—

(1) by a foreign person located in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, or Lebanon; to

(2) a recipient in any area of Syria held by the Assad regime.

#### SEC. 5. REPORTS ON MANIPULATION OF UNITED NATIONS BY ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the manipulation of the United Nations by the regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria (in this section referred to as the “Assad regime”), including—

(1) a description of conditions, both explicit and implicit, set by the Assad regime with respect to United Nations operations in Syria including with respect to implementing partners, hiring practices, allocation of grants and contracts, and procurement of goods and services;

(2) a description of the extent to which the United Nations has rejected or otherwise opposed any of the conditions described in paragraph (1);

(3) an identification of officials or employees of the United Nations (including funds, programs and specialized agencies of the United Nations) with ties to the Assad regime, including family ties, or persons designated for sanctions by United Nations donor countries;

(4) a full account of access restrictions imposed by the Assad regime and the overall impact on the ability of the United Nations to deliver international assistance to target beneficiaries in areas outside regime control;

(5) a description of ways in which United Nations aid improperly benefits the Assad regime and its associates in defiance of basic humanitarian principles;

(6) a description of the due diligence mechanisms and vetting procedures in place to ensure entities contracted by the United Nations to ensure goods, supplies, or services provided to Syria do not have links to the Assad regime, known human rights abusers, or persons designated for sanctions by United Nations donor countries;

(7) an identification of entities affiliated with the Assad regime, including the Syria Trust for Development and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, foreign government ministries, and private corporations owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the Assad regime, that have received United Nations funding, contracts, or grants or have otherwise entered into a formalized partnership with the United Nations;

(8) an assessment of how the Assad regime sets arbitrary or punitive exchange rates to extract funding from the United Nations, as well as the total amount extracted by such means;

(9) an assessment of the degree to which the various forms of manipulation described in this section has resulted in compromises of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence of the United Nations; and

(10) a strategy to reduce the ability of the Assad regime to manipulate or otherwise influence the United Nations and other aid op-

erations in Syria and ensure United States and international aid is delivered in a neutral and impartial manner consistent with basic humanitarian principles.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023. I want to begin by thanking my colleague and friend, JOE WILSON of South Carolina, who is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

This legislation is critically important. It has been almost 13 years since Bashar al-Assad unleashed his brutal war on the Syrian people. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people have died because of the Assad regime's unrelenting brutality. This is a regime that, with support from Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah, tortures men, women, and children at an unthinkable scale.

These crimes are undeniable. We have eyewitnesses, survivor testimony of Assad's cruelty from Caesar, who was forced to photograph dead bodies from the Gravedigger, who was forced to dig mass graves for those who were brutally murdered.

□ 1700

The Assad regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons against the Syrian people. Just this past November, a court in France found sufficient evidence to issue an international arrest warrant for Assad's complicity in war crimes specifically linked to his use of chemical weapons.

Assad is a murderer, a war criminal, and the head of a narco-state now that Syria is a hub for illicit Captagon production and trafficking. Yet, shockingly, we have seen some countries downplay these abhorrent crimes against humanity and welcome Assad's Syria back into the community of nations.

Let me be clear. There can be no normalization with the Assad regime. This regime will never change, and Assad and his backers' hands are soaked with the blood of the Syrian people. That is why, today, we are considering this bill to ensure there is justice for the Syrian people who continue to suffer under the

Assad regime and his Russian and Iranian backers.

This legislation amends the Caesar Act to ensure full and robust implementation by the executive branch of mandatory sanctions targeting the Assad regime and its backers. It also expands the scope of sanctionable activity to cover more crimes, including stealing humanitarian aid and property. Further, it codifies United States policy to oppose recognition of Assad, and it requires a strategy to counter creeping normalization with Assad by other countries.

This bill also increases transparency around the Assad regime's manipulation of the U.N. system and theft of U.N. aid meant for the Syrian people. Also, crucially, this bill reauthorizes the Caesar Act ahead of that foundational legislative statutory expiration later this year.

The Syrian people have suffered the brutality of this criminal regime and its backers for far too long. The world cannot simply excuse Assad or his backers' crimes because it is convenient. We have seen the consequences of this play out in Ukraine at devastating cost. We must hold the regime and its Russian and Iranian backers accountable, and that is exactly what this bill will do.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

JANUARY 30, 2024.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCAUL,  
Chairman.

—

JANUARY 11, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL McCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCAUL: I write regarding H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way

alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 3202 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation introduced by my dear friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, Representative JOE WILSON of South Carolina.

First, it is with deep sadness that I note that it has been over 13 years since the Syrian people first rose up for their basic rights and have subsequently endured brutal assaults by Assad's Russian- and Iranian-backed military year after year. The Assad regime has unceasingly engaged in a campaign of violence against the Syrian people, committing what has amounted to countless war crimes and the most egregious violations of international humanitarian law.

As we consider this bill today, it is critical we acknowledge that the war has resulted in the deaths of over 600,000 Syrians and more than 8 million displaced. The regime continues to regularly target hospitals, schools, and neighborhoods. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians face bleak prospects for the future.

It is in this context we consider this bill, which responds to moves by some governments to look past these atrocities and re-admit the Assad regime into international institutions. The Biden administration has opposed efforts to reengage with the Assad regime and continues to highlight ongoing crimes against the Syrian people.

I stand with the administration and those who believe Assad must be held accountable. I am glad that members of both parties have stood together to publicly condemn the welcoming of the Assad regime back into the Arab League.

As we condemn such actions and stand with the Syrian people, I also support the Biden administration's efforts to provide the Syrian people with vital, lifesaving humanitarian assistance to assist in the recovery from multiple earthquakes last year and Assad's continued military assaults.

Therefore, I support this measure, which I hope will discourage other

states from overlooking Assad's crimes, and which makes it U.S. policy not to recognize an Assad-led Syrian Government.

This bill also expands targeted sanctions against the Assad regime while preserving important humanitarian exemptions and provisions.

The bill includes a bipartisan amendment, which passed unopposed in the committee, that refines the sanctions provisions so as not to impinge on legitimate humanitarian aid efforts to the Syrian people.

Finally, this bill mandates greater scrutiny of the Assad regime's diversion of international aid for its own benefit and at the expense of the Syrian people.

I thank my friend, Representative WILSON, as well as Chairman McCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, and the author of this bill.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, distinguished graduate of Columbia College, I am very grateful to be here with Congressman MIKE LAWLER.

It has been 13 years since the Syrian revolution, where pro-democracy demonstrators peacefully gathered to express against the corrupt and murderous regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad. People carrying roses and shouting "peaceful, peaceful" were met with unspeakable atrocities. There was merciless scale slaughter, systematic rape, ultimately chemical warfare used against the people of Syria, as we saw when President Donald Trump acted so quickly to try to address the atrocities of chemical warfare. We had the devastating bombardment and the killing of so many civilians that the United Nations had stopped counting at over half a million innocent civilians.

Assad did not act alone. His ability to kill opposition and regain territory was made possible by the support of like-minded war criminals and kleptocrats like war criminal Putin and the Iranian regime, both of which benefit from their alliance with Assad.

Assad has displaced over half the population of Syria. That is nearly 10 million people in a country of 20 million. Sadly, families have been living in refugee camps for over a decade. They have lost their homes, their businesses, their religious institutions, their schools—multiple generations had worked together to build such a successful country, as was Syria.

I am grateful that this bipartisan bill affirms the United States' policy of non-normalization of the brutal Assad regime. It holds those seeking to do

business with the unrepentant, mass murderer and drug trafficker, Bashar al-Assad, accountable.

It also includes comprehensive transparency mechanisms to prevent U.N. funding from being diverted or stolen to the regime while including robust protections of humanitarian assistance.

Assad continues his reign of terror against the people of Syria, with help from war criminal Putin and the regime in Tehran, while destabilizing the region and trafficking the destructive Captagon drug, which is now reaching Europe, and with Chinese providing drugs to Africa to destroy families.

The unconditional welcoming of mass murderer Assad into the Arab League, which we so appreciate the Arab League itself, was disgraceful. To do business with Assad is a normalization of death and depravity, in contrast to the moral standards of American allies who are members of the Arab League.

The passage of this bill is a testament to the work of the Syrian Americans, many of whom are survivors of torture at the hands of the regime. All of them have lost a loved one.

I am grateful to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Chairman MIKE McCaul, Ranking Member GREG MEEKS, as well as staff, Gabriella Zach, Omar Hossino, and Stephanie Pendarvis, along with the Syrian-American patriots who are in the gallery today, who have worked to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

I am also grateful to be working with my good friend, Congresswoman KATHY MANNING of my sister State of North Carolina, and also Congressman MIKE LAWLER of New York.

To the Syrian people: You are not forgotten and you will never be forgotten. Your country has a rich history of democracy. We will continue to stand for a free and democratic Syria against the dictators with rule of gun who are invading democracies with rule of law.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding, and I thank my good friend from South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I stand in full support of JOE WILSON's good bill to counter the butcher, Assad. The gentleman from South Carolina and I spent a great deal in 2023 traveling the Middle Eastern region talking to our partners in the Arab world, warning them of the consequences of readmitting Assad back into the Arab League.

While official U.S. policy does not support normalization with Assad, we have U.S. Government officials, like Brett McGurk and Assistant Secretary Barbara Leaf, watering down that position of U.S. policy, encouraging Arab countries to “get what you can for normalization.”

What did we get?

Madam Speaker, we got more war. The Arab countries said: Let's cut out Captagon trade and drugs. Let's return refugees from Jordan and Turkiye and Lebanon back to Syria. Let's eliminate Iranian influence in Syria.

Madam Speaker, did we get those things?

No.

That is why this bill to counter normalization is so important, because Syria, for the American people, is a giant aircraft carrier for terrorism—Israel being attacked from Syria, Iraq being attacked from Syria, Americans killed because of attacks from Syria.

Madam Speaker, I support Mr. WILSON's bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, 13 years ago, the Syrian people took to the streets demanding basic rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of democratic elections, things which many Americans, frankly, take for granted these days.

They also demanded an end to the Assad dictatorship. Assad responded with extreme brutality, including use of chemical weapons, such as sarin gas.

I am honored to represent the proud and patriotic Syrian-American community in West Virginia. I rise today to support this bipartisan legislation which will hold the Assad regime accountable for its crimes against the Syrian people.

Unlike President Trump, President Biden has refused to enforce the congressionally mandated sanctions. For example, President Biden has allowed countries in the Middle East to normalize relations, such as waiving sanctions for countries in the region to make energy agreements with Syria. The Assad regime should not be allowed to normalize, and it should not be recognized by the United States.

Syrian Americans, like many immigrants, work hard. They come here and defend their communities. They want peace and freedom around the world, things we all support. It is important for America to take leadership in this regard.

My mother fled a Communist country, Cuba, and that country, to this day, is still oppressed by the Communist brutal dictator there, who will just beat you up if they disagree with you. This is a good time to stand in support of the people and freedom and stand up against the brutal Assad dictatorship.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

We cannot overlook the Assad regime's atrocities against the Syrian

people. Allowing the regime back into international organizations would do just that.

□ 1715

I support the administration's work to hold the Assad regime accountable and believe this bill reinforces the administration's efforts by making it U.S. policy not to recognize an Assad-led Syrian Government, discourages other nations from doing so, and expands targeted sanctions on the regime.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 3202, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank JOE WILSON of South Carolina, the chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee for his leadership on this bill.

When the Assad regime's war against the Syrian people began, the American people saw daily images of the regime's cruel abuses. As often happens, the news cycles change and stories slip from the front page, and then are rarely covered at all; however, it does not mean that the regime has changed or reformed or ceased.

The same butchers who gassed and tortured children are still running Syria, and they are continuing their brutality. It is vital that the United States maintain its policy of no normalization or we will be giving a green light to dictators around the world that they can wait out accountability for their crimes. Attention will shift, and they can stay in power, and that would be a death knell for human rights and international norms and standards.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3202, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3202, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## 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 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1800

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023**

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5856) to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5856

*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 “Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

**SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

**TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Subtitle A—Programs To Support Victims and Persons Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

Sec. 101. Modifications to grants to assist in the recognition of trafficking.

Sec. 102. Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program.

**TITLE II—FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD**

Sec. 201. Modifications to program to end modern slavery grants.

Sec. 202. Amendments to tier standards.

Sec. 203. Expanding prevention efforts at the United States Agency for International Development.

Sec. 204. Counter-trafficking in persons efforts in development cooperation and assistance policy.

Sec. 205. Clarification of nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance.

Sec. 206. Trafficking for the purposes of organ harvesting.

Sec. 207. Elimination of duplicative reporting.

**TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

Sec. 301. Extension of authorizations under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

Sec. 302. Extension of authorizations under the International Megan’s Law.

**TITLE I—COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Subtitle A—Programs To Support Victims and Persons Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

**SEC. 101. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING.**

(a) AMENDMENTS TO AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING.—Section 106(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(b)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “GRANTS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRAFFICKING” and inserting “FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “under a program named ‘Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants’” after “may award grants”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, linguistically accessible, and culturally responsive” after “age-appropriate”;

(3) in the heading of subparagraph (C), by inserting “FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS” after “PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS”;

(4) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) give priority to local educational agencies serving a high-intensity child sex trafficking area or an area with significant child labor trafficking;

“(ii) give additional priority to local educational agencies that partner with non-profit organizations specializing in human trafficking prevention education, which partner with law enforcement and technology or social media companies, to assist in training efforts to protect children from labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, materials depicting the sexual abuse of children, and human trafficking transmitted through technology; and

“(iii) consult, as appropriate, with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, and the Attorney General, to identify the geographic areas in the United States with the highest prevalence of at-risk populations for child trafficking, including children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—Grantees should be selected based on their demonstrated ability to—

“(i) engage stakeholders, including survivors of human trafficking, and Federal, State, local, or Tribal partners, to develop the programs;

“(ii) train the trainers, guardians, K-12 students, teachers, and other school personnel in a linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed fashion; and

“(iii) create a scalable, repeatable program to prevent child labor trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse including grooming, child sexual abuse materials, and trafficking transmitted through technology that—

“(I) uses evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices; and

“(II) employs appropriate technological tools and methodologies, including linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed approaches for trainers, guardians, educators, and K-12 students.

“(F) TRAIN THE TRAINERS.—For purposes of subparagraph (E), the term ‘train the trainers’ means having experienced or master trainers coach new trainers who are less experienced with a particular topic or skill, or with training overall, who can then teach the material to others, creating a broader reach, sustainability, and making efforts

cost- and time-efficient (commonly referred to as ‘training of trainers’).

“(G) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of the Interior to determine the appropriate demographics of the recipients or of students at risk of being trafficked or exploited, to be collected and reported with respect to grants under this paragraph, which shall include data collection of, at a minimum, students who are economically disadvantaged, members of a racial or ethnic minority, homeless youth, foster youth, youth involved in the child welfare system, and children and youth who run away from home or an out-of-home placement.

“(H) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committees on the Judiciary and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and make available to the public a report, including data on the following:

“(i) The total number of entities that received a Frederick Douglass Human Trafficking Prevention Education Grant over the past year.

“(ii) The total number of partnerships or consultants that included survivors, non-profit organizations specialized in human trafficking prevention education, law enforcement, and technology or social media companies.

“(iii) The total number of elementary and secondary schools that established and implemented evidence-based (as such term is defined in section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A))) best practices through programs developed using such grants.

“(iv) The total number and geographic distribution of trainers, guardians, students, teachers, and other school personnel trained using such grants pursuant to this paragraph.

“(v) The results of pre-training and post-training surveys to gauge trainees’ increased understanding of the scope and signs of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse; how to interact with potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse using age-appropriate and trauma-informed approach; and the manner in which to respond to potential child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(vi) The number of potential victims and survivors of child trafficking and child sexual exploitation and abuse identified and served by grantees, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children and acting in full compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

“(vii) The number of students in elementary or secondary school identified by grantees as being at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused, excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(viii) The demographic characteristics of child trafficking survivors and victims, sexually exploited and abused children, and students at risk of being trafficked or sexually exploited and abused described in clauses (vi) and (vii), excluding any individually identifiable information about such children.

“(ix) Any service gaps and best practices identified by grantees.”.

**SEC. 102. HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to prevent the re-exploitation of eligible individuals who have been victims of trafficking, by assisting such individuals to integrate or reintegrate into society through social services support for the attainment of life-skills, employment, and education necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

(b) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services offered, provided, and funded by the Program shall include (as relevant to the victim of trafficking)—

(1) enrollment and participation in—

(A) basic education, including literacy education and English as a second language education;

(B) job-related skills training;

(C) vocational and certificate programs; and

(D) programs for attaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

(2) life-skill training programs, including management of personal finances, self-care, and parenting classes;

(3) résumé creation and review;

(4) interview coaching and counseling;

(5) assistance with expungement of criminal records when such records are for non-violent crimes that were committed as a consequence of the eligible individual's victimization, including assistance with credit repair;

(6) assistance with enrollment in college or technical school;

(7) scholarship assistance for attending college or technical school;

(8) professional coaching or professional development classes;

(9) case management to develop an individualized plan with each victim of trafficking, based on each person's needs and goals; and

(10) assistance with obtaining victim compensation, direct victim assistance, or other funds for mental health care.

(c) SERVICE PERIOD.—Eligible individuals may receive services through the Program for a cumulative period of 5 years.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with one or more eligible organizations to carry out this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible individual” means a domestic or foreign victim of trafficking who—

(A) has attained the age of 18 years; and

(B) is eligible to receive services under section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)).

(2) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The “eligible organization” may include a nongovernmental organization and means a service provider that meets the following criteria:

(A) Experience in using national or local anti-trafficking networks to serve victims of trafficking.

(B) Experience qualifying, providing, and coordinating services for victims of trafficking, as described in subsection (b), that is linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed.

(C) With respect to a service provider for victims of trafficking served by the Program who are not United States citizens, a provider that has experience in identifying and assisting foreign-born victims of trafficking, including helping them qualify for Continued Presence, T-Visas, and other Federal, State, and local services and funding.

(D) With respect to a service provider for victims of trafficking served by the Program

who are United States citizens and legal permanent residents, a provider that has experience identifying and assisting victims of trafficking, as such term is defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102), especially youth and underserved populations.

(3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program established under this section.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**TITLE II—FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD****SEC. 201. MODIFICATIONS TO PROGRAM TO END MODERN SLAVERY GRANTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (g)(2), by striking “2020” and inserting “2028”.

(2) In subsection (h)(1), by striking “Not later than September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2020” and inserting “Not later than September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2028”.

(b) AWARD OF FUNDS.—All grants awarded under the authority provided by section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, as amended by subsection (a), shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

**SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS TO TIER STANDARDS.**

(a) MODIFICATIONS TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST.—Subsection (b)(2) of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SPECIAL” and inserting “TIER 2”; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) SUBMISSION OF LIST.—Not later than the date on which the determinations described in subsections (c) and (d) are submitted to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with such subsections, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of countries that the Secretary determines require special scrutiny during the following year. The list shall be composed of countries that have been listed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) pursuant to the current annual report because—

“(i) the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or

“(ii) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.”.

(b) MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL RULE FOR DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED COUNTRIES.—Subsection (b)(2)(F) of such section 110 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “the special watch list” and all that follows through “the country—” and inserting “the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A) for more than 2 years immediately after the country consecutively—”;

(2) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “the special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii)” and inserting “the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A)”;

(3) in clause (ii), by inserting “in the year following such waiver under subparagraph (D)(ii)” before the period at the end.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section 110 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2), as amended by subsection (a)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “SPECIAL WATCH LIST” and inserting “TIER 2 WATCH LIST”; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “special watch list” and inserting “Tier 2 watch list”.

(2) In paragraph (3)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of”.

(3) In paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “each country described in paragraph (2)(A)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “the Special Watch List under paragraph (2)” and inserting “the Tier 2 watch list under paragraph (2)”.

**SEC. 203. EXPANDING PREVENTION EFFORTS AT THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

In order to increase the prevention efforts by the United States abroad, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall encourage incorporation of activities to counter trafficking in persons (C-TIP) into broader assistance programming. The Administrator shall—

(1) determine a reasonable definition for the term “C-TIP Incorporated Development Programs”, which shall at a minimum include any programming to address economic development, education, democracy and governance, food security, and humanitarian assistance that the Administrator determines includes a sufficient counter-trafficking in persons element incorporated in the program design or delivery;

(2) encourage that any program design or delivery that may directly serve victims of trafficking in persons is age-appropriate, linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, and survivor- and trauma-informed, and provides opportunities for anonymous and voluntary feedback from the beneficiaries receiving such services;

(3) encourage that each USAID mission incorporates a counter-trafficking in persons perspective and specific approaches into development programs, project design, and methods for program monitoring and evaluation, when addressing a range of development issues, including—

(A) economic development;

(B) education;

(C) democracy and governance;

(D) food security; and

(E) humanitarian assistance;

(4) implement robust training and disseminate tools around the incorporation of a counter-trafficking perspective and awareness in the day-to-day work of development professionals; and

(5) encourage subsequent Country Development Cooperation Strategies include a counter-trafficking in persons analytic component to guide future project design and promote the inclusion of counter-trafficking elements in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation required for Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3 countries (as such terms are defined for purposes of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), as amended).

**SEC. 204. COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE POLICY.**

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(b)(4) (22 U.S.C. 2151-1(b)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) effective counter-trafficking in persons policies and programs.”;

(2) in section 492(d)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2292a(d)(1))—

(A) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(B) by striking “that the funds” and inserting the following:—“that

“(A) the funds”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the President shall, to the greatest extent possible—

“(i) ensure that assistance made available under this section does not create or contribute to conditions that can be reasonably expected to result in an increase in trafficking in persons who are in conditions of heightened vulnerability as a result of natural and manmade disasters; and

“(ii) integrate appropriate protections into the planning and execution of activities authorized under this chapter.”.

**SEC. 205. CLARIFICATION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.**

(a) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF WITHHELD ASSISTANCE.—Section 110(d)(1)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) the United States will not provide nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance to the central government of the country, or any funding to facilitate the participation by officials or employees of such central government in educational and cultural exchange programs, before the end of the first fiscal year beginning after such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance; and”.

(b) DEFINITION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended to read as follows:

“(10) NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance’ means United States foreign assistance, other than—

“(i) with respect to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961—

“(I) assistance for international narcotics and law enforcement under chapter 8 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.);

“(II) assistance for International Disaster Assistance under subsections (b) and (c) of section 491 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2292);

“(III) antiterrorism assistance under chapter 8 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2349aa et seq.); and

“(IV) health programs under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.);

“(ii) assistance under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.);

“(iii) assistance under sections 2(a) through (c) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(a)–(c)) to meet refugee and migration needs;

“(iv) any form of United States foreign assistance provided through nongovernmental

organizations, international organizations, or private sector partners—

“(I) to combat human and wildlife trafficking;

“(II) to promote food security;

“(III) to respond to emergencies;

“(IV) to provide humanitarian assistance;

“(V) to address basic human needs, including for education;

“(VI) to advance global health security; or

“(VII) to promote trade;

“(v) any other form of United States foreign assistance that the President determines, by not later than October 1 of each fiscal year, is necessary to advance the security, economic, humanitarian, or global health interests of the United States without compromising the country’s steadfast commitment to combating human trafficking globally; or

“(vi) sales, or financing on any terms, under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), other than sales or financing provided for narcotics-related purposes following notification in accordance with the prior notification procedures applicable to reprogramming pursuant to section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1).

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance’ also excludes payments to, or the participation of, government entities necessary or incidental to the implementation of a program that is otherwise consistent with section 110 of this Act.”.

**SEC. 206. TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSES OF ORGAN HARVESTING.**

Section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

“(I) information about the trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, including cases and steps governments are undertaking to prevent, identify, and eliminate such trafficking.”.

**SEC. 207. ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE REPORTING.**

Sec. 106(b)(6)(C) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act, P.L. 114-26, as added by Sec. 914(e)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act, P.L. 114-125 (19 U.S.C. 4205(b)(6)(C)), is hereby repealed.

**TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS****SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.**

Section 113 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, \$13,822,000” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2028, \$17,000,000”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “To carry out the purposes of sections 106(b) and 107(b),” and inserting “To carry out the purposes of sections 106(b) and 107(b) of this Act and sections 101 and 102 of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023.”; and

(B) by striking “\$19,500,000” and all that follows, and inserting “\$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2028, of which \$5,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated in each fiscal year for the National Human Trafficking Hotline and for cybersecurity

and public education campaigns, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, for identifying and responding as needed to cases of human trafficking.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2018 through 2021, \$65,000,000” and inserting “2024 through 2028, \$116,400,000”;

(4) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) PROGRAMS TO END MODERN SLAVERY.—Of the amounts authorized by paragraph (1) to be appropriated for a fiscal year, not more than \$37,500,000 may be made available to fund programs to end modern slavery.

“(4) PROGRAMS AT THE USAID.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1), \$22,000,000 is authorized to be made available each fiscal year to the United States Agency for International Development, of which \$2,000,000 is authorized to be allocated for countering trafficking in persons from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.”; and

(5) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “2018 through 2021” and inserting “2024 through 2028, of which \$35,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for the Office of Victims of Crime Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking”.

**SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN’S LAW.**

Section 11 of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking “2018 through 2021” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, more than 20 years ago, the U.S. Congress approved and the President signed historic legislation that I authored known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, a comprehensive, whole-of-government initiative to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and around the world.

The TVPA created a bold, new domestic and international antihuman trafficking strategy and established numerous new programs to protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and to the extent possible, prevent human trafficking in the first place—what we call the three Ps.

Though it is hard to believe now, the TVPA was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition—dismissed by

many as a solution in search of a problem. For most people at that time, including some lawmakers, the term “trafficking” applied almost exclusively to drugs and weapons, not to human beings.

Reports of vulnerable persons, especially women and children, being reduced to commodities for sale were often met with surprise, incredulity, or indifference.

The bill was finally signed into law on October 28, 2000, and within a year after enactment, no one was arguing anymore that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s integrated 3Ps strategy—prevention, protection for victims, and prosecution of the traffickers—was flawed, unworkable, unnecessary, or counterproductive.

The TVPA included several sea change criminal code reforms, including treating as a victim—and not a perpetrator of a crime—anyone exploited by a commercial sex act who had not attained the age of 18 and anyone older where there was an element of force, fraud, or coercion.

The TVPA radically reformed the U.S. criminal code to authorize asset confiscation, as well as jail sentences of up to life imprisonment.

Thousands of human traffickers have been prosecuted and jailed pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, including—although he never came to trial—all charges brought against Jeffrey Epstein.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking more than doubled from 2011 to 2021—from 729 persons to 1,672 persons, respectively.

Among its many provisions, the Act also created the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Office, and the annual TIP Report. I encourage my colleagues to look at it and read it, at least when they are traveling, especially, or meeting with delegations from other countries. Read the TIP Report and find out where that country that you are going to visit or whose lawmakers or diplomats you are going to meet, where they stand in terms of what they are doing with regards to trafficking.

It also calls for serious and sustained efforts to eliminate human trafficking. If they don’t, and if they have a really horrific record, they get put on Tier 3 for egregious violators, and they are subject to sanctions.

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Over the years, I have authored four additional laws, including in 2003, 2005, 2016—that was the International Megan’s Law—and in 2019, Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act. We are reauthorizing that and the underlying TVPA today.

Today, the House considers a 5-year reauthorization named after and in

honor of the great abolitionist and civil rights leader, Frederick Douglass.

Special thanks are in order to our original cosponsors, including Chairman McCaul; subcommittee Ranking Member SUSAN WILD; as well as KATHY MANNING, who is managing over on the Democratic side tonight; ANN WAGNER; HENRY CUELLAR; JOE WILSON; Amata Radewagen; and MICHAEL BURGESS, all original cosponsors of the bill.

A special thank you to the extraordinarily talented staffers, including Mary Vigil, to my left, who did an amazing job on this; Janice Kaguyutan; Mary Noonan; Doug Anderson; and survivors Bella Hanoukey and Robert Lung, who also provided tremendous insight.

A heartfelt thanks to the over 20 organizations that have provided insight, recommendations, and have endorsed this legislation.

Terry FitzPatrick, for example, the director of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, a consortium of various groups, has said on behalf of them: The U.S. has the world’s most comprehensive governmental effort to fight human trafficking, and this law is the reason why. It is the blueprint for comprehensive action at home and abroad. Updating and reauthorizing the act is essential to maintaining America’s leadership.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly endorsed the legislation and asked Congress to approve the measure “without further delay.” Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso stated: We must unite to identify and address conditions that lead to human trafficking and promote efforts to prevent it.

A great big thank you to Kenneth Morris. This man is the great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great-great grandson of Booker T. Washington. He runs a group called Family Initiatives, and he has been such a great source and inspiration for this legislation.

He has said that this legislation, named after his ancestor, emphasizes education and resilience as an effective means to prevent human trafficking among children, prevent retrafficking of survivors, and provide support and hope to survivors in their journeys toward self-empowerment.

Mr. Morris goes on to say: In the words of my great-great-great grandfather and the great American abolitionist Fred Douglass: Enslavement is a scourge on humanity. To expose it is to kill it. Slavery is one of those monsters of darkness to whom the light of truth is death. Expose slavery, he goes on to say, and it dies.

He goes on to say: This wisdom is in the form of human trafficking, which is modern-day slavery. Since 2008, he points out that they have helped and trained 60,000 adults and 500,000 children in the skills of keeping themselves safe from harm.

This legislation has provisions in it to make our young people situationally

aware, from elementary and secondary school, so that everyone knows what the traffickers do, how horrible their schemes are, their nefarious organizations, what they do with drugs, and other ways of enticing young people. The next thing you know, they are trafficked and are in modern-day slavery.

Let me also point out that the bill seeks to promote, as I said, situational awareness. It also authorizes survivors’ employment, housing, and education programs. It authorizes a program for housing. One of the things we find is that when a woman or a man—most are women—are liberated, where do they go? They need help. We do have programs in existence. This will redirect some of those funds to help them get a house, a home, so that they are less likely and less vulnerable to being retrafficked.

It makes scalable programs through training of the trainers, in collaboration with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. It encourages the usage of prevention efforts to include accessible, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed approaches for USAID beneficiaries and further incorporates counter-trafficking efforts across our development portfolio.

We know for a fact that it is a problem in developing countries, where sometimes even the peacekeepers engage. I had hearings and worked on it. There was another one the other day that JOHN JAMES chaired about peacekeepers, the fact that sometimes they become the ones who engage in trafficking and abuse young people.

It streamlines statutory language for the Tier 2 Watch List and reauthorizes the Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

There is also language in it about organ harvesting. Last March, we passed legislation to really combat this horrible organ harvesting debacle where, especially in China, they are killing 28-year-olds, the average age, whether it be Falun Gong or Uyghurs, to steal their hearts, lungs, and livers, especially livers. Unfortunately, it is a big business for the Chinese Communist Party, so we put language in this that will be part of the TIP report.

It also reauthorizes the International Megan’s Law. What is that? Back in 1994, a little girl who used to be in my district, Hamilton Township, New Jersey, was killed by a convicted pedophile who was out of prison and lived across the street, who buried her after horribly abusing her.

Every one of our States has a Megan’s law, and they work really well. We found that many of the convicted pedophiles get a passport and travel in child sex tourism.

I wrote a law that took 8 years to get passed. Three times it passed in the House. The Senate did not want to hear about it, but it finally got passed. That said a number of things, including before they travel, these individuals have

to register with the U.S. Government, and we inform the country of destination that they soon will be coming. If they want to say no, you can't come in, that is exactly what happens; they don't get to go to that country.

It is run by the Angel Watch Center. They do a magnificent job and I thank them. The law is working. According to Homeland Security Investigations, HSI, the U.S. Government has notified foreign governments of the planned travel of 27,679 covered sex offenders, and it has not been in effect that long. As of late January, 9,489 individuals convicted of sex crimes against children were denied entry into those nations.

We have taken the secrecy out of traveling, to some extent, and these countries are empowered to say: Look who is coming. You are not getting in to abuse our children.

We also put language in it that allows for stamping the passport to make sure that if they do lie and they get in, it is on the passport that they are a covered sex offender.

Mr. Speaker, I have much more to say, but I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.  
Washington, DC, November 29, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: I write regarding H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5856 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2024.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of

2023, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCaul,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,  
Chairman, Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in matters being considered in H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 5856, the Committee on Education and the Workforce agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions, sections 101 and 102, which fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction.

Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I respectfully request a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5856, as amended, and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee's report to accompany the legislation and/or in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA FOXX,  
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2024.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the  
Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number

of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCaul,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5856. I was proud to help introduce this bipartisan bill alongside my good friend and one of the colleagues with whom I have worked closest with in Congress, Representative CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, as well as my dear friend Representative SUSAN WILD, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Congress has reauthorized this important bill several times, in 2003, 2006, 2008, 2013, and most recently in 2019. This legislation serves as a reminder that Congress has long played and will continue to play a critical role in advancing U.S. interests and global efforts to combat and eliminate human trafficking.

I thank Representative SMITH for having authored the first modern U.S. anti-trafficking bill and its subsequent reauthorizations and for his tireless work fighting to do the right thing to protect those who have been dehumanized by forced labor and sexual exploitation. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and are also proud to partner with him not only in elevating this issue but also in saving lives and protecting vulnerable people around the world, which is what this legislation has done.

Today, we build on the successes and the lessons learned over the last decades. This bill is a 5-year reauthorization of important counter-trafficking programs, and it also modernizes vital prevention, protection, and prosecution tools to eradicate this billion-dollar criminal enterprise and save countless lives from this egregious violation of human rights.

This bill saves lives, and it is a bipartisan cause. It is not about politics. This is about doing the right thing. It is about our common humanity. It is about protecting those who have been subjected to unspeakable crimes.

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act builds on the decades of efforts to combat human trafficking, modernizing prevention, protection, and prosecution tools. This 5-year reauthorization of counter-trafficking programs will be critical for U.S. efforts around the globe to eliminate the human trafficking industry.

I, again, thank my good friend, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for his lifetime of work on this issue. It has made a real difference. This reauthorization will continue to make a difference for years to come by building on the lessons learned since he introduced the

first modern anti-trafficking bill in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5856, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank my good friend and colleague for her efforts. We have worked together on so many human rights issues, including combating anti-Semitism and other important human rights issues and trafficking. She was a star when we had our hearings on this. I thank her for her eloquent defense of the victims, as well as trying to stop the perpetrators of these horrible crimes.

At a congressional hearing—one of the ones I was talking about just now with my good friend and colleague—that I chaired last May, a woman by the name of Gina Cavallo, an amazing, courageous woman from my home State of New Jersey, told us how she suffered unspeakable violence, including rape, beatings, coercive drug abuse, and other torture as her traffickers sold her like a commodity from one buyer to another.

This is only a part of her testimony, but it goes right to the heart of what we are talking about. She testified: “It is so critical that survivors are heard.” She said that the Frederick Douglass Act is a result of listening. We listened to her and other human trafficking victims, and much of what we have here tonight has been informed by their insights.

Gina Cavallo told us that she is a survivor of domestic violence and childhood abuse.

That experience as a child led me to a place where I felt ashamed, unloved, and rejected. It also led me to being trafficked.

Force, fraud, and coercion were all used by someone who pretended to be my friend but ultimately abducted me into being trafficked. For nearly 2 years from the age of 18, I was prostituted and sold to the highest bidder and raped over and over again.

My identity was taken, as I was given a new name. Sleep deprivation, threats of violence, pornography, drugs, and food were all used as punishment and reward, leading to my traffickers taking psychological control over me.

Does this sound like anything that a young person dreams of for their future? Being stripped and robbed of your mind and body, your humanity, your dignity, and respect?

□ 1830

She goes on to say:

I became a commodity to be used for others' gain. But I often blamed myself for my situation because I believed it was my fault.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard this. I know my good friend, Karen, has heard this, as well as other Members in this Chamber. So often the trafficking victims say: Oh, it is my fault.

It is not. They have been coerced, deceived, and drugged often into this terrible, terrible trafficking situation.

She goes on to say:

As a victim, I was taught to distrust family and friends, and, especially, law enforcement. The more they isolated me, the more fear I felt and the more control they gained, which is very intentional.

It took decades for me to identify that I was a victim. I learned through counseling and by my continuous healing journey that what happened to me wasn't my fault.

As a victim, I was left with a lifetime sentence: ruined relationships, addiction, hospital visits, suicide attempts, lack of jobs and education—and also left with shame and fear.

In her testimony, Gina said:

But what you especially can do as lawmakers is to ensure that in every aspect of your work to end trafficking that you put forward measures mandating widespread survivor-informed and trauma-informed training.

She goes on:

We need to create a safer country where people can come forward without stigma to reveal their experiences. No one should feel the double victimization of being trafficked, as well as feeling that they stay silent because of shame, fear, and not feeling safe.

Today, Gina is a brave survivor with an indomitable spirit. She works in coalitions, including the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking and others, and she speaks to many school assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, believe me, when she speaks, those students listen.

In writing the Frederick Douglass Act, we listened to her and others, and we were moved. Of course, it helped us get it right. Again, that situational training is at the core of this particular bill to educate our young people.

I say to all my colleagues that there are curricula out there, and the Frederick Douglass Foundation has curricula. Go to your schools and go to your police departments and say: Please, will you take a look at this and have a day or two or more of training so that the young people of elementary and secondary age, and it also applies to college and higher education, that they know how to defend themselves, and if they see a friend at risk to intervene quickly before the traffickers get them on drugs and hurt them and hurt them severely.

Mr. Speaker, I see we are pretty much out of time, so I urge a “yes” vote on this legislation.

“One of the most important things I tell fellow survivors is, ‘You are not alone,’” said Judge Robert Lung, former Chair of the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. “The TVPRA is your opportunity to tell survivors, ‘You are not alone, you matter and Congress cares.’ Those may be the most life changing and important words spoken in this legislative session. May God continue to bless Congress.”

“I am proud of Congressman SMITH and his staff for drafting H.R. 5856, the *Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023*,” said Bella Hounakey, survivor leader, expert and member of US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. “I feel very empowered and I am convinced that while I can't make a difference alone, I'm renewed and rejoice that there are organizations and politicians like Mr. SMITH who are running towards sur-

vivors, instead of away from them. H.R. 5856 would continue to give voice and space for ethical storytelling to ensure that the public is well informed and prepared to act, and that survivors deserve our undivided attention and support. H.R. 5856 would allow survivors to develop their—our narrative, one that is tailored to the unique needs and sensitivities of our community while continuing to fight trafficking in all its forms.”

“The Frederick Douglass TVPRA of 2023 is essential for maintaining and improving the US response to the heinous crime of human trafficking. As a country we mustn't slow down the critical work we're doing to punish criminals and ensure that those victimized are given access to support and justice.”—Gina Cavallo, Survivor Consultant for New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking

“Human trafficking is a heinous crime that robs individuals of their dignity, freedom, and basic human rights,” said Ashlie Bryant, CEO, 3Strands Global Foundation. “The *Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023* is a critical step in our ongoing efforts to combat modern slavery. By reauthorizing and strengthening the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*, we reaffirm our commitment to preventing trafficking, protecting survivors, and prosecuting perpetrators. This legislation underscores the importance of comprehensive, coordinated efforts to address trafficking both domestically and internationally, reflecting our collective responsibility to uphold human dignity and ensure justice for all.”

“In 2000, Congress passed the groundbreaking *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (TVPA)—the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking,” said Sharon Payt, Vice President of US Corporate and Government Partnerships, International Justice Mission. “In the over two decades since, the anti-trafficking movement has expanded and strengthened with continued, bipartisan leadership from Congress and the US government, including formation of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Reauthorizing the TVPA is an important signal to our global neighbors that the US government remains committed to ending human trafficking. IJM is grateful to Congressman CHRIS SMITH for his persistent dedication to this crucial issue.”

“The US has the world's most comprehensive governmental effort to fight human trafficking, and this law is the reason why,” said Terry FitzPatrick, Director, Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST). “It's the blueprint for comprehensive action at home and abroad. Updating and reauthorizing the act is essential to maintaining America's leadership.”

“Hope for Justice supports the TVPA because of the robust opportunities it provides trafficking survivors to reenter society in a meaningful and deserved way. As a global organization, we are particularly thrilled with the section that addresses fighting human trafficking abroad that would allow for increased opportunity for grant funding, and expansion of prevention efforts internationally. We have seen immense results from our programs globally, and this bill will help organizations like ours continue to impact survivors worldwide. This horrific criminal enterprise has left so many survivors in its wake, and it's time we give them the support they deserve to flourish as they heal.”—Sarah Butler, U.S. Program Director, Hope for Justice

“The Frederick Douglass TVPRA's Employment and Education Program stands as a

proven testament to the transformative impact of second chances for trafficking survivors. With provisions for job training, education, expungement assistance, scholarships, and case management, this initiative stands to positively shape the lives, families, and communities of survivors by offering hope and opportunity after the trauma of human trafficking.”—Tasha Kennard, CEO, Thistle Farms

“Empowering our educators and equipping our youth with the tools to recognize and prevent human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse is not just a moral imperative; it’s a strategic necessity. The Frederick Douglass TVPA bill provides vital resources through grants for prevention education, enabling the frontlines of our education system to get ahead of trafficking before it ensnares another innocent life. This is why The Foundation United is dedicated to this effort and why we vehemently support this bill. Prevention is the only way to get upstream and eradicate this grave human rights violation.”—Elizabeth Fisher Good, CEO, The Foundation United

“The Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act is a flagship piece of human rights legislation, and one that is critical to combat the scourge and horror of human trafficking. Every man, woman, and child is made in the image of God, and every effort to compel or coerce someone into labor or commercial sex is an abomination. The dark underbelly of this global illness must be brought into the light and exposed, so that justice can be applied. It is imperative that the United States be a part of the solution in this area, not the problem.”—Travis Weber, Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs, Family Research Council

“Congressman SMITH’s TVPA has shaped the domestic and international anti-trafficking landscape since 2000 creating empowering programs for survivors and strengthening efforts to prosecute traffickers. Since 2018 his law has been named after my ancestor, Frederick Douglass, thereby emphasizing education and resilience as effective means to prevent human trafficking among children, prevent re-trafficking of survivors, and provide support and hope to survivors in their journeys toward self-empowerment.

In the words of my great-great-great grandfather and the great American abolitionist Frederick Douglass—enslavement is a scourge on humanity that “to expose it is to kill it. Slavery is one of those monsters of darkness to whom the light of truth is death. Expose slavery, and it dies.”

This wisdom holds to today in the form of human trafficking, the modern-day slavery. Since 2008 we have provided anti-trafficking education programming and trained more than 60,000 adults and over 500,000 children teaching them to be aware of human trafficking and learn the skills to keep themselves safe from harm.

It is after all “easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Passage of the Smith/Wild bill will allow us and many other organizations to continue the necessary work of combatting human trafficking and honoring the lives of so many effected by it in the U.S. and abroad.”

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLZEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5856, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5856, as amended, will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Motion to reconsider H. Res. 863; and Adoption of H. Res. 863, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 11, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 41]

YEAS—414

Adams	Cohen	Gomez	Landsman	Nehls	Smith (WA)
Aderholt	Cole	Gonzales, Tony	Langworthy	Newhouse	Smucker
Aguilar	Collins	Gonzalez,	Larsen (WA)	Nickel	Sorensen
Alford	Comer	Vicente	Larson (CT)	Norcross	Soto
Allen	Connolly	Good (VA)	Latta	Nunn (IA)	Spanberger
Allred	Correa	Gooden (TX)	LaTurner	Obernolte	Spartz
Amo	Costa	Gosar	Lawler	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
Amodei	Courtney	Gottheimer	Lee (CA)	Ogles	Stanton
Armstrong	Craig	Granger	Lee (FL)	Omar	Stauber
Arrington	Crane	Graves (LA)	Lee (NV)	Owens	Steel
Auchincloss	Crawford	Graves (MO)	Lee (PA)	Pallone	Stefanik
Babin	Crenshaw	Green (TN)	Leger Fernandez	Palmer	Steil
Bacon	Crockett	Green, Al (TX)	Lesko	Panetta	Steube
Baird	Crow	Griffith	Letlow	Pappas	Stevens
Balderson	Cuellar	Grijalva	Levin	Pascrall	Strickland
Balint	Curtis	Grothman	Lieu	Payne	Strong
Banks	D’Esposito	Guest	Lofgren	Pelosi	Sykes
Barr	Davids (KS)	Guthrie	Loudermilk	Peltola	Takano
Barragán	Davidson	Harder (CA)	Lucas	Pence	Tenney
Bean (FL)	Davis (IL)	Harris	Luetkemeyer	Perez	Thanedar
Beatty	Davis (NC)	Harshbarger	Luna	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Bentz	De La Cruz	Hayes	Luttrell	Pettersen	Thompson (MS)
Bera	Dean (PA)	Hern	Mack	Pfluger	Thompson (PA)
Bergman	DeGette	Higgins (LA)	Mace	Phillips	Tiffany
Beyer	DeLauro	Hill	Magaziner	Pingree	Timmons
Bice	DeBene	Himes	Malliotakis	Pocan	Titus
Biggs	Deluzio	Hinson	Maloy	Porter	Tlaib
Bilirakis	DeSaulnier	Horsford	Mann	Posey	Tokuda
Bishop (GA)	DesJarlais	Houchin	Manning	Pressley	Tonko
Bishop (NC)	Diaz-Balart	Houlihan	Matsui	Quigley	Torres (CA)
Blumenauer	Dingell	Hoyer	McBath	Ramirez	Torres (NY)
Blunt Rochester	Doggett	Hoyle (OR)	McCaul	Raskin	Trahan
Boebert	Donalds	Hudson	McClellan	Reschenthaler	Trone
Bonamici	Duarte	Huffman	McCullum	Rodgers (WA)	Turner
Bost	Duncan	Huizenga	McCormick	Rogers (AL)	Underwood
Bowman	Dunn (FL)	Hunt	McGarvey	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
Boyle (PA)	Edwards	Issa	McGovern	Rose	Van Drew
Brown	Ellzey	Ivey	McHenry	Rouzer	Van Duyne
Brownley	Emmer	Jackson (IL)	Meeks	Ruiz	Van Orden
Buchanan	Escobar	Jackson (NC)	Menendez	Ruppersberger	Vargas
Bucshon	Eshoo	Jackson (TX)	Meng	Rutherford	Vasquez
Budzinski	Espallat	Jackson Lee	Mills	Ryan	Veasey
Burchett	Estes	Jacobs	Molinaro	Salinas	Velázquez
Burgess	Evans	James	Moolenaar	Sánchez	Wagner
Burlison	Ezell	Jayapal	Mooney	Sarbanes	Walberg
Bush	Fallon	Jeffries	Moore (AL)	Miller (WV)	Waltz
Calvert	Feenstra	Johnson (GA)	Moore (UT)	Miller-Meeks	Scanlon
Cammack	Ferguson	Johnson (LA)	Moore (WI)	Scott (VA)	Wasserman
Caraveo	Finstad	Johnson (SD)	Moran	Scott, Austin	Schultz
Carbajal	Fischbach	Jordan	Morelle	Scott, David	Waterson
Cárdenas	Fitzgerald	Joyce (OH)	Moskowitz	Sessions	Williams (GA)
Carey	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (PA)	Moulton	Sewell	Williams (NY)
Carl	Fleischmann	Kammlager-Dove	Mrvan	Sherman	Williams (TX)
Carson	Fletcher	Kaptur	Mullin	Sherrill	Weston
Carter (GA)	Flood	Kean (NJ)	Brecheen	Scott, Austin	Wild
Carter (LA)	Foster	Keating	Buck	Watson Coleman	Watson
Carter (TX)	Foushee	Kelly (IL)	Clyde	McClintock	Weber (TX)
Cartwright	Foxx	Kelly (MS)	Greene (GA)	Norman	Webster (FL)
Casar	Franklin, Scott	Kelly (PA)			Wenstrup
Case	Frost	Khanna			Weston
Casten	Fry	Kiggans (VA)			Williams (SC)
Castor (FL)	Fulcher	Kildee			Wittman
Castro (TX)	Gaetz	Kiley			Womack
Chavez-DeRemer	Gallagher	Kilmer			Yakym
Cherifius-McCormick	Gallego	Kim (CA)			Zinke
Ciscomani	Garbarino	Kim (NJ)			
Clark (MA)	Garcia (IL)	Krishnamoorthi			
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	Kuster			
Cleaver	Garcia, Mike	Kustoff			
Cline	Garcia, Robert	LaHood			
Cloud	Gimenez	LaLota			
Clyburn	Golden (ME)	LaMalfa			
	Goldman (NY)	Lamborn			

NAYS—11

Chu	Garamendi	Perry
Frankel, Lois	Mast	Salazar

□ 1902

Mr. ROSENDALE, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. SELF changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER ON H.  
RES. 863, IMPEACHING  
ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS  
MAYORKAS, SECRETARY OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR HIGH  
CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to reconsider on the resolution (H. Res. 863) impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to reconsider the vote on adoption of H. Res. 863.

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 216, nays 211, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

YEAS—216

Aderholt	Feenstra	Latta	Cartwright	Kelly (IL)	Schnakowsky	Ecc	Guthrie	Owens
Alford	Ferguson	LaTurner	Casar	Khanna	Schiff	Biggs	Palmer	Palmer
Allen	Finstad	Lawler	Case	Kildee	Schneider	Bilirakis	Hageman	Pence
Amodei	Fischbach	Lee (FL)	Casten	Kilmer	Scholten	Bishop (NC)	Harris	Perry
Armstrong	Fitzgerald	Lesko	Castor (FL)	Kim (NJ)	Schrier	Boebert	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Arrington	Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Castro (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)	Bost	Hern	Posey
Babin	Fleischmann	Loudermilk	Cherifius	Kuster	Scott, David	Brecheen	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler
Bacon	Flood	Lucas	McCormick	Landsman	Sewell	Buchanan	Hill	Rodgers (WA)
Baird	Foxx	Luetkemeyer	Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Sherman	Bucshon	Hinson	Rogers (AL)
Balderson	Franklin, Scott	Luna	Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Sherrill	Burchett	Houchin	Rogers (KY)
Banks	Fry	Luttrell	Cleaver	Lee (CA)	Slotkin	Burgess	Hudson	Rose
Barr	Fulcher	Mace	Clyburn	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)	Burlison	Hiuzenga	Rosendale
Bean (FL)	Gaetz	Malliotakis	Cohen	Smith (PA)	Sorensen	Calvert	Hunt	Rouzer
Bentz	Gallagher	Maloy	Connolly	Leger Fernandez	Soto	Carey	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Bergman	Garbarino	Mann	Correa	Levin	Spanberger	Carl	James	Rutherford
Bice	Garcia, Mike	Massie	Costa	Lieu	Stansbury	Carter (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Biggs	Gimenez	McCaull	Courtney	Lofgren	Stanton	Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Schweikert
Bilirakis	Gonzales, Tony	McClain	Craig	Lynch	Stevens	Chavez-DeRemer	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Bishop (NC)	Good (VA)	McCormick	Crockett	Magaziner	Strickland	Ciscomani	Joyce (OH)	Self
Boebert	Gooden (TX)	McHenry	Crow	Manning	Swalwell	Cline	Joyce (PA)	Sessions
Bost	Gosar	Meuser	Cuellar	Matsui	Sykes	Cloud	Kean (NJ)	Simpson
Brecheen	Granger	Miller (IL)	Davids (KS)	McBath	Takano	Clyde	Kelly (MS)	Smith (MO)
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Miller (OH)	Davis (IL)	McClellan	Thanedar	Cole	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NE)
Buck	Graves (MO)	Miller (WV)	Davis (NC)	McClintock	Thompson (CA)	Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NJ)
Bucshon	Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks	Dean (PA)	McCollum	Thompson (MS)	Comer	Kiley	Smucker
Burchett	Greene (GA)	Mills	DeGette	McGarvey	Titus	Crane	Kim (CA)	Spartz
Burgess	Griffith	Molinaro	DeLauro	McGovern	Tlaib	Crawford	Kustoff	Stauber
Burlison	Grothman	Moolenaar	DelBene	Meeks	Tokuda	Crenshaw	LaHood	Steel
Calvert	Guest	Mooney	Deluzio	Menendez	Tonko	Curtis	LaLota	Stefanik
Cammack	Guthrie	Moore (AL)	DeSaulnier	Meng	Torres (CA)	D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Steil
Carey	Hageman	Moore (UT)	Dingell	Mfume	Torres (NY)	Davidson	Lamborn	Steube
Carl	Harris	Moran	Doggett	Moore (WI)	Trahan	De La Cruz	Langworthy	Strong
Carter (GA)	Harshbarger	Murphy	Escobar	Morelle	Trone	DesJarlais	Latta	Tenney
Carter (TX)	Hern	Nehls	Eshoo	Moskowitz	Underwood	Diaz-Balart	LaTurner	Thompson (PA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Higgins (LA)	Newhouse	Espaillat	Moulton	Vargas	Donalds	Lawler	Tiffany
Ciscomani	Hill	Norman	Evans	Mrvan	Vargas	Duarte	Lee (FL)	Timmons
Cline	Hinson	Nunn (IA)	Fletcher	Mullin	Vasquez	Watson	Lesko	Turner
Cloud	Houchin	Obernolte	Foster	Nadler	Velázquez	Coleman	Crane	Letlow
Clyde	Hudson	Ogles	Foushee	Napolitano	Wasserman	Estes	Dunn (FL)	Valadao
Cole	Huizenga	Owens	Frost	Neal	Schultz	Ezell	Loudermilk	Van Drew
Collins	Hunt	Palmer	Gallego	Neguse	Waters	Ferguson	Lucas	Van Duyne
Comer	Issa	Pence	Garamendi	Nickel	Watson	Emmer	Luetkemeyer	Van Orden
Crane	Jackson (TX)	Perry	Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Coleman	Emmer	Fox	Wagner
Crawford	James	Pfluger	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wexton	Luna	McCaul	Walberg
Crenshaw	Johnson (LA)	Posey	Garcia, Robert	Omar	Wild	Fitzgerald	Fitzpatrick	Waltz
Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Reschenthaler	Golden (ME)	Pallone	Williams (GA)	Fleischmann	McClain	Weber (TX)
D'Esposito	Jordan	Rodgers (WA)	Goldman (NY)	Panetta	Wilson (FL)	Finstad	McCormick	Webster (FL)
Davidson	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (AL)				Fischbach	Malliotakis	Wenstrup
De La Cruz	Joyce (PA)	Rogers (KY)				Fitzgerald	McHenry	Westerman
DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)	Rose				Fox	Maloy	Williams (NY)
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Rosendale				Flood	Meuser	Williams (TX)
Donalds	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer				Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)	Wilson (SC)
Duarte	Kiggans (VA)	Roy				Fry	Miller (OH)	Wittman
Duncan	Kiley	Rutherford				Fulcher	Miller (WV)	Yakym
Dunn (FL)	Kim (CA)	Scalise						Zinke
Edwards	Kustoff	Schweikert						
Ellzey	LaHood	Scott, Austin						
Emmer	LaLota	Self						
Estes	LaMalfa	Sessions						
Ezell	Lamborn	Simpson						
Fallon	Langworthy	Smith (MO)						
NOT VOTING—4								
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE								
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.								
NAYS—213								
□ 1909								
So the motion to reconsider was agreed to.								
Adams	Amo							
Aguilar	Auchincloss							
Allred	Balint							
Balint	Bera							

1909

□ 1909

NAYS—213

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.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.  
The SPEAKER pro tempore. This

will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-

vice, and there were—yeas 214, nays 213, not voting 4, as follows:

[ROLL NO. 43]

YEAS—214

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

## NOT VOTING—4

Chu  
Frankel, Lois

Mast  
Salazar

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1916

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

APPOINTING AND AUTHORIZING  
MANAGERS FOR THE IMPEACHMENT  
TRIAL OF ALEJANDRO  
NICHOLAS MAYORKAS, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 2(a) of H. Res. 996, H. Res. 995 is hereby adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 995

*Resolved*, That Mr. Green of Tennessee, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Cline, Mr. Guest, Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Greene of Georgia, Mr. Pfluger, Ms. Hageman, and Ms. Lee of Florida, are appointed managers to conduct the impeachment trial against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, that a message be sent to the Senate to inform the Senate of these appointments, and that the managers so appointed may, in connection with the preparation and the conduct of the trial, exhibit the articles of impeachment to the Senate and take all other actions necessary, which may include the following:

(1) Employing legal, clerical, and other necessary assistants and incurring such other expenses as may be necessary, to be paid from amounts available to the Committee on Homeland Security under applicable expense resolutions or from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

(2) Sending for persons and papers, and filing with the Secretary of the Senate, on the part of the House of Representatives, any pleadings, in conjunction with or subsequent to, the exhibition of the articles of impeachment that the managers consider necessary.

## REMEMBERING RICH KELLEY

(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 remember the life of Rich Kelley of Centre County.

Rich was a tireless advocate for emergency services in Centre County, and he never wavered on his dedication to helping others. Rich joined Mount Nittany Health System in 1991, working his way up to EMS manager and is responsible for the significant development and growth of the department and EMS in the region.

Over the years, he also served as Centre County coroner, executive director of Bellefonte EMS, assistant manager of Centre LifeLink EMS, and was a flight paramedic for Geisinger Life Flight.

He was active in fire service, having served as a volunteer for the Undine, my own home department of Howard, and the Logan Fire Departments, where our paths crossed. I consider Rich and his wife, Teresa, dear friends, and his passing is a tragic loss.

His contagious personality and cheerful sense of humor will be missed across Centre County for years to come. Scripture in 1 Thessalonians instructs us with these words:

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

Rich Kelley lived his life dedicated to service and caring for others in a way that brought hope to so many. Let us find peace having known Rich Kelley.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS MAKE  
BORDER CRISIS WORSE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how House Republicans make the border crisis worse to harm America.

Last week, they failed in their political stunt to impeach Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. There was no reason at all to do this in the first place. Then they failed to pass an appropriations bill because they did not include border security funding.

Let's be honest. Republicans are not interested in border security. Their master, Donald Trump, told them to do nothing so he could use it as an election ploy. Consequently, they are allowing more undocumented immigrants to enter this country, and they are allowing dangerous fentanyl and other drugs to threaten the lives of Americans. They do it so they can kiss the feet of their boss and fearless leader.

They are robbing resources and funding from hardworking Americans to do it. It is an example of cowardice that has no equal in American history.

HONORING DEPUTY GREG  
MCCOWAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true American hero who gave his life while keeping my community safe.

On Thursday, February 8, a violent criminal opened fire during a traffic stop. He put Blount County Deputy Shelby Eggers in the hospital and killed Deputy Greg McCowan who was 43 years old.

McCowan was known for being a loving man and a brave officer. His family was the light of his life, Mr. Speaker, and he loved them dearly.

His fellow deputies knew they could count on McCowan when he was serving alongside them. One of his colleagues described him as one of those guys you always wanted on your side. In 2021, he received the Sheriff's Office Lifesaving Award for rescuing a man from a burning vehicle.

I give my sincere condolences and prayers of healing to Greg's parents, Dallas, Elizabeth, and Jeff; his fiancee, Leah; his children, Cayley and Cayden; Leah's children, Caven and Jacob; his sister, Charity; and everyone else who knew and loved him.

I also thank a very good friend of mine, Blount County Sheriff James "Jimbo" Berrong for his leadership through this tragedy.

He is a good friend of mine, and I know he has been working so hard to

take care of his department and deal with this incredible loss.

Earlier today, they caught the murderer, and it was due to east Tennessee law enforcement's tireless work to bring him to justice.

We can never forget exactly how much our law enforcement sacrifices to keep us safe every day, Mr. Speaker. My prayer is that this never happens to any of your communities.

#### REMEMBERING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MSU SHOOTING

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the first anniversary of the shooting at Michigan State University that took the lives of Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser, and Alexandria Verner, and physically injured five others.

I spent today's anniversary on campus in East Lansing, where I saw firsthand how the pain and trauma of that terrible day continues to reverberate throughout the Spartan community.

I was heartened to see so many people turn their emotions into action through the day of service activities offered at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center and International Center.

As the first Member of Congress that we can find who has faced two school shootings, both at MSU and Oxford High School, I know too well how these events rip a hole in the lives of the community, one that remains long beyond the headlines.

A place that is burned into my brain is the place I spent the night that evening a year ago—the East Lansing Police Department—as the hours-long manhunt went on. It seemed fitting to go back today to thank them, the fire department, and the first responders.

We have responded in Michigan. In response to the MSU shooting, the Michigan legislature stepped up and passed the most robust and comprehensive gun safety legislation in our history.

In our courts, we just recently convicted the mother of the shooter in the Oxford High School shooting. We are setting an example of how to respond when our kids are crying out for leadership.

#### HONORING PAUL HAMILTON PLOEGER

(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 in remembrance of Paul Hamilton Ploeger. Paul grew up in Darien, Georgia, before moving to Brunswick where he finished high school at Glynn Academy.

Following graduation in 1960, he was commissioned as an ensign in the

United States Navy, and he was stationed in many different States across the country.

After serving in the Navy, Paul, his wife, Carole, and his children moved to South Carolina where he worked as an engineer and systems analyst for Allied Chemical in Irmo.

In 1975, Paul moved back to Georgia where he worked for the American National Bank in Brunswick and then began his association with Southeastern Bank in Darien in 1983 until his retirement in 2005.

Paul was a devoted member of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society and the Brunswick Kiwanis Club where he participated in projects to better the lives of children in the community. He also volunteered his time as a mentor for middle school students.

Paul will be missed by all, and I send my condolences to his family.

#### OFFSHORING JOBS AND OUR PRODUCTIVE WEALTH

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, why does our country have a budget deficit? Answer: Because America over the last three decades has been offshoring jobs and our productive wealth.

The people of Ohio and the industrial Midwest overwhelmingly oppose ill-conceived foreign trade deals that have harmed millions of them.

The harm began in 1993 when NAFTA was enacted. It deepened in 1994 when we joined the World Trade Organization, and the bottom dropped out in 2000 when the U.S. helped China get WTO benefits without trade reciprocity. Math tells the rest.

Our trade deficit with the world racked up to \$15 trillion since 1994, as our real wealth drained out. American manufacturing plunged by a third from 370,000 facilities in 1992 to 250,000 in 2017. From 1993 to 2024, we lost 5.6 million manufacturing jobs.

NAFTA, moreover, hurt our neighbors just as much. It stimulated massive undocumented immigration from Mexico and Latin America. The pact pitted millions of unsubsidized Mexican white corn farmers against subsidized U.S. yellow corn.

What America makes and grows, makes and grows America. Our challenge is to stay the course of small business creation and investment right here in the USA.

#### TOURING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(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, every State in our country has been negatively impacted by the Biden administration's wide-open border policies.

Last week, I traveled to Cochise County, Arizona, with the Congress-

ional Western Caucus and the Committee on Natural Resources to tour our southern border and discuss President Biden's border policy and how it is affecting our Federal lands and parks.

While in Arizona, my colleague, Representative TOM TIFFANY, and I decided to follow up on the story that James O'Keefe had exposed that alleged the Casa Alitas Ramada hotel in Tucson was housing illegal immigrants at taxpayer expense.

Congress has the right, of course, to exercise oversight, as Federal funds prop up these locations and nongovernment organizations, known as NGOs, that are secretly housing these illegals, and Congress has a right to see how American tax dollars are being spent. We have that accountability.

Instead, we were denied access to even the parking lot, given no information, and they even called the sheriff's office on us.

We will be back. Congress must immediately investigate and hold onsite hearings and get down to the bottom of this.

These NGOs that wrap themselves in charity and in religion, in some cases, are making a lot of money off this and are actually undermining the security of our country by trying to move people as fast as they can into this process.

These NGOs must publicly testify before Congress, and more importantly, the American public, about how our tax dollars are being used and what for.

#### BURN FITNESS COMPETITION

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise from this Chamber here in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize 44 days of fitness that has taken place in a humble and independent gym called Burn Fitness.

For 44 days, incredible people from across Oakland County have been participating in a fitness competition, engaging in spirited activities and spirited training, and I have been so pleased to be a part of that competition.

We say all the time here in Congress as your Representative that we are really representing the best of Michigan.

While I cannot be with you all tomorrow for the 45th day of this competition, please know that I am rooting for Sweet Caroline. I am rooting for her great final workout, and I know that she will make us all proud.

#### HONORING THE LIVES OF FIVE U.S. MARINES

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

Mrs. KIGGANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of five United

States Marines lost in an H-53 helicopter crash in San Diego, California, last week.

These young men embodied what it means to be military pilots and U.S. Marines. As aviators, we know that risks, even during routine training missions, are part of the job. Our Nation will be forever indebted for their sacrifice.

Captain Jack Casey was a 2019 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute from Dover, New Hampshire. He was 26.

Captain Miguel Nava was a United States Naval Academy graduate from Traverse City, Michigan. He was 28.

Captain Benjamin Moulton was from Emmett, Idaho. He was 27.

Lance Corporal Donovan Davis was from Olathe, Kansas. He was 21.

Sergeant Alec Langen was from Chandler, Arizona. He was 23.

These five marines will forever be remembered in the military aviation community. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers. We are eternally grateful for their service and sacrifice to our great Nation.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2024 theme—African Americans and the Arts.

This theme reflects on the important work of the African-American artists who preserve history, enrich communities, and create empowerment through the visual and performing arts.

Throughout the years, northwest Indiana has been home to many such noteworthy and inspiring art-based organizations, including the West Side Theater Guild, Marshall J. Gardener Center for the Arts, the Glen Theater, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, the Gary Theater Ensemble, and the Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the countless African-American artists in northwest Indiana and across our country for their profound passion, creativity, and perseverance to enrich our culture and our quality of life.

#### GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Not even a week after my Republican colleagues failed to advance their unconstitutional impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas, House Republicans again put critical House business on hold while they wasted precious time on another meaningless impeachment vote.

Mr. Speaker, the list of things this House majority has ignored is long and only getting longer. House Republicans have failed to pass the key bills needed to avoid a government shutdown in March.

Congress still needs to reauthorize the FAA bill to improve air travel and safety. We need to reauthorize FISA to bolster our national security.

House Republicans need to provide critical military aid to our allies in Ukraine and Israel, and the civilians in Gaza and Ukraine need lifesaving humanitarian aid as soon as possible.

House Republicans can't pass or haven't passed any of these critical bills. I am calling on my House Republican colleagues to get serious and to let us get back to doing the work the American people need us to get done.

#### HONORING MAYOR IRMA ANDERSON

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mayor Irma Anderson, a trailblazing leader within Contra Costa County.

Mayor Anderson, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy as mayor, nurse, and community advocate.

After working for the Contra Costa County Health Department for 20 years, Mayor Anderson's commitment to service led her to make history as the first Black woman to serve as a Richmond City Councilmember and the first Black woman to be elected mayor of a major California city.

Mayor Anderson's career in public service was characterized by her spirit for advocacy and commitment to giving voice to the underrepresented.

She developed a historic partnership with the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Mayor Anderson will be remembered for her decades of service to Contra Costa County and her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Mayor Anderson's loved ones who are here in the room today. I know they and the people of Contra Costa County will join us in celebrating her life and legacy.

#### LET'S DO OUR JOB

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me pay tribute to the Congressional Black Caucus and the managers tonight for honoring Black History Month. I look forward to participating this month of February to honor the great history and excellence of African Americans.

At this time, I call upon Speaker JOHNSON to do his work. There is a \$60

billion bill that will help us fund the desperate people of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, and Taiwan and be able to help the Palestinian families.

It has already been voted on in the early hours of this morning from the Senate. Let the House do its job, do its will. Let us vote.

Mr. Speaker, 300 of us will vote to push that legislation forward, yet tonight, we did a foolish thing, and that is to pass an impeachment of a very qualified and effective Secretary of Homeland Security.

Do your job, Mr. Secretary. Do not be impacted, Secretary Mayorkas, by this false attempt to diminish you.

Help us as we work toward making the border safe, and that is the way we do it, by doing our job, and also passing also the funding bill that has been put forward.

I ask my colleagues: Let's do our job.

#### EFFORTS TOWARD A VIBRANT FUTURE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, eastern North Carolina's resilience and potential have drawn national leaders' attention.

Recently, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland visited the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. We are grateful for her presence and the announcement of \$1.4 million for the Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk renovation.

This investment reflects our collective efforts toward a vibrant future for eastern North Carolina. Let's continue working together to ensure the voices and needs of Tyrrell County and the East are heard and addressed nationally.

□ 1945

#### EVOLUTION OF BLACK EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUNT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the evolution of Black excellence throughout history, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all of America.

As we celebrate the evolution of Black excellence, I rise today to pay homage to the significant events and trailblazers who played a central role in shaping south Florida's history. In Fort Lauderdale, you can find the historic Sistrunk neighborhood—what we have known to be the heart and soul of the city. Since the very beginning, this vibrant and beloved neighborhood has been the epicenter of Broward County's Black culture and heritage.

Sistrunk's early days can be traced back to the individuals from Georgia, South Carolina, and the Bahamas who migrated to the region. Some of the neighborhood's earliest inhabitants were railroad workers who resided in shanties prior to the beginning of the 20th century.

After the railroad tracks were finalized, some workers found other employment and became Fort Lauderdale residents once the city was officially incorporated in 1911.

If you take a trip down to this neighborhood, you will find yourself on Sistrunk Boulevard, which is named after the trailblazer who changed the trajectory of our region for the better.

Born in 1891, Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk is a pioneer to whom our community owes a debt of gratitude.

He graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Sistrunk later served his Nation in World War I before relocating to Dunnellon to practice medicine. He later moved to Fort Lauderdale.

Despite being a qualified surgeon, the color of his skin prevented him from working in White hospitals.

In 1938, he joined Dr. Von D. Mizell to establish Fort Lauderdale's first medical facility to treat Black patients, Provident Hospital. It opened after a farm truck carrying dozens of Black workers overturned near a Whites-only hospital. The workers were told that they could only receive treatment outside. Once again, let me repeat that. The Black workers could only receive treatment outside.

During his 44 years of practice, Dr. Sistrunk delivered over 5,000 babies. Throughout Broward County, Dr. Sistrunk would tend to patients in their homes and assist those who were financially strained. After the desegregation of public hospitals, Dr. Sistrunk became an active member of Broward General Hospital.

This summer, I visited the Holy Cross Health Center located at the L.A. Lee YMCA /Mizell Community Center. It sits on historic land where Provident Hospital once stood and is building on its legacy in providing accessible healthcare.

As we celebrate Black excellence, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr.

James Franklin Sistrunk, who transformed the health of Broward County in more ways than one.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership in this Congress on these important Special Order hours that the CBC has been involved in. She has done an exemplary job in making sure she is able to rally the cattle and keep them in order, and I just wanted to acknowledge that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the evolution of Black excellence during Black History Month.

I have said on this floor that the African American story is the greatest success story in our country's history, and we are here to highlight some of those many examples of that success.

First, I want to discuss why it is important to have this discussion. Black excellence is a term born out of the difficulties Black Americans have faced since the very beginning. It is a term that helps change the historical perception of Blacks in America, and it focuses on the millions of Black Americans that have helped change that perspective.

Since the first Africans set foot on American soil, we have fought for everything that we have in this country. First, we had to fight for the right to be considered people. Then we had to fight to make sure the promises of the Constitution applied to us. We are still fighting those fights every single day.

In essence, Black excellence is not a series of actions, it is a state of being that evolved from struggle. It is a response to critics, and it is a mantra that reminds millions of Black children and teens that there are doors open to them that were closed to their ancestors.

Usually Black history and Black excellence focuses on the most famous Black Americans, like Frederick Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King, Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Owens, Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan, and Oprah Winfrey. However, history is filled with Black Americans who need to be recognized more often. Americans like Bayard Rustin, who organized the March on Washington. Bessie Coleman, the world's first licensed Black pilot. Alice Coachman, the first Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Benjamin Davis, Sr., the first Black General in the U.S. Army. Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. Frederick McKinley Jones, a Black inventor who made it possible to transport blood and donated organs across this country. His invention alone saved tens of thousands of lives.

Today, Black Americans carry on their tradition of excellence in a variety of fields and professions. Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett helped create a COVID-19 vaccine. Victor Glover was the first Black astronaut to live and work at the International Space Sta-

tion for an extended period of time. Rashida Jones is the president of MSNBC and is the first Black executive to run a major news network.

Brian Stephenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has helped hundreds of wrongfully-convicted Americans get the justice and freedom they deserve. Tristan Walker cofounded an organization to help minority students get jobs with the country's leading technology firms.

Today's Congressional Black Caucus is filled with political leaders who have triumphed over adversity. Their stories are exceptional examples of Black excellence. Yet, these Black Americans are only a few of the millions who have worked to help our communities and our country every day. Their work inspires African-American school children everywhere to find their own means to achieve Black excellence.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK for diligently holding the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. I don't know what we would do without her.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to participate in this evening's Special Order hour celebrating the evolution of Black excellence throughout history. The stories and triumphs of Black Americans deserve to be commemorated all year long, but especially during Black History Month.

The legacies of the men and women who shaped this Nation's history impact our daily lives in countless ways. It is my honor to take just a few moments to share highlights from the communities that I am proud to represent.

I grew up in the heart of the civil rights movement. I was the baby in the stroller at the March on Washington. My father was the president of the Illinois chapter of the NAACP, and my mother was a nurse. My parents' teachings and example made such a strong impression on me even as a little girl. Some of my fondest memories were watching them direct meetings in our home and prepare for marches while caring for and lifting up each and every person that they interacted with. As the daughter of civil rights leaders, I know how hard-fought our freedoms are.

In Georgia, we proudly claim two of this Nation's most prominent civil rights leaders: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the great Congressman John Lewis, whose presence and influence this legislative body misses every single day. Georgia's legacy of Black excellence extends far beyond Atlanta and reaches every corner of our State in a multitude of ways.

In my district, Georgia's Seventh Congressional District, I am proud of the incredible transformation in Black

history that has taken place over the last 200 years. In Gwinnett County, Salem Missionary Baptist Church was founded in Lilburn around 1834, when slaves constructed a meeting place to gather and worship.

Three decades later, Hopewell Baptist Church was founded by freed slaves. The original building was destroyed in a fire in 1920, but its congregation continued to grow. The current church building was dedicated in 1993.

In the early 1920s, entrepreneur Robert Livsey purchased the Maguire-Livsey House, a former plantation in South Gwinnett, and dubbed it “The Promised Land.” As the decades passed, this property became a thriving farm and Black business hub in the region, bringing a sense of independence and empowerment for the local Black community.

In Lawrenceville, the Hooper-Renwick School was the only Black public high school in Gwinnett County until the end of school segregation. The Hooper-Renwick School merged with the Gwinnett County school system in the 1960s. Plans are currently underway to transition this building into a library and Black History Museum.

In Johns Creek, the Macedonia Cemetery is a historical site of deep local significance. It is the resting place of dozens of enslaved individuals and their descendants.

Black Americans continue to excel and reach new heights through the leadership of notable figures in our community, whether it be in education, medicine, government, science, technology, sports, or fine arts.

□ 2000

Other history-makers in my district, such as Beauty Baldwin, was one of the first Black teachers at Central Gwinnett High School. She later served as the State’s first Black female school superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, Baldwin Elementary and the Gwinnett Voter Registration and Elections buildings are named in her honor.

Everton Blair made history by becoming the youngest person and the first Black and LGBTQ+ person ever elected to the Gwinnett School Board. He graduated from Shiloh High School and Harvard University and was a policy fellow in the Obama administration.

Nicole Love Hendrickson is the first African American and the third woman to serve as Gwinnett County’s chair. Hendrickson has issued proclamations celebrating Juneteenth and, for the first time in Gwinnett’s history, acknowledging the 1911 lynching of Charles Hale in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Gwinnett County District 3 Commissioner Jasper Watkins is the first African American in the Armed Forces in the State of Florida to achieve board certification with the American Soci-

ety of Health-System Pharmacists’ Nuclear Pharmacy Residency Program.

This region’s athletes and entertainers include Alvin Kamara, a Norcross native and running back for the New Orleans Saints; George Rogers, a Duluth native and Heisman Trophy winner; and Ezzard Charles, a Lawrenceville native who is widely regarded as the greatest light heavyweight boxer of all time.

Migos, an American hip-hop trio composed of rappers Quavo, Offset, and Takeoff, was founded out of Lawrenceville in 2008. I was privileged to work with Quavo in my work to end gun violence following the tragic death of Takeoff in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I hope it is clear just how rich and diverse the history of Black Americans in my district truly is. Each and every day, men and women are making a tremendous impact and shaping the future of our growing community. As their congresswoman, I am committed to doing my part to protect the rights that have brought us this far and advancing the progress that Black Americans continue to make every single day in America. I will march on until victory is won.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. McBATH for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Representative for yielding and allowing me to participate in celebrating Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, this week, I will be introducing the Frederick Douglass Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would honor Frederick Douglass with a long overdue expression of appreciation and celebrate his legacy with a Congressional Gold Medal.

I am proud to offer this bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Congressman ANDY HARRIS, whose district includes the historic birthplace of Mr. Douglass.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 130 years since his passing, Frederick Douglass’ remarkable life remains a beacon of inspiration to all Americans.

Born into slavery on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Mr. Douglass overcame countless obstacles to become one of the most powerful and impactful figures in 19th century America.

Douglass was enslaved for the first two decades of his life. During this period, he taught himself to read and write, skills which would later play a critical role in his life as an abolitionist and civil rights leader.

In his twenties, Douglass escaped slavery, first to New York and then eventually settling in Massachusetts. Douglass dedicated the remainder of his life to furthering the cause of freedom for others in America.

Beginning in the 1840s, Douglass became active in the abolitionist movement, often utilizing his profound oratory and writing skills to captivate and inform his audiences.

As a writer and publisher, Frederick Douglass used the power of his written works to document the cruelty of slavery and push for abolition. He was the publisher of The North Star, a newspaper that he authored, and multiple autobiographies in which he shared the brutality of his enslavement in Maryland.

Douglass exposed the oppression of enslaved Americans, speaking powerfully at abolition conventions and meetings with civic leaders.

In 1852, Douglass delivered his famous Fourth of July address in Rochester, New York. In his speech, Douglass asked the question: What to the slave is the Fourth of July? While commending the ideals of the Founding Fathers, he also noted the hypocrisy of such ideals in relation to the treatment of enslaved Americans as he had been.

Perhaps some of Douglass’ most impactful achievements came as our Nation was torn apart by the Civil War. Douglass was a key advocate in ensuring that the Civil War brought about the end of slavery in the United States.

As the war began, Douglass recruited African-American men to join the Union Army, including his own sons.

After the war, he fought for equal pay and equal treatment for African-American soldiers. This advocacy included several meetings with President Abraham Lincoln at the White House, to whom Douglass became a trusted confidant.

After the war, Douglass continued his work as a dedicated fighter for equality and the extension of the rights of the U.S. Constitution to all Americans. He was a prominent and powerful advocate for the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments.

One of his most powerful postwar moments came in 1876 at the dedication of the Emancipation Memorial here in Lincoln Park in Washington, D.C., where Douglass delivered the keynote address.

Later in his life, Douglass was also a public servant. He was appointed to several influential government posts, including U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia, Recorder of Deeds, and Minister to Haiti.

Frederick Douglass dedicated his life to furthering the cause of freedom in the United States. Few Americans have shaped our Nation so profoundly and permanently as Frederick Douglass. To this very day, Douglass’ message and principles remain a guiding light for our country as we continue to seek fulfillment of our Nation’s promise and potential for justice and equality.

Although the immeasurable impact of Frederick Douglass elevated him to the pantheon of some of the greatest Americans, he has never received a proper, official commendation from Congress for his contributions to our Nation.

If awarded, Douglass’ medal would be displayed at the National Museum of

African American History and Culture right here in Washington, D.C., where Americans can view the medal and learn more about Douglass' legacy.

It is long past time for Congress to bestow this honor upon an American whose indelible impact is still felt today and will continue to be felt for generations to come. Therefore, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

**Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.** Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black history, I rise today to recognize the cornerstone of Black achievement in America: historically Black colleges and universities, known as HBCUs.

As a proud alumna of Howard University, proud wife of a Howard Law graduate, and proud mother of a Howard University student, I speak from personal experience when I say that HBCUs have the transformative power to shape the leaders of tomorrow. HBCUs have a long and illustrious history deeply intertwined with the struggle for civil rights and the fight for equality.

From their inception during the era of segregation to the present day, these institutions have remained safe havens where Black scholars, in spite of systemic barriers, can flourish intellectually, academically, and culturally.

My own journey to Congress, firmly rooted in the halls of Howard University, is a testament to the power of an HBCU education.

It was at Howard University that I received not only a world-class education but also absorbed the values of community, service, and social justice.

It was at Howard University that I witnessed how education can be a catalyst for change and help others realize the American Dream.

HBCUs have generated half of the Black lawyers, 40 percent of Black engineers, 80 percent of Black judges, and 70 percent of Black doctors nationwide. They graduate 27 percent of Black Americans with bachelor's degrees in STEM subjects, putting them at the forefront of innovation.

These figures demonstrate the undeniable impact of HBCUs in nurturing talent, fostering academic excellence, and empowering Black students to realize their fullest potential.

However, HBCUs are significant for reasons far beyond academics. They are focal points for the preservation of culture, where a rich legacy and history of the Black community are honored.

HBCUs serve as catalysts for economic empowerment, providing disenfranchised groups with upward mobility.

As we reflect on the importance of HBCUs, let us not forget the ongoing challenges they face. Despite their contributions, HBCUs grapple with inadequate funding and crumbling infrastructures.

It is incumbent upon us all, as advocates for equality and stewards of education, to ensure that HBCUs receive the support they need to continue

shaping future leaders. I am grateful that the Biden-Harris administration has invested over \$7 billion in HBCUs, unlocking opportunities for millions of Americans.

HBCUs represent the very best of Black excellence. We can all draw inspiration from the unwavering resilience that underpins these institutions.

Their steadfast commitment to equality and greatness inspires us all to tear down barriers and build a future where everyone may openly follow their ambition, regardless of the color of their skin.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we have heard from my distinguished colleagues about the evolution of Black excellence throughout history an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on February 8, 2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

**H.R. 1568.** To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 14, 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-3098.** A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the "Annual Report to the Congress on the Presidential \$1 Coin Program", pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(3)(B); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 109-145, Sec. 104); (119 Stat. 2670); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3099.** A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Community Reinvestment Act (RIN: 3064-AF81) received February 7, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3100.** A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — FDIC Official Signs and Advertising Requirements, False Advertising, Misrepresentation of Insured Status, and Misuse of the FDIC's Name or Logo (RIN: 3064-AF26) received January 31, 2024,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3101.** A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Beneficial Ownership Information Access and Safeguards (RIN: 1506-AB59) received January 31, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3102.** A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Special Purpose Acquisition Companies, Shell Companies, and Projections [Release Nos.: 33-11265; 34-99418; IC-35096; File No. S7-13-22] (RIN: 3235-AM90) received February 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3103.** A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, Certification Procedures, Ability To Benefit (ATB) (RIN: 1840-AD51, 1840-AD65, 1840-AD67, and 1840-AD80) received February 7, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

**EC-3104.** A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — O-Benzyl-P-Chlorophenol (OBPCP): Exemption from the Requirement of a Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0225; FRL-10919-02-OCSP] received January 30, 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-3105.** A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Butte County Air Quality Management District; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0422; FRL-11353-02-R9] received January 30, 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-3106.** A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Birmingham Limited Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0367; FRL-11573-02-R4] received January 30, 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-3107.** A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0630; FRL-11617-01-R9] received January 30, 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-3108.** A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Saflufenacil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0868; FRL-11673-01-OCSP] received January 30, 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-3109. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Combating Auto Retail Scams Trade Regulation Rule (RIN: 3084-AB72) received February 7, 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-3110. A letter from the Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — 2018 Quadrennial Regulatory Review — Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 [MB Docket No.: 18-349] received February 9, 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-3111. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, OC/OPLIA/OP/RPMS, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Calcium Formate [Docket No.: FDA-2020-F-0151] received January 31, 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-3112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3113. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3114. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3115. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3116. A letter from the Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removals from the Unverified List [Docket No.: 240117-0016] (RIN: 0694-AJ52) received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3117. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad that was declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, pursuant to

50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3118. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic [AID-2020-0004] (RIN: 0412-AB09) received January 10, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3119. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's FY 2023 Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3120. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's FY 2023 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3121. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notice of a nomination, 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-3122. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notice of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, 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-3123. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notice of a discontinuation of service in acting role, 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-3124. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting six (6) notifications of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, and action on nomination, 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-3125. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting two notices of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, 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-3126. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Inspector General, transmitting Report No. 24-CLK-01; to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-3127. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Inspector General, transmitting Report No. 24-CAO-02; to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-3128. A letter from the Assistant to the Director, RACA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments [234A2100DD/AAKC001030/

A0A501010.999900253G] (RIN: 1076-AF74) received February 7, 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-3129. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management, Office of CFO and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation [Docket No.: 231129-0280] (RIN: 0605-AA66) received January 31, 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-3130. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements [ICIS No.: 2687-21; DHS Docket No.: USCIS 2021-0010] (RIN: 1615-AC68) received February 7, 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-3131. A letter from the Policy Advisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties; 2024 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2023-0257; FF09L00200-FX-LE12200900000] (RIN: 1018-BH16) received February 5, 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-3132. A letter from the Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Good Neighbor Environmental Board's advice letter on drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure in the U.S.-Mexico border region; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.

#### 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. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3722. A bill to require a pilot program on activities under the pre-separation transition process of members of the Armed Forces for a reduction in suicide among veterans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-380 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5450. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to modify the application of price evaluation preference for qualified HUBZone small business concerns to certain contracts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-381). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 6156. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to designate a point of contact for for-profit child care providers, submit a report to Congress, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-382). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. 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 (Rept. 118-383). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6276. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 118-384). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2426. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-385). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 4316. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-386). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize health savings accounts, with an amendment (Rept. 118-387). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1009. Resolution providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas (Rept. 118-388). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 7319. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from providing direct funding to official election organizations and to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the District of Columbia from receiving or using funds or certain donations from private entities for the administration of a District of Columbia election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7320. A bill to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 7321. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to modernize certain reporting requirements for electioneering communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ROY, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 7322. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to enforcement by an attorney general of a State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself and Mr. McGARVEY):

H.R. 7323. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 7324. A bill to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALINT (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 7325. A bill to address the housing crisis through bold investments to increase and preserve the national affordable housing supply, paths to homeownership, and perpetual affordability through shared equity housing and community land trust models, investigating landlord price fixing, and providing relief for rural renters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. BENTZ:

H.R. 7326. A bill to amend chapters 4, 10, and 131 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to keep those chapters current and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 7327. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure adequate consideration of payment rates for multission hospitals under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 7328. A bill to establish an Office of Housing Innovation in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist in exploring and developing new approaches for increasing and diversifying the supply of housing and for meeting the challenges of housing shortages, housing affordability, and traffic congestion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California,

Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 7329. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Election Day as a legal public holiday, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 7330. A bill to amend the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to authorize certain States to erect temporary protective fencing within 25 miles of the southwest border to deter unlawful immigration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 7331. A bill to establish a FISA Oversight Office for applications under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. MALOY:

H.R. 7332. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MILLS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FROST, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 7333. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 7334. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the detention of certain aliens who commit robbery; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 7335. A bill to direct the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to report to the appropriate committees on encounters with covered aliens included in the terrorist screening database; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7336. A bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to provide that, for the purpose of determining eligibility for Federal funds, the District of Columbia shall be treated as a State and any political subdivision of a

State or unit of local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7337. A bill to provide a short-term disability insurance program for Federal employees for disabilities that are not work-related, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 7338. A bill to establish an Office of the Community Development Advocate for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, to establish a process for decertification of community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 7339. A bill to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 7340. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws relating to the recognition of agents, attorneys, organizations and their representatives, and other individuals for the purposes of assisting in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7341. A bill to make technical amendments to title 49, United States Code, as necessary to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 7342. A bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 7343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the detention of certain aliens who commit assault against law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 7344. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to expand the use of salad bars in schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H. Res. 1010. A resolution supporting the designation of February 2024 as "Hawaiian Language Month" or "Olelo Hawai'i Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## MEMORIALS

### Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-88. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121, respectfully urging the Congress of the United States to provide for a permanent universal school meals program; which was referred 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 re-

garding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 7319.

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 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from providing direct funding to official election organizations and to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the District of Columbia from receiving or using funds or certain donations from private entities for the administration of DC elections.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7320.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Security

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 7321.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Elections

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 7322.

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

Article 1

Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Grants state attorneys general standing to sue the federal government for failure to enforce immigration laws that harm a state or its residents.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7323.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 7324.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Public contracts code revision

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 7325.

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:

Housing

By Mr. BENTZ:

H.R. 7326.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends chapters 4, 10, and 131 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to keep those chapters current and to correct related technical errors

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 7327.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Ensuring adequate payment for multimedical hospitals under the Medicaid program

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 7328.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Office of Housing Innovation in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist in exploring and developing new approaches for increasing and diversifying the supply of housing and for meeting the challenges of housing shortages, housing affordability, and traffic congestion, and for other purposes.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 7329.

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

Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish Election Day as a Federal holiday

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 7330.

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 the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to authorize certain States to erect temporary protective fencing within 25 miles of the southwest border to deter unlawful immigration, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 7331.

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

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Civil liberties

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 7332.

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

Article I, Section I

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 7333.

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:

Would rename the VA Medical Center located at 7305 N Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL 33410, in honor of Mr. Thomas H. Corey.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 7334.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

The single subject of this legislation is:

Border Reporting

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 7335.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

The single subject of this legislation is:

Border Reporting

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend title 1 of the United States Code to deem the District of Columbia as both a state and political subdivision of a state for the purpose of eligibility for federal funding, unless otherwise provided in a statute.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7337.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 7338.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

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 establish an Office of the Community Development Advocate for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, to establish a process for decertification of community development financial institutions, and for other purposes.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 7339.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 7340.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Appropriate access to veterans benefits

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7341.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Technical amendments to title 49.

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 7342.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish the Veteran Affairs Committee on Equal Access

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 7343.

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:

Provides for the detention of certain aliens who commit assault against law enforcement officers

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 7344.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Pilot Program to expands Salad Bars in Schools.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 148: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 311: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 335: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 491: Mr. KILMER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 525: Mr. RYAN and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 533: Mr. LALOTA and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 537: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 603: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 619: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 620: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 727: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 770: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 807: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. IVEY, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 830: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 866: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 871: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 880: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 903: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 907: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 953: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1002: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1045: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1065: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

H.R. 1087: Ms. PORTER, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1097: Mr. MRVAN, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1102: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 1173: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 1184: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

H.R. 1199: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1200: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1222: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1255: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1328: Mr. HIMES, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1385: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 1403: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1503: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1514: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 1526: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1538: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1572: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1610: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1788: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1823: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 1831: Mr. COHEN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 2370: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 2400: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2447: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2468: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 2583: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2618: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 2663: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 2706: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 2720: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2725: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 2727: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 2742: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 2760: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2763: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2801: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2809: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 2846: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 2923: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 3039: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 3082: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3092: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 3106: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3146: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SEWELL, and Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 3194: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 3199: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 3202: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. McCORMICK.

H.R. 3205: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 3269: Mr. CAREY and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 3333: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 3350: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3381: Mr. MANN, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. CASE, and Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 3386: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3394: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3396: Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LAWLER, and Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 3411: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3425: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3433: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 3443: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3541: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 3611: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 3656: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 3682: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3690: Mr. CAREY and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3808: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 3828: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3861: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3869: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 3875: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3970: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 4002: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 4010: Mr. TRONE and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 4039: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 4050: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 4132: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 4138: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 4175: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 4195: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 4275: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 4293: Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4335: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 4391: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4456: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4466: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 4518: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 4519: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 4534: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4567: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 4576: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 4579: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 4708: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 4728: Ms. CHU and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 4757: Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 4829: Mr. RYAN, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4848: Mr. CRANE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. BURLISON.

H.R. 4878: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4914: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 4950: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 4963: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5012: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 5041: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. NEAL.

- H.R. 5064: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
- H.R. 5099: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5138: Mr. BACON and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 5163: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
- H.R. 5216: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 5224: Mr. KILEY and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 5251: Mrs. KIM of California.
- H.R. 5266: Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 5281: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 5344: Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 5359: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5363: Ms. LEE of Florida.
- H.R. 5367: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 5399: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
- H.R. 5403: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. CURTIS.
- H.R. 5456: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 5531: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5644: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BUSH, Ms. MENG, and Ms. OMAR.
- H.R. 5683: Ms. TITUS.
- H.R. 5709: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 5717: Mrs. HINSON.
- H.R. 5728: Mr. SORENSEN.
- H.R. 5796: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 5799: Mr. EZELL.
- H.R. 5806: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 5813: Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 5822: Mr. THANEDAR.
- H.R. 5829: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
- H.R. 5856: Ms. PORTER, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. LALOTA.
- H.R. 5871: Mr. TONKO and Mr. THANEDAR.
- H.R. 5879: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
- H.R. 5975: Mr. D'ESPPOSITO.
- H.R. 5985: Mr. BERA.
- H.R. 6023: Mr. THANEDAR.
- H.R. 6046: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
- H.R. 6049: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HUDSON, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
- H.R. 6072: Mr. THANEDAR.
- H.R. 6074: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
- H.R. 6090: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 6094: Mr. BACON.
- H.R. 6111: Mr. PALLONE and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 6173: Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 6191: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 6213: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 6220: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 6247: Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 6283: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
- H.R. 6312: Ms. PORTER and Mr. MULLIN.
- H.R. 6314: Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 6330: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 6331: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
- H.R. 6345: Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 6394: Mr. LATTA.
- H.R. 6415: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 6429: Mr. OWENS.
- H.R. 6433: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. TOKUDA.
- H.R. 6437: Mr. MULLIN.
- H.R. 6451: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. McBATH, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 6465: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 6492: Mr. YAKYM.
- H.R. 6515: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LIEU.
- H.R. 6531: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCORMICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
- H.R. 6538: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 6542: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mrs. TRAHAN.
- H.R. 6592: Ms. CHU, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 6608: Mr. LEVIN.
- H.R. 6610: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
- H.R. 6623: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6628: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
- H.R. 6640: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 6672: Ms. SALINAS and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 6683: Ms. BROWNLEY.
- H.R. 6720: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 6751: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 6756: Ms. STANSBURY.
- H.R. 6768: Ms. PORTER.
- H.R. 6780: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. MOULTON.
- H.R. 6815: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 6854: Ms. BOEBERT.
- H.R. 6860: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BENTZ, and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 6906: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 6929: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. MENG, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 6972: Mr. LALOTA.
- H.R. 6996: Mr. SORENSEN.
- H.R. 6999: Mr. VAN DREW.
- H.R. 7018: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 7034: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 7041: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 7042: Mr. GUTHRIE.
- H.R. 7047: Mr. CRANE.
- H.R. 7055: Ms. ROSS.
- H.R. 7059: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
- H.R. 7060: Mr. MOYLAN.
- H.R. 7077: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
- H.R. 7082: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
- H.R. 7089: Mr. RYAN.
- H.R. 7094: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 7109: Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
- H.R. 7114: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 7122: Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. BARR, and Mrs. LESKO.
- H.R. 7123: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. SOTO.
- H.R. 7127: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DELUZIO.
- H.R. 7130: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 7142: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 7161: Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 7165: Mr. KILDEE.
- H.R. 7176: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FRY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CRENshaw, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. HERN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BABBIN, and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
- H.R. 7183: Mr. DONALDS.
- H.R. 7184: Mr. BERGMAN.
- H.R. 7185: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas and Mr. McCaul.
- H.R. 7186: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
- H.R. 7218: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 7244: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 7247: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 7248: Mr. VALADAO.
- H.R. 7254: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 7262: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 7267: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 7272: Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 7280: Mrs. HOUGHIN.
- H.R. 7287: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 7288: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 7289: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 7297: Mrs. BICE.
- H.R. 7299: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. KHANNA.
- H.R. 7306: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
- H.J. Res. 54: Ms. MATSUI.
- H.J. Res. 110: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. YAKYM.
- H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. BERA.
- H. Res. 50: Mr. CRENshaw and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
- H. Res. 108: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
- H. Res. 146: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. MOULTON.
- H. Res. 195: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. DELBENE.
- H. Res. 376: Ms. PORTER.
- H. Res. 701: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
- H. Res. 806: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
- H. Res. 897: Mr. LAWLER.
- H. Res. 901: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. CHU, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. WEXTON.
- H. Res. 965: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. TRONE.
- H. Res. 966: Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BLUNT of Rochester, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
- H. Res. 978: Mr. VAN DREW.
- H. Res. 979: Mr. BACON.
- H. Res. 990: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H. Res. 991: Ms. STANSBURY.
- H. Res. 993: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
- H. Res. 1001: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
- H. Res. 1005: Ms. JAYAPAL.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

##### OFFERED BY RODGERS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING OSCAR ROBERTSON, NBA ALL-STAR LEGEND AND SO- CIAL ACTIVIST

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Oscar Robertson, who will be honored in Indianapolis for the 2024 National Basketball Association All-Star Game.

Basketball legend Oscar Robertson, affectionately known as the “Big O,” is well-known for his unparalleled athletic skills, versatility, and impressive career. He is equally respected as a trailblazer who helped pave the way for Americans facing racism, unfair institutions, and mistreatment in a segregated world, as he boldly revolutionized the sport of basketball.

Born in Tennessee but nurtured in Indianapolis, the achievements of his high school career at Crispus Attucks marked the beginning of a successful athletic journey. His NBA career spanned 14 years as a point guard. He was the first to win National College Player of the Year three times and was an Olympian at the 1960 Summer Olympics as co-captain of the U.S. Gold Medal team. He also received the NBA All-Star Most Valuable Player award three times, was an All-Star Player for 12 consecutive years, and was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 1980. During his career, he was the first to average a triple double for an entire season.

Mr. Robertson’s leadership had a lasting impact on and off the court, making his way in the world as an advocate and a humanitarian. An antitrust settlement while he was President of the NBA Players Association helped reform the free agency of NBA athletes through the Oscar Robertson Rule. He continues to be a force for change in policies that positively affect minorities and all Americans. If basketball is synonymous with Indiana, then Mr. Robertson has an undeniable place in our state’s history. Mr. Robertson is recognized as a gentleman of his day, one who achieved great things with strategic actions and diplomacy.

Today, as we celebrate Black History Month, and as Hoosiers celebrate the NBA All-Star Game in Indianapolis, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Oscar Robertson for his athleticism and advocacy. His legacy endures in the NBA and Indianapolis, both forever changed because of his contributions, and his enduring fight for civil rights for all.

### RECOGNIZING WILLIAM HENRY HAMILTON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of

Mr. William Henry Hamilton, a member of the Missionary Generation (born between 1860 and 1882) and a true American hero. A proud African-American soldier, he fought for this country a generation post-enslavement, and the signing of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.

William Henry Hamilton was born in Trenton, Tennessee on October 25, 1875. Later, and while living in Little Rock, Arkansas, he enlisted in the United States Army on February 20, 1895. Mr. Hamilton was a revered Buffalo Soldier and a member of the esteemed Troop D, 10th Cavalry, one of only four (9th Cavalry, 10th Cavalry, 24th Infantry, and the 25th Infantry) African-American troops that served during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Under the overall command of General John J. Pershing and direct command of Captain John Bigelow, Jr., First Sergeant Hamilton—a “Rough Rider”—fought alongside Colonel Teddy Roosevelt (before he became Vice President and President of the United States) and other “Rough Riders” in the Battle of San Juan Hill, in Santiago, Cuba.

Following The Treaty of Paris, which ended the Spanish-American War in December of 1898, First Sergeant Hamilton, along with his 10th Cavalry comrades, were sent to The Philippines in 1900 as reinforcements against the Filipino nationalists who were attacking soldiers of the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments.

In March of 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered troops—including the 10th Cavalry—to Mexico. Led by General John J. Pershing, First Sergeant Hamilton and other members of the cavalry’s goal was to capture Pancho Villa. Unfortunately, Villa alluded capture; after two years of pursuing him throughout Mexico, the troops returned to the United States.

Mr. Hamilton distinguished himself as an expert sharpshooter; he was recognized for his skills with the following medals: Distinguished Pistol Shot (1908); Expert Rifleman (1911–1915); Sharpshooter (1913–1914); and Pistol Expert (1915). In addition to his sharpshooting skills, First Sergeant Hamilton received medals and recognition for his unwavering service in the following wars: Army Occupation Military Government of Cuba (1898–1902); Spanish-American War (1898); and Mexican War Service (1911–1917).

First Sergeant William Henry Hamilton served his country in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years. He returned to private life and retired at the historic Old Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C. to live out his remaining days. He enjoyed being with his former unit friends, rocking on the porch, and sharing war stories. Mr. Hamilton was laid to rest in the historic cemetery on the grounds of the Old Soldiers Home.

I am deeply grateful for Mr. William Henry Hamilton’s lifetime of military service to this country. His dedicated service, as well as the military service of his descendants that continues to this day, will never be forgotten. We, as a Nation, are forever grateful.

### RECOGNIZING PETE CARROLL’S LEGACY

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete Carroll’s contributions to the Seattle Seahawks and the people of Seattle during his 14-year tenure as head coach. Throughout his tenure, the Seahawks had a 137–89–1 regular season record, 10 playoff appearances and a Super Bowl XLVIII victory to conclude the unforgettable 2013 season.

Coach Carroll prioritized a positive team culture that he described as “. . . trying to help people find their best, one person at a time.” His exemplary leadership philosophy has been referenced and used to develop mindset training for Air Force cadets and for companies throughout Washington State. I would also like to commend Coach Carroll’s service to the Pacific Northwest through his Amplify Voices initiative and philanthropic efforts.

Coach Carroll is the winningest coach in the history of the Seattle Seahawks and has made a significant impact in our community—both on and off the field—over the past 14 years. On behalf of Washington’s 7th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Pete Carroll’s work as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks and his many accomplishments.

### HONORING SENATOR JEAN CARNAHAN

**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with the people of St. Louis, to honor the life and legacy of former First Lady of Missouri and United States Senator Jean Carnahan. Jean Carnahan was an exemplary public servant, wife, and mother who dedicated her life to the people of Missouri.

She was appointed as Missouri’s first female senator in the face of great personal tragedy after the loss of her son, Roger, and husband, Governor Mel Carnahan. Jean Carnahan was a trailblazer who showed courage and fortitude by choosing to step up and serve her community. She worked to hold corporate greed accountable, and as a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, she introduced and won passage of a law requiring corporations to make swift, electronic reporting of insider trading.

As First Lady of Missouri, she was an activist and advocate fighting for on-site daycare centers for working families, promoting childhood immunization, funding domestic abuse centers, and of course, the arts. She was passionate about making government accessible to the people of Missouri, starting with raising

● 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.

funds to restore the Governor's mansion, so that everyone could visit and enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Senator Jean Carnahan was an accomplished author of seven published books and co-wrote many of her husband's speeches. She provided guidance and inspiration to so many people throughout Missouri to serve others and be a vehicle for change. I offer my deepest condolences on behalf of Missouri's First District to the entire family and all those who loved her. May her Memory forever be a blessing.

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HONORING BRIAN McDERMOTT

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize hero, leader, and lifelong resident of New Jersey, Mr. Brian McDermott. Brian is retiring from his position as Fire Chief of the great City of Paterson, bringing his two decades of service as a first responder to a close. It is a pleasure and a privilege to honor Brian and highlight his impressive career.

Brian's story begins in 1994. After deciding that college wasn't for him, Brian was looking for a way to combine his passion for helping others with his love of being on a team. Brian's brothers encouraged him to take the New Jersey Firefighter Exam and he scored exceptionally well. Within a year he was hired by the Paterson Fire Department.

It did not take long for Brian to display exceptional heroism. On March 10, 1997, he and his colleagues in Ladder Company 3 responded to a call, arriving to a building engulfed in flames and smoke. Despite the dangerous conditions, Brian and his fellow firefighter Matthew Ganci entered the building and were able to locate and rescue the people inside. On this call and on countless others, Brian proved his steadfast commitment to serving his community.

Over the years Brian rose through the ranks from Captain, to Deputy Chief and finally to Chief of the Department in 2018. Some of Brian's notable achievements as Chief include the implementation of a free smoke detector program for residents, the procurement of a fleet of electric vehicles for the Department, and the transition of the City's 9-1-1 network from an analog to a digital system.

Brian was able to achieve so much as Chief because, no matter the position, he led with humility. Always focusing on his team's achievements and never his own, Brian's reputation as a leader is well known across New Jersey. His work lead to numerous regional leadership positions, including Deputy Fire Coordinator for Passaic County and Chairman of the Metro Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team.

The people of Paterson were lucky to have a dependable leader like Brian when we faced one of our biggest challenges in recent history: The COVID-19 Pandemic. Leading the Department while protecting his staff from a deadly and rapidly changing disease was no small feat. Yet, Brian valiantly rose to the occasion in protecting over 150,000 residents of Paterson.

Now, Brian will rise to the occasion once again. Retirement holds a lot for Brian: fur-

thering his education, contributing to the fire service profession, and traveling with his wife Shannon. It is with great sincerity and appreciation that I wish Brian a long and happy retirement.

So, from the bottom of my heart, and from the heart of our communities in Paterson and Passaic County, New Jersey, I take this opportunity from the People's House to thank Chief McDermott, and may God bless him.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOSEPH McDONALD OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the memory of Dr. Joseph McDonald of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) in Pablo, Montana.

Dr. McDonald died on December 14, 2023, at the age of 90. Dr. McDonald was an educator, innovator, historian, athlete, coach, tremendous leader, and dedicated family man.

Dr. McDonald was born in St. Ignatius, on March 31, 1933. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1951. After high school, Joe worked as a U.S. Forest Service smokejumper in West Yellowstone. While working there he enrolled at Montana Western College and met the love of his life, Sharon Christopherson. They married at the end of their freshman year.

Joe went on to teach and coach at various K-12 schools across Montana. During this time, he also attended the University of Montana, earning his master's degrees in education and health and his Doctorate in Education.

While Joe and Sherri were raising their four children, Tim, Terry, Tracie, and Tom, he continued to serve his community in many capacities. Joe served as a high school principal and assistant superintendent at Ronan Public Schools. He was eventually elected to the CSKT Tribal Council and served two terms. His strong advocacy led to the establishment of Salish Kootenai College where he served as the President Emeritus for over 20 years.

Joe received a host of awards over his career including honorary degrees from Gonzaga University and Montana State University, distinguished alumni awards from the University of Montana and the University of Montana Western, distinguished service awards from the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and the National Indian Educator of the Year award. Joe was also enshrined in the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

After retiring from Salish Kootenai College, Joe spent much of his time supporting his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in their pursuits in life with his wife Sherri.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Sherri McDonald, and their son and daughter in-law Terry and Paula (Camel) McDonald. Joe is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we are very grateful that great men like Joe McDonald have dedicated their lives to the service of others. On behalf of the

people of Montana's First Congressional District, I offer his family my deepest sympathies.

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TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE GADBOIS

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Gadbois, a valued member of the House Committee on Appropriations, who has more than 20 years of service working in the federal government. Her commitment to our country exemplifies the hard work and commitment of an esteemed public servant.

Stephanie began her government career in 2001 when she joined the House Committee on Agriculture as Counsel. She was eventually promoted to Deputy Chief Counsel, and for good reason: In her seven years with the Agriculture Committee, she played a crucial role in the 2002 Farm Bill, 2008 Farm Bill, and countless other pieces of legislation that positively impacted the agricultural industry.

In 2008, Stephanie took her agricultural expertise to the House Committee on Appropriations, specifically the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The next year, she moved to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. After returning to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee for a short time in 2010, Stephanie became a Professional Staff Member on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, where from 2010 to 2012 she oversaw accounts pertaining to the Department of Justice and related agencies including the United States Attorneys, the United States Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

After six years with the House Committee on Appropriations, Stephanie had the opportunity to serve as Senior Counsel for the House Committee on the Judiciary. From 2013 to 2019, she enabled better collaboration between the Appropriations and the Judiciary Committees and negotiated key pieces of legislation that reformed immigration law, addressed crime, and reduced regulatory burden.

At the beginning of the 116th Congress, Stephanie returned to the House Committee on Appropriations as Minority Clerk of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. Stephanie's extensive expertise and experience earned her the position of Majority Clerk and Staff Director of the Subcommittee at the beginning of the 118th Congress.

Stephanie has been an exceptional member of the House Committee on Appropriations. During her time on the Committee, Stephanie has successfully implemented strategies for advancing key funding measures and policies through the Committee and Congress.

On the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I tasked Stephanie with handling some of the most difficult issues. Similar to the roles she previously held, I knew she would exceed expectations. In times of divided government, her

ability to negotiate resulted in significant wins on many politically charged policies.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Stephanie as she leaves the halls of Congress and starts her next chapter. After countless early mornings and late nights of devoted work to our country, I know she is looking forward to a change of pace and scenery. I wish Stephanie and her husband, Aaron, who served in my personal office as a Military Fellow, the best in their next adventure.

Stephanie will be greatly missed, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the United States of America.

**HONORING ADMIRAL BUDDY YATES**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Rear Admiral Earl "Buddy" Yates, Jr., who passed away peacefully on September 13, 2021, at the age of 97. A graduate of Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, NC, Admiral Yates was admitted to the United States Naval Academy at the outset of World War II. He was commissioned from the Academy in 1943 at the age of 19 and was immediately assigned to the USS *Dyson* where his squadron received a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Solomon Islands campaign in the Pacific Theater. After the war and throughout the 1950s, Admiral Yates served as a Naval Aviator in Executive Officer roles before being assigned to the Department of the Navy in Washington. In 1965, he was selected for his first command of the USS *Raleigh* where he was awarded a Legion of Merit for his service. In 1967, Admiral Yates assumed what would become a lifelong duty for him when he was named Prospective Commanding Officer of USS *John F. Kennedy* (CVA-67) while the aircraft carrier was completed at Newport News Shipyard in Virginia. He served as the ship's first commander upon commissioning, leading her through assignments with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean until 1969. Before his retirement in 1974, Admiral Yates served in more senior roles with the Navy including Assistant Chief of Staff for the Pacific Fleet. While taking on other assignments with the Navy before his retirement, Admiral Yates was never far from the crew of CVA-67. As new commanding officers took the helm of the ship before it was decommissioned in 2007, Buddy was always available to support them. To the crew who served with him and the many who sailed on CVA-67 after his time in command, Admiral Yates was a friend and mentor who worked hard to unify them all behind a common mission. Throughout the construction of the new USS *John F. Kennedy*, CVN-79 that is expected to begin operations in 2025, Admiral Yates was quick to work closely with the new prospective commanders in building continuity between the two ships. He attended both the keel laying of CVN-79 in 2015 and the ship's christening in 2019. Together with the veterans of CVN-67, they formed a motto to carry CVN-79 around the world: "Two Ships, One JFK Family". Throughout his life, Buddy was never far from friends and was

blessed with a beautiful family. After he passed away in 2021, he joined his wife of 63 years, Lucy, in burial at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery. Buddy and Lucy had 5 children together, and many grandchildren whom they cherished. On December 23, 2023, his family, the retired crew of CVA-67, and the sailors of CVN-79 honored the centennial birthday of Admiral Yates. Admiral Yates leaves behind a legacy of service to others and of unwavering patriotism to our great Nation. May the memory of this distinguished American and his many years of service to our Nation be eternal.

**HONORING THE BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride and joy to recognize the Borough of Hawthorne as we celebrate its 125th anniversary. Since the city's incorporation in 1898, Hawthorne has evolved from a humble settlement into a vibrant and diverse suburban community that stands as a beacon of progress. This historic achievement is a testament to the resilience, growth, and unity that have defined the Borough of Hawthorne over the past century and a quarter.

The Lenni-Lenape Native Americans are the earliest recorded inhabitants of the area situated in the Borough of Hawthorne. By the 1700s, Dutch immigrants settled in the area as pioneers in agriculture. The history of the Dutch settlers and the Native Americans remains an active part of the shared fabric in the Borough of Hawthorne with roads and landmarks named after them.

The settlement emancipated itself from Manchester Township and incorporated as the Borough of Hawthorne following an act of the New Jersey Legislature on March 24, 1898.

Hawthorne attracted residents by promoting and establishing the municipal water system, electric grid with lit streets, and five public schools.

As one of the current 16 municipalities of Passaic County, the Borough of Hawthorne successfully voted for the mayor/council form of government. The borough is organized in four wards, providing a representative in each area of the community as well as giving residents the right to directly elect their mayor. The first election held under this new form was in 1989.

Today, there are nearly 20,000 residents that call the Borough of Hawthorne their home. The borough has a large immigrant population and is a melting pot evident through the array of multi-cultural businesses, restaurants, and community events. Throughout Hawthorne's history, community leaders and residents played a key role in shaping Hawthorne into the exceptional borough we celebrate today. One of Hawthorne's most notable figures is Mayor John V. Lane. His leadership and wisdom continue to guide the Borough of Hawthorne through all challenges, always emerging stronger.

The industrious spirit of Hawthorne's residents is the driving force behind its success. From the early days of farming to the present,

the people of Hawthorne have worked together to build a borough that fosters innovation, economic prosperity, and cultural diversity. Let us reflect on the rich history as we commemorate the quasquicentennial anniversary of the Borough of Hawthorne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing the 125th anniversary of the Borough of Hawthorne. I take this opportunity to congratulate the residents of Hawthorne on this historic milestone. May this celebration serve as a moment to honor the past, revel in the present, and look forward to a future filled with continued growth and prosperity.

**CONGRATULATING BRUCE BROD, MD, MCHI, FAAD ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE IN LEADERSHIP AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION**

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable achievements and years of dedicated service of Dr. Bruce Brod, MD, MCHI, FAAD to the American Academy of Dermatology Association.

Dr. Brod's unwavering commitment to excellence and leadership within the AADA has made a lasting impact on both organization and the dermatological community at large.

For four years, Dr. Brod has served as the chair of the American Academy of Dermatology Association's Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy. In this pivotal role, he has demonstrated unparalleled dedication and expertise, ensuring that dermatologists and their patients are well-represented in matters concerning federal and state government affairs, health care policy, and practice-related activities. His visionary leadership has been instrumental in cultivating member engagement and promoting a culture of professional responsibility within our organization.

Prior to his tenure as Council chair, Dr. Brod served as Chair of the Academy's Congressional Policy Committee, where he played a vital role in shaping and implementing the Academy's federal legislative agenda. His tireless advocacy efforts have had a profound impact on the advancement of dermatological care and access to treatment for patients across the country.

Dr. Brod's contributions extend far beyond his leadership roles within the American Academy of Dermatology Association. He has held prestigious positions including as president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Philadelphia Dermatological Society, and the American Contact Dermatitis Society, showcasing his exemplary leadership and dedication to the field.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Dr. Brod has received numerous awards and accolades, including a Presidential Citation and Advocate of the Year Award, Dermatologist of the Year Award, Practitioner of the Year Award, Physician Safety Patient Hero Award, and Presidential Citation, among others. These accolades are

a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence and his profound impact on the dermatological community.

Currently serving on the American Academy of Dermatology Association's Board of Directors, Dr. Brod continues to be a driving force in shaping the future of dermatological care and advancing the mission of our organization.

On behalf of the entire dermatological community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Bruce Brod for his years of exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to the American Academy of Dermatology Association. I thank Dr. Brod for his unwavering commitment to excellence and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.

**HONORING TERRY MCFADDEN'S CAREER IN BROADCAST JOURNALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY**

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate award-winning television journalist Terry McFadden, who is retiring from WNDU-TV this month after more than 40 years of covering news in the South Bend market.

A fellow South Bend native and Notre Dame graduate, Terry has called St. Joe County home his entire life. To this day, Terry still lives on the same street he grew up on. It is undoubtedly this love for the South Bend community that has made Terry such a trusted name in local news over all these years.

Terry made his start in broadcasting in 1982 as a news and sports reporter with WNDU. In the time since, Terry has become one of South Bend's favorite television journalists, and he has epitomized the highest standards of professional and journalistic integrity.

The various broadcast journalism awards and accolades he has received over the years—including the Radio Television Digital News Association's prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award—are a testament to Terry's many career accomplishments, commitment to the community, and his passion for his profession and presenting the news in a compelling way.

As he prepares to retire from journalism, spend more time with his family—especially his wife Laurie and their sons Michael, Sean, and Charlie—and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Terry on more than four decades of dedicated service and excellence in journalism.

While I will miss him bringing us the news every day, I join so many others in expressing our gratitude to this lifelong Hoosier and in wishing Terry best wishes for a very happy and full retirement. I thank Terry.

**HONORING JERRI SUTTON OF BEAUFORT**

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Geralene "Jerri" Mills Sutton of

Beaufort. Mrs. Sutton recently finished her time here on Earth. She was known for her dedication to others and her appreciation of the simple things in life.

Mrs. Sutton started off as a talented educator. She ascended to Senior Director for the Virginia Department of Education and was the youngest woman to assume this role. Her position led to working with the United Nations, traveling to developing countries, and helping improve educational outcomes for children.

Mrs. Sutton's dedication to the people of Eastern North Carolina eventually led her home to Greenville where she focused on improving her hometown community. All who knew her can attest to her unwavering devotion to the historical preservation of Eastern North Carolina. She led the restoration efforts of the Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church, which was set ablaze during the Civil War.

After relocating to Beaufort, she immersed herself in the Town's rich maritime history and culture. She became a founding trustee of the Maritime Heritage Foundation and served as the President for five years. She also won the Volunteer of the Year award in 2015 from the Beaufort Historical Association. Her passion and fantastic fundraising prowess led to securing \$1.5 million from small and big donors and the North Carolina General Assembly to build the North Carolina Maritime Museum on the Gallants Channel.

As all can see, Mrs. Sutton was especially attentive to the people and places she loved. I hope we can all learn from her legacy and do more for the people and places around us. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring this incredible woman.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DANIEL FREDERIC PACKER, JR.**

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor the life of Daniel Frederic Packer, Jr., who was born December 8, 1947, in Mobile, Alabama and peacefully transitioned to be with the Lord surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren on January 31, 2024. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel F. Packer, Sr., and Algie Ervin Packer; his sister, Debra Packer Albright; and his first wife, Carlene Banks Packer. He is survived by his loving wife, Catherine August Packer, and devoted children, Timothy Packer (Nicole), Vanice Packer Zenon (Alfred), Randall Ross (Natasha), Dr. Reginald Ross (Leslie), and Maria Michelle Ross Burke. He was the loving grandfather of nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dan learned the value of hard work at an early age. Dan was raised in a hard-working household along with his younger sister, Debra. During the summer, he joined his cousins on a family farm where he did everything from churning butter to grinding corn. "Work was never something we were afraid of," Packer told New Orleans City Business. Packer inherited a strong sense of self and a strong work ethic from his parents. Like most of the South during Packer's childhood, Alabama was segregated, but his mother's motto

was, "Don't let anything defeat you," Packer recalled to Black Collegian. His father also imparted words of wisdom that resonated with Packer. "Some days peanuts, some days shells," Packer recalled to the Times-Picayune. The result was a can-do attitude that helped Packer overcome the inequities of segregation and racism. "The fact that (the South) was a segregated place didn't mean we couldn't find a way to be successful," Packer told New Orleans City Business. "It never dawned on us to use (our race) as an excuse to not be successful."

Packer graduated from Mobile's Central High School in 1965 with high enough grades to land several college scholarships. Unfortunately, Tuskegee Institute—the school Packer had his heart set on—was not among them. Tuskegee, a historically black college, was one of the few in the South that offered an engineering program for African Americans. Packer scraped enough money for tuition and enrolled in the five-year engineering program. After three years, his father fell ill, and the money ran out. In 1969, Packer left Tuskegee and joined the United States Navy. His high entrance marks and engineering training helped land him a position in the Navy's nuclear power program. During an intense one-year course at a secret base in Idaho, Packer learned to operate nuclear reactors used to power submarines, aircraft carriers, and destroyers. After training, he was posted on the USS *Truxton*, a missile destroyer based in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

During his military training, Packer met his first wife, Carlene Banks. After he left the Navy in 1975, the pair moved briefly to Washington state, where their first son, Timothy, was born. The family moved to Connecticut, where Packer landed a job as a training coordinator with Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company. Packer's second child, Vanice, was born soon after. The birth happened quite suddenly, and Packer delivered the baby at home. "It wasn't a problem because I knew how to operate a nuclear reactor," he told New Orleans City Business. "Both are very procedure oriented." Packer juggled his job and fatherhood well enough to earn an associate degree in 1978 from Middlesex Community College and a bachelor's degree in business from Charter Oak College in 1980.

Tragedy struck Packer's life in 1980 when his wife Carlene died suddenly of a rare liver disease. Left alone to care for his two children, Packer decided it was time to move back home to the South. The closest he got, however, was Columbia, Maryland, where he landed a job as a senior engineer at General Physics Corporation. It was a good job, but he wanted to be closer to the family with two young children. With his background in nuclear power, including a senior operator's license—a highly specialized license for the nuclear industry—he looked for a power plant near Mobile, Alabama. The closest was Entergy's plant in Taft, Louisiana. He called the plant, and though there were no openings, his credentials made him a great candidate as a consultant. He joined the plant as a consultant in 1982 and helped Entergy build the Waterford III plant. His expertise landed him a position as training manager of the plant.

Dan met Catherine upon his arrival at Waterford, and they later married on July 22, 1983, recently celebrating 40 years of marriage. It was "love at first sight" when their

blended families met. By 1990, Packer had moved up the ranks at Waterford to become the plant's general manager. His promotion made him the first African American to manage a nuclear power plant. He was responsible for the entire operation of the site, from nuclear safety to profitability. It was a massive job, performed under the shadow of the immense environmental damage that could happen if an accident occurred. Dan believed there was nothing more complicated than being the plant manager of a nuclear power plant. Under Packer, the Waterford plant received some of the highest ratings in the country.

After 27 years in the nuclear industry on the technical side, Packer made the move to the executive offices. In 1996, he became a director of Entergy New Orleans. In that role, his main task was dealing with local government regulators. "He moved into a very political environment when he moved downtown," another Entergy executive told the *Times-Picayune*. "It was an interesting move. The stereotype of technical people is that they don't mix well in the political area, but he did an excellent job of understanding politics." Packer landed in New Orleans in the middle of a simmering pot of discontent. Since the early 1980s, New Orleans and Entergy had been brewing trouble. Rising energy costs, poor customer service, and over-billing charges plagued the company. In addition, the city of New Orleans and Entergy had engaged in a legal battle that went up to the federal level over the shared costs of building a Gulf Coast nuclear facility. Packer impressed those on both sides of the debate by using an approach that has become a hallmark of his leadership—diplomatically building bridges between opposing parties. "At the beginning, he was a quiet guy. He had been in nuclear before that, but obviously, he was a quick learner," a city council member told the *Times-Picayune*. "I think he learned early on that the way to get things done was to develop a relationship with the council and consumers, and I think he did a pretty good job of that." Entergy Corporation's CEO Wayne Leonard was also impressed. "[Packer] never came to me once and said: 'This was unfair; I shouldn't have been held accountable,'" Leonard told the *Times-Picayune*. "The bottom line was that he was an adult. A lot of times, you look around, and you see a lot of talented people, but you don't see a lot of grown-ups." The result was that Packer was appointed president of Entergy New Orleans in 1997. The CEO title was added in 1998. As CEO, Packer is responsible for all aspects of the company: power distribution, customer service, economic development, financial performance, and regulatory and governmental affairs.

As CEO, Packer continued to impress people within and outside the industry. In 2001, gas prices surged, leaving many New Orleanians struggling to meet payments. Packer announced that Entergy would not cut off power for non-payment. "It may sound like it was a natural thing to do, but, from a business standpoint, it was an extraordinary move," an Entergy executive told *New Orleans City Business*. "Dan's decision was, for some people, the difference between waking up in the dark and being able to turn the lights on. That was a defining moment in my professional relationship with him. In business school, you learn to make sure you can earn

and collect on any amount. What you don't learn in school are the leadership traits it takes to make a tough decision." Packer's most challenging job arrived on August 29, 2005, in the form of Hurricane Katrina. The storm flooded half of the utility's substations and two power plants. Nearly 100 percent of its clients were left without power. In September, Entergy New Orleans filed for bankruptcy protection. By the end of the year, almost 70 percent of Entergy New Orleans's client base was gone, and large swaths of the region were still without power. History has watched to see whether Packer's renowned strategic skills and unflappable attitude could save his company and restore regular services to its clients. He proved successful and retired from Entergy year-end, 2006. Though retirement was never in his plans, Dan continued his skills as President and CEO of Urban Solutions Inc., a multi-faceted firm involved with projects associated with an urban environment.

Key appointments and memberships included the American Association of Blacks in Energy, president emeritus; NFL Stadium Advisory Commission, chairman, 2001; New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce, chairman, 2001; New Orleans Aviation Board, chairman, 2002; Bring New Orleans Back Commission, member; Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Acacia Lodge No. 248 and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Alpha Boule (New Orleans Chapter). Notable awards include YMCA, Black Achievement Award, 1988; Tulane University, Weiss Award, 2001; Boy Scouts of America, Southeast Louisiana Council, Whitney Young Service Award, 2004; and King of the Mobile Mardi Gras.

The Man, the Legacy, will never be forgotten. He touched so many in every facet of his life, fulfilling opportunities and dreams throughout his career. I am honored to say he was my dear friend and mentor. Rest well friend. His legacy will live on forever.

#### REMEMBERING JOSEPH L.

FIORDALISO

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable individual who dedicated his life to shaping our community and advancing our nation's energy sector. Joseph L. Fiordaliso, a true visionary and champion for renewable energy, passed away on September 6, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of innovation and progress that will continue to inspire generations to come. As President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities since 2005, Joseph was a fierce advocate for affordable and reliable utility service. In May 2023, President Fiordaliso was appointed to the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Joseph Fiordaliso's passion for service has never wavered throughout his storied career of public service to the people of New Jersey. Beginning with his role as Student Council President at Newark's East Side High School, Joseph carried an innate passion for education and leadership. He served more than

18 years as an educator for the Bloomfield and Valisburg communities. As a teacher, Joseph enjoyed cultivating the talents of countless students and the thrill of catapulting his students towards true academic achievement.

Shortly thereafter, Fiordaliso began serving his community of Livingston, New Jersey as Councilman for the Township. As a local leader, Joseph advocated for greater resources for seniors and revitalized the Livingston Arts Council. For 12 years as Mayor of Livingston, U.S. Senators, Governors, and Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992.

Through his steadfast advocacy for Livingston, Joseph Fiordaliso was able to coordinate and host an official stop of the Olympic Torch of the 1996 Summer Olympic games.

Joseph Fiordaliso held leadership positions as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way, the Board of Directors of the Livingston YMCA, the Board of Directors of the First Occupational Center of New Jersey, and was a proud member of UNICO, the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. Later, Joseph was honored as UNICO's Citizen of the Year in 2003.

Now, as we honor Joseph Fiordaliso's memory as a prominent leader and public servant for New Jersey, we will always appreciate the tremendous progress in the transition to cleaner forms of energy. Joseph's signature windmill lapel pin served as a reminder for his vision of making New Jersey an offshore wind industry hub. His extensive work and legacy earned Fiordaliso due recognition as a national leader on utility and energy issues.

Mr. Speaker, from the bottom of my heart, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Joseph Fiordaliso for his outstanding work. I thank Joseph Fiordaliso. May God bless his soul and may his wife Marilyn, two children Joe and Dana stand proud.

CONGRATULATING DR. TERRENCE CRONIN FOR HIS COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY PRESIDENT

#### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Dr. Terrence Cronin on his completion of his term as the American Academy of Dermatology President. For eighteen years, Dr. Cronin has been involved with the Academy at a leadership level and helped represent thousands of dermatological physicians and the patients they serve.

As President, Dr. Cronin led the world's largest dermatologic society, representing more than 20,800 physicians. He has also been a staunch advocate for Medicare payment reform to help ensure good quality of care for seniors by fighting cuts to physician reimbursement.

Dr. Cronin earned his medical degree from Wake Forest University in North Carolina and completed his dermatology residency at the University of Miami. At the University of Miami, he also served as the chief resident, where he

oversaw clinical scheduling, managing resident education programs, and served as a liaison between the residents and the facility.

Before his term as President, Dr. Cronin served as a chair of the Academy's Advisory Board, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Cronin on a fantastic job as the American Academy of Dermatology President and wish him well as he continues his work with the Academy and his private practice in Melbourne, Florida.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2024**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2024, which would help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees would be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums and be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a nonwork-related injury or illness or pregnancy. This bill is more important now than ever with the prevalence of so-called Long COVID.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period, such as following surgery. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. This bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as many of their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates, an option unavailable to federal employees. This bill would prohibit participating insurance companies from excluding employees based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill would provide these benefits at a lower rate than is available for employees purchasing as individuals, as many do. Under this bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group coverage available to many workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ROBERT DITTMER**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Dittmer. Mr. Dittmer, who passed away at the age of 103, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to his country and the Solano County Community.

Born in Oakland, California in 1920, Mr. Dittmer was a lifelong resident of Northern California. As America entered World War II, Mr. Dittmer's commitment to his country led him to join the United States Army Air Corps. He flew 35 successful combat missions over Germany, ultimately becoming a Second Lieutenant and earning an Air Medal for his service.

As the war ended, Mr. Dittmer's service to others continued. He joined the fire service and became the Assistant Chief of the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base Fire Department. In 1956, Mr. Dittmer was awarded a commendation for entering the burning wreckage of a crashed aircraft and saving the life of the injured crew.

After retiring from the Fire Department, Mr. Dittmer continued to serve his community, advancing efforts to identify and address unmet needs in Solano County. He facilitated local real-estate ventures to bolster the local economy and was a critical leader within the downtown Fairfield business community.

Mr. Dittmer will be remembered not only for his decades of service to his country and the Solano County community but also for his genuine spirit of selflessness and innovation. He impacted the lives of countless members of his community, and his steadfast leadership undeniably enhanced the lives of his fellow Solano County residents.

Mr. Dittmer's enduring spirit will live on in his son, daughter, four grandchildren, and the community he dedicated his life to serving. I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Mr. Dittmer's loved ones. I know they and the people of Solano County join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HILBERT MARGOL**

**HON. RICHARD McCORMICK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to the incredible service and life of Mr. Hilbert "Hibby" Margol of Dunwoody, Georgia. Mr. Margol is a World War II veteran and, this

month, I join his friends and family in celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Hilbert Margol was born on February 22, 1924, just 10 minutes before his identical twin brother, Howard. The two brothers attended the University of Florida and were drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. They were inseparable until they were assigned to different infantry divisions.

In 1942, the military instituted a policy of separating siblings when assigned to military units or ships. Their mother, Mrs. Margol, took matters into her own hands and wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt requesting the U.S. Army make an exception for her sons to be placed together. Her plea was successful, and the brothers were back together again.

The pair were assigned to the U.S. Army 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, 392nd Field Artillery Battalion, as Howitzers gunners. Seven months after D-Day, the Margol brothers arrived in Europe. As their unit moved toward Munich, Germany, they happened upon a fence at the end of a rural two-lane road. They quickly realized they had stumbled upon a massive, almost industrial-looking complex. It was Dachau, the first Nazi Concentration Camp.

As Mr. Margol searched the area, he found dozens of railroad cars loaded with piles of human remains. He documented the horrors of Dachau with a Brownie camera. These photographs are on display at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

After the war, the brothers earned their degrees from the University of Florida in 1948 and married their wives in the same year. Hilbert moved to Atlanta in 1987 with his wife, Betty Ann, and they have lived there ever since.

Mr. Margol is a Jewish American hero and a liberator, and he turns 100 years old on February 22, 2024. May America and the great State of Georgia be forever blessed with patriots like Hilbert Margol. His service to our Nation is a debt we can never truly repay.

**HONORING SHERIFF RICHARD BERDNIK**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable public servant who dedicated his life to law enforcement, Sheriff Richard Berdnik. Sheriff Berdnik served twenty-eight years with the Clifton Police Department. After his time with the City of Clifton, he joined the County of Passaic as the Commander of the Juvenile Division and the SWAT Team. On January 1, 2011, Richard was elected to the role of Passaic County Sheriff. A prominent leader among law enforcement, Sheriff Berdnik was also a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, the New Jersey Honor Legion of Decorated Officers, and the International Chiefs of Police Association.

A native of Clifton, New Jersey, Richard Berdnik graduated from Clifton High School, the New Jersey State Police Academy, FBI National Academy, and FBI National Executive Institute. Sheriff Berdnik took criminal justice

courses at Seton Hall University, the University of Virginia, and Caldwell College. Sheriff Berdnik's legacy embodies the principle of service over self. His impact is woven into the fabric of the Ninth Congressional District, exemplified by the officers he mentored, and the countless individuals he helped.

Beyond his professional achievements, Sheriff Berdnik was a beloved figure in our community. He was a Parishioner and Eucharistic Minister at Saint Andrew's Church in Clifton, New Jersey. As a proud member of the Polish community, Sheriff Berdnik served as the Marshal for the Passaic-Clifton & Vicinity Contingent in the Pulaski Day Parade in 2011 and was the Grand Marshal of the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City in 2014.

Known for his unwavering commitment to justice and the well-being of the public, Sheriff Berdnik served as a beacon of bravery and compassion. Under his leadership, Richard emphasized the importance of community engagement and proactive policing in order to build trust with the residents of Passaic County. His innovative approach undertook a complete top to bottom review of the department effectively streamlining operations within the Patrol, Corrections and Courthouse Divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Sheriff Richard Berdnik for his outstanding contributions to law enforcement and beyond. I thank Sheriff Berdnik. He was a mentor, a friend, and a pillar in our community. God bless his soul and may his wife Monica, and four children Ashley, Ryan, Alyssa, and Kevin stand proud.

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RECOGNIZING THOMAS H. NEALE,  
CRS ANALYST

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**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Thomas Holleran Neale, a specialist at the Congressional Research Service who served Congress for over 53 years until his death this year. Tom was born in 1943 and grew up in Auburn, New York. He attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Syracuse University, and the Université of Dijon. At CRS, he served countless members of Congress and committees with his expertise in American elections, political history, and constitutional theory.

Tom was a public servant, an active member of the community, and a faithful Catholic. He served as a member of community organizations including serving as president of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants. He contributed writings to Wilson Quarterly, the Encyclopedia of the United States Congress, and The Encyclopedia of the United States in the 19th Century. He lectured on American elections at Meridian International, the Organization of American States, and the House of Representatives' Parliamentary Development Task Force and its House Democracy Partnership. And on behalf of the State Department, he lectured at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, the U.S. Embassy in Austria and several Austrian universities, and the Egyptian Parliament and the American University in Cairo. He served Congress well and was rec-

ognized by many of his colleagues as an outstanding scholar and a dear friend to many. On behalf of all of Congress, I want to thank Tom for his enduring service to this institution.

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HONORING THE CITY OF PASSAIC

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride and joy to recognize a significant milestone as the City of Passaic celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since the city's incorporation in 1873, Passaic has evolved from a humble settlement into a vibrant and diverse urban center that stands as a beacon of progress. This historic achievement is a testament to the resilience, growth, and community spirit that have defined the City of Passaic over the past century and a half.

The industrious spirit of Passaic's residents has been the driving force behind its success. From the early days of fabric mills to the present, the people of Passaic have worked together to build a city that fosters innovation, economic prosperity, and cultural diversity. Let us reflect on the rich history, enduring spirit, and remarkable growth as we commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the City of Passaic.

The Lenni-Lenape Native Americans are the earliest recorded inhabitants of the area situated in the City of Passaic. The Lenni-Lenape were met by Hartman Michielsen Vreeland, a Dutch settler and trader, who purchased Dundee Island and Pulaski Park along the Passaic River on April 4, 1678. The Dutch settlement expanded its land through further deeds and purchases over the next decade. In 1693, the Dutch settlement incorporated as the Township of Acquackanonk as part of northern Essex County.

The Township of Acquackanonk was later moved to Passaic County after being formed in 1837 by combining parts of northern Essex County and western Bergen County. In 1869 the Township of Acquackanonk officially changed its name to the City of Passaic. As the area experienced population and commercial growth, community members voted to incorporate as the City of Passaic in 1873.

Following the incorporation, the City of Passaic experienced an industrial boom fueled by immigration from European countries. By the late 19th century, critical developments such as the construction of the Erie Railroad helped Passaic become an economic hub with flourishing manufacturing and commerce. The city established a diverse economy with a thriving textile industry producing silk and cotton.

Today, there are nearly 70,000 residents that call the City of Passaic their home. The city has a large immigrant population and is a melting pot evident through the array of multicultural businesses, restaurants, and community events. Throughout Passaic's history, community leaders and residents played a key role in shaping Passaic into the exceptional city we celebrate today. One of Passaic's most notable figures is Mayor Hector C. Lora. His leadership and wisdom continue to guide the City of Passaic through all challenges, always emerging stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of

New Jersey in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the City of Passaic. I take this opportunity to congratulate the residents of Passaic on this historic milestone. May this celebration serve as a moment to honor the past, revel in the present, and look forward to a future filled with continued growth, prosperity, and fortitude.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY LOUISE ORTA

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary Louise Orta as her family gathers to remember her life and the many people she touched along the way.

Mary Louise Orta was the matriarch of the Orta Family. She was born in New Braunfels, Texas on November 13, 1931. She met and married Albert Orta in 1949 and began their life together in Texas before moving to California in 1973.

Mrs. Orta was a military spouse who exemplified the virtues of family, commitment, and service. She supported her husband Albert's career as he served our nation in the United States Air Force, then as an employee of the Department of Defense while traveling to several countries until his retirement in 1980. During this time, Mary remained home and continued her own life of service by supporting his career and raising their 12 children.

In 1981, at age 50, as her youngest child entered kindergarten, Mrs. Orta joined the workforce volunteering at the local school. Soon thereafter, she was hired by the Elk Grove Unified School District as a full-time employee at Valley High School in Sacramento County where she remained until her retirement in 2001. She was a tireless contributor to her school community, always first to volunteer and never wavered when asked to help. Throughout her twenty-year career, Mrs. Orta received several recognitions and was honored by the California State Senate and at districtwide ceremonies for her many contributions to staff, school administration, and students at Valley High School.

Mary Orta was a remarkable woman. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, finding joy in the company of family and close friends. She proudly walked with school administration at high school graduations, supported her children and grandchildren at events and family gatherings. Her unwavering love for those she cared for was her driving force and her faith, kindness and compassion will undoubtedly be a continuing source of strength for her family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mary Louise Orta as her family gathers to honor her incredible life and legacy.

## TRIBUTE TO THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROM

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. From February 27 to 29, 1988, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians, leaving dozens of Armenian civilians dead and hundreds injured. Women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive after being tortured and beaten. Those who survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind all but the clothes on their backs.

In a pattern all too familiar to the Armenian people, the Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence.

In the years that followed this unspeakable massacre, Armenians living in Kirovabad, Baku, and Maragha suffered a similar fate. These pogroms were part of a pattern of hateful, racist anti-Armenian propaganda and activities occurring throughout Azerbaijan, dehumanizing its Armenian residents, and laying the groundwork for decades of aggression and mass violence. This brutality culminated when the Azerbaijani government initiated war against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh.

Beginning on September 27, 2020, and over 44 days, Azerbaijani forces invaded and murdered innocent Armenians in Artsakh and displaced tens of thousands more. They continued to terrorize the people of Artsakh in subsequent military attacks, and by blocking the Lachin Corridor—which left 120,000 people without access to food, water, medical supplies and services, gas, and electricity for over 9 months. On September 19, 2023, the Aliyev regime took full advantage of a people they had systematically starved, and launched a large-scale attack, further escalating their ethnic cleansing and genocidal campaign against the indigenous Armenian people of Artsakh. At least 200 people were killed, 400 wounded, over 100,000 ethnic Armenians were forcibly displaced, and Azerbaijan now holds Artsakh's political and military leadership, civilians, and prisoners of war hostage. With no help from the international community to confront Azerbaijan's military aggression, Artsakh was forced to negotiate under duress and consequently agreed to dissolve their democratically elected government.

There is also real and growing concern that Aliyev has his eyes set on land beyond Artsakh and will continue to seek further territory and concessions from Armenia by force. To this day, Azerbaijani forces remain present on sovereign Armenian land, in violation of Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and last month, President Aliyev made alarming remarks, including his refusal to remove troops from Armenian territory. These are the horrific consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked and when Aliyev's hostility is met with deafening silence, emboldening him to continue, and expand, his

unprovoked attacks on the Armenian people, knowing there will be no repercussions.

Azerbaijan's campaign of death and destruction against Armenians have been nothing short of deplorable, including the destruction of religious and cultural sites in Artsakh to erase or falsify history, and the torture, mutilation and killing of Armenian civilians, prisoners of war and soldiers. This February also marks 20 years of a horrific crime when Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku as a returning hero. There is no more dramatic illustration of Azerbaijan's continued posture of hatred towards their Armenian neighbor than their celebration of a cold-blooded murderer.

Though the United States and international partners have condemned Azerbaijan's aggression and military assault against Armenians, the time for strong statements alone has clearly long passed. Condemnation must be followed by real consequences. The United States must hold Azerbaijan and its leadership accountable and take concrete action and press Azerbaijan to return to compliance with international law and order. Crimes against humanity cannot be ignored and cannot go unanswered.

The United States must use its immense bully pulpit to apply direct pressure to the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan, by enforcing restrictions on additional military assistance to Baku pursuant to Section 907 and calling on Azerbaijan to immediately return all Armenian POWs, hostages, and other detainees, and provide information on the status of those still being detained or missing. Additionally, the Biden Administration should immediately implement sanctions under the Magnitsky Act against Azeri officials responsible for human rights abuses.

The United States must also demand an immediate withdrawal of Azeri forces from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, provide security assistance to Armenia including expanding humanitarian aid to assist Artsakh refugees, and help ensure the safety and security of Armenians who seek to return to their homes in Artsakh. Finally, the U.S. Department of State must continue to call attention to the destruction and desecration of Armenian religious and cultural sites by Azerbaijan, and urge their safeguarding and preservation. Only by using every diplomatic tool at their disposal, including sanctions, against Azerbaijan can we help guarantee the safety, security and continued territorial integrity of Armenia.

As we pause to remember the innocent victims of the pogroms, we are also reminded that despite the trials the Armenian people have faced, it has not broken their faith, determination, and their will to survive in the face of constant threats from Azerbaijan. Today, let us recommit ourselves to doing everything we can to bring peace and justice to our Armenian brothers and sisters abroad, once and for all.

HONORING HEB ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the following students who received HEB ISD Education Foundation's Award of Excellence in their respective fields of study: Aiden Aguirre, Isaiah Arellano, Matthew Boyd, Andrew Brooks, Dayton Crenshaw, Alexia Del Vecchio, Julie Eisermann, Anastasia Fike, Charles Fultz, Lauren Galkantas, Rafael Garcia, Orinda Dreshaj, Chloe Harmon, Ethan Hildebrand, Giselle Hill, Emma Hiros, Jacqueline Hollisinger, Mia Jax, Jayla King, Sagar Lamichhane, Ali Landreth, Jude Langsdorf, Mary McColm, Kylia Murphy, Dorine Ngara, Maddox Olatunde, Claire Payne, Valerie Reyes, Jerry Rivera, Julissa Rodriguez, Avery Vignali, Kassidy Zastrow, and Zecharias Zewdie. I'm inspired by these students' hard work, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

## HONORING THE LATE DR. CLINTON BATTLE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Dr. Clinton Battle.

Born in the 1920s, Dr. Clinton Battle was known for his remarkable medical service to Indianola, Mississippi that contributed to the medical field where he earned nationwide recognition.

In the 1950s Dr. Battle received national press for his renowned delivery of first conjoined Siamese twins to ever be successfully separated.

Outside of the medical field, Battle helped to revive the local chapter of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), helping over 100 African Americans register to vote.

He always inspired African Americans to rise during the Jim Crow era. Because of this contribution to civil rights and medicine, Dr. Clinton Battle has been named a recipient of the Civil Rights Trail Marker as a trailblazer for Civil Rights and his medical accomplishments.

Dr. Battle's legacy and his contribution to medicine will continue to transcend time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Dr. Clinton Battle for his dedication to medicine and Civil Rights.

## HONORING HUSEYIN BAYRAM

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2024*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an esteemed and invaluable member of New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District,

Mr. Huseyin Bayram. His contributions to our community distinguish him as a prominent figure, serving as the proud owner of Toro's Restaurant and the New Corral. Today I join the City of Paterson as they honor his contributions by awarding him with the Key to the City. Huseyin is an outstanding community leader, philanthropist, and entrepreneur who continuously demonstrates an unwavering commitment to make a positive impact extending beyond the State of New Jersey.

For over three decades, Huseyin Bayram has been active in the City of Paterson. His entrepreneurial spirit is embodied in the success of the New Corral in Clifton and the Toro's Restaurants, located in Paterson, Clifton, and Montclair. The Toro's Restaurant of Paterson is an iconic dining establishment that opened its doors in 1972.

Mr. Bayram's compassionate philanthropy created numerous local initiatives, including his donation of over 10,000 meals to community members during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Huseyin wanted to show his appreciation for frontline healthcare workers by providing free meals to doctors and nurses at three hospitals in New York. Huseyin played a critical role in spearheading and organizing relief efforts for the earthquake of Turkey in 2023. Huseyin's efforts have not only enhanced our community's well-being but also fostered a spirit of unity and cooperation among its members.

Mr. Bayram led 150,000 members as the President of the Turkish American Giresun Organization, representing the largest Turkish population in the United States. In 2017, the City of Paterson appointed Huseyin as Deputy Mayor under Mayor Jane Williams-Warren establishing his role in local governance. Furthermore, he holds the position of Vice-President with the Turkish-American Federation of New York and the Paterson Mevlana Mosque, showcasing how the Turkish community places their trust in his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of the City of Paterson in recognizing Mr. Bayram. I take this opportunity to honor the great work Huseyin Bayram has accomplished. May his work continue to be a guiding light in our community and inspire others to strive for excellence in service.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MAYOR IRMA ANDERSON

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, to honor the life and legacy of Mayor Irma Anderson, a trailblazing leader within Contra Costa County and devout public servant. Mayor Anderson, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy as a mayor, nurse, and community advocate.

Born and raised in Boston, Mayor Anderson's passion for public service began at a young age. After serving as Student Body President and Valedictorian of her high school, she became one of the first Black students to

attend and graduate from Cornell School of Nursing. In 1959, Mayor Anderson moved to Richmond, California with her husband, Reverend Booker T. Anderson, Jr., beginning a lifelong residency in the Contra Costa County community.

Fueled by her passion for service and sincere belief in caring for those around her, Mayor Anderson worked diligently for the Contra Costa County Health Department for 20 years. She eventually became the first Black Assistant Director and Director of Public Health Nursing in Contra Costa County, and her unwavering leadership undeniably improved her community.

Following her extensive career in public health, Mayor Anderson's commitment to service led her to run for Richmond City Council. In 1993, she became the first Black woman to serve as a Richmond City Council Member. After two successful terms on the Richmond City Council, Mayor Anderson made history yet again in 2001, when she became the first Black woman to be elected mayor of a major California city.

Mayor Anderson's career in public service was characterized by her spirit for advocacy and commitment to giving a voice to the unrepresented. She developed a historic partnership with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, founding Kids! First, which cultivates and expands after-school programs throughout Richmond. In addition, she held the "Richmond Rises Above Violence Conference," which galvanized Richmond's public health approach to violence prevention. Subsequently, Richmond created an Office of Violence Prevention, later the Office of Neighborhood Safety, a nationally recognized violence intervention strategy.

Mayor Anderson's spirit of innovation was expressed both through her critical leadership and vital work as Metropolitan Transportation Committee Commissioner. She spearheaded efforts to advance multiple bridge rehabilitation and expansion projects, helping ensure Contra Costa County's roads were safe and secure. During her tenure as Mayor and Commissioner, Mayor Anderson presided over the transformation of downtown Richmond into a model of transit-oriented development.

Mayor Anderson will be remembered for her decades of service to Contra Costa County and her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She impacted the lives of countless community members and her steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship brought comfort to all who knew her. Mayor Anderson's enduring spirit will live on in her son and the community she dedicated her life to serving. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mayor Anderson's loved ones. We know they and the people of Contra Costa County will join us in celebrating her life and legacy.

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RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN KING

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**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Karen King for her dedicated service to the California public transit industry and to congratulate her on her well-earned re-

tirement from the Golden Empire Transit District. Ms. King's career in public transit began in 1976 at the Utah Transit Authority. Ten years later, Ms. King joined Long Beach Transit as a Grants Administrator. She quickly moved up the leadership ranks, and in 1995 was named Executive Director of Transportation. In 1998, Ms. King worked for the North San Diego County Transit Development as the Director of Development and Communications Services and was selected as the agency's Executive Director in 2001. In 2008, Ms. King moved to Bakersfield where she became the Chief Executive Officer of the Golden Empire Transit District. During her tenure as CEO, Ms. King has been steadfast in her commitment to meeting the transportation needs of all Bakersfield residents. She helped develop and implement the On-Demand Microtransit service program, which was first piloted in southwest Bakersfield and has since expanded across the city. The program increases transportation access for all residents by offering low-cost transportation to residents traveling to popular destinations in the city. Ms. King has directed other initiatives including a partnership with Kern Health Systems to provide rides to appointments for the more than 300,000 members of Kern Family Health Care. Ms. King is also coordinating the Long Range Operational Service Analysis, which aims to improve local transportation and return ridership to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. King has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels for her leadership in the public transit industry. She is the Vice Chair of the California Transit Association (CTA) and in 2021, was selected for a two-year term as Chair.

Ms. King has also served as Chair of the CTA's COVID-19 Relief Task Force, where she has helped California's public transit industry recover from the pandemic. In 2018, Ms. King received a Distinguished Service Award from the CTA, to celebrate her distinguished career and outstanding contributions. This year, Ms. King is receiving the CTA's award for Innovation and Resiliency, to celebrate her commitment to the innovation of the industry and well-being of all Bakersfield commuters. Ms. King's many accomplishments are a true testament to her character and leadership. I'm confident that her service to the Golden Empire Transit District and her passion for improving public transit for all residents of our community will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ms. King for her more than 40 years of dedicated service to the public transit industry and wishing her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL  
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Equal Federal Funding for the District of Columbia Act, which would amend title 1 of the United States Code to deem the District of Columbia as both a state and political

subdivision of a state (such as a city or county) for the purpose of eligibility for federal funding, unless otherwise provided in a statute. D.C. operates as the functional equivalent of a state, city and county, and D.C. residents pay all federal taxes. Therefore, D.C. deserves to be eligible for federal funding available for each level of government.

While federal statutes generally expressly treat D.C. as a state for federal funding—and most federal grants go to states—federal statutes that provide federal funding directly to political subdivisions are often silent on whether D.C. is to be treated as a political subdivision. In the absence of clear language in a statute, federal agencies are inconsistent in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

By amending title 1 of the U.S. Code to deem D.C. as both a state and political subdivision for federal funding, this bill would automatically correct imprecise treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding in existing and future statutes and remove discretion from federal agencies in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY HOSPICE AND FOUNDER, JOCELYN CAMPBELL**

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to The Lighthouse Community Hospice, and its founder Jocelyn Campbell as they host their Annual "Covered in Love" Gala.

Ms. Campbell has devoted over 20 years to end-of-life care, working as an advocate for the preservation of dignity and compassion for those approaching the end of their lives. In her role as the Chief Executive Officer of The Lighthouse Community Hospice, Ms. Campbell serves as a pioneer in advocating for quality end-of-life care. She oversees a dedicated and hardworking group of healthcare professionals and takes part in strategic partnership and planning in order to ensure that their programs reach their maximum potential. In 2023, the Lighthouse Community Hospice served as a signature community resource at the 52nd Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Caucus in our nation's capital. In addition to her role as CEO of the Lighthouse Community Hospice, Campbell simultaneously serves as the CEO of Health Comply AI. Through her work at Health Comply AI, she is able to balance her expertise in cutting-edge artificial intelligence technologies with her passion for high standard health care delivery, in developing AI-driven solutions for administering healthcare services and organizations.

The Lighthouse Community Hospice helps to alleviate the difficult, emotional experience that is caring for a loved one who is near death. They adopt a dedicated and compas-

sionate approach to the work that they do, helping each family to develop a plan that centers around preserving the dignity and wishes of the individual approaching eternal rest.

I am humbled to acknowledge The Lighthouse Community Hospice and Ms. Jocelyn Campbell in their global caregiver advocacy movement for end-of-life initiatives. The tireless, dedicated, and consistent work that they do continue to profoundly impact the ways in which end-of-life care is approached and administered both within our community and beyond.

**RECOGNIZING DR. JEFFREY BEAUVAIS, PH.D.**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Dr. Jeffrey Beauvais, Ph.D. upon his completion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. Dr. Beauvais served as a Knauss fellow in my Washington, D.C. office from February 2023 until February 2024.

As an integral member of my legislative staff, Dr. Beauvais assisted my work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, particularly my work on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. Over the past twelve months, he worked closely with the Committee and the rest of my personal office staff in developing several pieces of critical legislation.

Dr. Beauvais overhauled my "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act" from the 116th Congress to include new, novel reforms to federal programs for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. He also developed new legislation, the "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 2024," in response to a blue-ribbon report by the Pacific States' Oil Spill Task Force published on January 14, 2020. Among other key reforms, this new legislation would unlock more than \$1.5 billion annually in dedicated federal funding under the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove abandoned and derelict vessels from federally regulated waterways. I expect to introduce both bills in the coming months, thanks in no small part to his work.

Dr. Beauvais received his doctorate in integrative conservation and ecology from the University of Georgia, Athens in 2022, and graduated with honors from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2015. I expect Dr. Beauvais' fellowship in my office will inspire and inform his future endeavors with his passion for his native coastal Georgia a recurring theme throughout his career and life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's eighth Congressional district, I ex-

tend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Beauvais for his dedicated service as a Knauss fellow. He will always remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi.

**HONORING 100 YEARS OF THE CULPEPER COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, COMPANY 1**

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1 for their 100 years of dedicated service toward their mission to aid in the preservation and protection of life and property from and during fires, and their commitment to the Culpeper community.

The Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department was born from a desire to help neighbors in need. Chartered in January 1924, the department was first led by Chief J. William Swan and was comprised of 19 volunteers ready to answer the call. In their early days, they relied on their 1923 American LaFrance Brockway "Torpedo" Engine, which they housed on the ground floor of the Municipal Building. Volunteer firefighters used canvas coats with leather gloves bought at local hardware stores, and some donned World War I metal helmets or construction helmets to fight fires. It was not until the early 1950s that Culpeper volunteer firefighters got their first official fireproof gear. Soon after, they relocated to West Davis Street where they are still located today.

The Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department is a unique and treasured organization. Made up completely of volunteers from all walks of life, these brave individuals respond to emergencies in their community in their spare time. Through their service, they provide fire protection and life-saving aid to more than 54,000 Culpeper County residents and cover 383 square miles.

What began as a dream to help their neighbors has grown into a strong organization that continues to uphold the founding mission set 100 years ago—"to provide emergency services to the citizens of our entire community . . . achieved through our principles of commitment, education, recognized standards, and professionalism." Today they boast a membership of 65 volunteer firefighters. In 2023, they answered 913 calls with a fleet composed of an engine, a pumper, a rescue engine, and more, all purchased with the help of their community through fundraising and donations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commanding the work and commitment to services that Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1 has carried out over the last 100 years. Their service to the community is invaluable, and I wish them the best as they continue their work to help our neighbors when they most need it.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024.

### *Committee Meetings*

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 26 public bills, H.R. 7319–7344; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1010, were introduced.

**Pages H580–81**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H582–83**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3722, to require a pilot program on activities under the pre-separation transition process of members of the Armed Forces for a reduction in suicide among veterans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–380, Part 1);

H.R. 5450, to amend the Small Business Act to modify the application of price evaluation preference for qualified HUBZone small business concerns to certain contracts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–381);

H.R. 6156, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to designate a point of contact for for-profit child care providers, submit a report to Congress, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–382);

H.R. 7128, to establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–383);

H.R. 6276, to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–384);

H.R. 2426, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–385);

H.R. 4316, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–386);

H.R. 5687, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize health savings accounts, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–387); and

H. Res. 1009, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas (H. Rept. 118–388).

**Pages H579–80**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Maloy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H545**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

**Page H550**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

**Page H551**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**No Dollars To Uyghur Forced Labor:** H.R. 4039, amended, to prohibit the use of funds supporting

any activities within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China;

Pages H554–55

***IGO Anti-Boycott Act:*** H.R. 3016, amended, to amend the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply the provisions of that Act to international governmental organizations; and

Pages H558–60

***Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act:*** H.R. 5856, amended, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 41.

Pages H565–71

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:17 p.m. and reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

Pages H564–65

***Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors:*** The House agreed to H. Res. 863, amended, by a impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 43. Earlier, the House agreed to the motion to reconsider by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 42. Proceedings began on Tuesday, February 6th. Pursuant to section 2(a) of H. Res. 996, House Resolution 995 is hereby agreed to.

Pages H572–73

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

***Uyghur Policy Act:*** H.R. 2766, amended, to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity;

Pages H551–54

***Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act:*** H.R. 533, amended, to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act; and

Pages H555–58

***Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act:*** H.R. 3202, amended, to prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad.

Pages H560–64

**Senate Referrals:** S. 709 was held at the desk. S. 1147 was held at the desk. S. Con. Res. 29 was held at the desk.

Page H551

**Senate Messages:** Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H551.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H571, H572, and H572–73.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024

***Committee on Rules:*** Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 7176, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7176, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7176, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duncan and Pallone.

### BUSINESS MEETING

***Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:*** Full Committee held a business meeting on granting access to certain intelligence reporting to all Members of the House. This meeting was closed.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

***Committee on Agriculture:*** Full Committee, hearing entitled “For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

***Committee on the Budget:*** Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

***Committee on Education and the Workforce:*** Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Examining

the Policies and Priorities of the Wage and Hour Division”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “Powered Up: State Utility Regulators on Challenges to Reliable, Affordable Electricity”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “AUKUS Implementation and Challenges to International Security and Arms Control in the 21st Century”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, hearing entitled “Iran’s Proxy in Yemen: The Houthi Threat to Middle East Stability, Global Shipping, and U.S. Servicemembers”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, hearing entitled “The Future of Freedom in Nigeria”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on House Administration*, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the End Zuckerbucks Act of 2023; H.R. 4500, the “Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act”; H.R. 4251, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Federal Government in carrying out its responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to promote access to voting for absentee uniformed services voters and an analysis of means for improving access to voter registration and assistance for members of the Armed Forces and their family members, and for other purposes; legislation on the Electronic Filing of Electioneering Communication Reports Act; H.R. 4486, the “Hiring Preference for Veterans and Americans

With Disabilities Act”; and H.R. 4477, the “American Confidence in Elections: District of Columbia Election Integrity and Voter Confidence Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States Marshals Service”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 3119, to provide for the issuance of a Manatee Semipostal Stamp; H.R. 6784, the “ESA Flexibility Act”; H.R. 6854, the “Habitat Enhancement Now Act”; and H.R. 7157, the “Strengthen Wood Product Supply Chains Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Rules*, Full Committee, hearing on legislation on the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, 2 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “ISS and Beyond: The Present and Future of American Low-Earth Orbit Activities”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, markup on the Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025, 9:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Impact of EPA Regulations on Main Street”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “VA’s HR Office: Did Leaders Ignore and Perpetrate Sexual Harassment?”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon. Part of this hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Is VA Illegally Spending Taxpayer Dollars in its Compensation and Pension Programs?”, 1 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
3:30 p.m., Friday, February 16

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Wednesday, February 14

Senate Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

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