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No. 29

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

CONGRESS NEEDS TO LEGISLATE ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a matter of great concern to all Americans.

Yesterday, House Republicans recklessly voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. They engaged in a sham exercise that not only degrades the value and the importance of this democratic institution, but last week they went through the effort to engage in an exercise to publicly lay at the doorstep of one person, Secretary Mayorkas, the crisis of migration and immigration which has been permanent in the United States of America for decades upon decades upon decades.

House Republicans blame a single man for a perennial immigration crisis caused by Congress' decades-long failure to pass immigration law.

During the Reagan administration, we saw how President Reagan addressed comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, alluding to the great lady at the New York Harbor, he said: "It is that lady who gives us our great and special place in the world."

George Bush addressed the immigration crisis.

George W. Bush addressed the immigration crisis.

This crisis has been before us for decades upon decades upon decades. Yet, yesterday, after a failed vote last week by one vote, the Republicans recklessly voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas in a sham process that, as I said earlier, degrades the value of this great democratic institution.

Even conservative scholars will note that Secretary Mayorkas has done a strong job in advancing solutions with-

in the confines of our existing immigration laws, which we all agree are broken. Yet, instead of working with us to actually improve our laws, the Republican leadership pursued a bogus impeachment trial, fueled purely by their desire to win votes and by fanning the flames of xenophobia. We saw that play out in New York during the past weeks, and we saw the results last night.

New Yorkers rejected that attitude. New Yorkers rejected that effort to divide us. Instead, Republicans must join Members of their caucus in critical efforts to actually pass legislation on immigration.

This can be achieved by passing the bipartisan—and let me say this again, Madam Speaker—the bipartisan Dignity Act, which I stand in support of today.

H.R. 3599, the Dignity Act, represents Congress' best chances in 37 years to finally fix our broken immigration system, and is supported by Republicans and Democrats.

This bipartisan bill contains immigration fixes in four key areas that both Democrats and Republicans should fall behind. One, of course, is border safety. We all agree that something should be done about the border.

The other one is immigration reform. Components of immigration reform that we know are critical and important, as Ronald Reagan said, for the future of our Nation. A third bucket is jobs and the economy. We must inject more energy in jobs and our economy. Of course, the fourth bucket is the root causes of migration in our hemisphere.

□ 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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So for border security, we can do a lot by providing substantial funding to combat fentanyl smuggling and for border technologies that will modernize our ports of entry. Fentanyl is coming in through our ports of entry by wheels. Vehicles are bringing it in. Let's modernize our ports of entry to ensure that we stop that crisis.

Madam Speaker, again, we have a solution. It is called the Dignity Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GREGGORY JACKSON HUGHEY

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart but also with pride, to pay tribute to Gregory Jackson Hughey from Tipton County, Tennessee.

Jackson Hughey is a former Covington High School football player who recently lost his 7-year battle with cancer.

Jackson had bravely fought neuroblastoma cancer since 2017. That cancer should not define Jackson, but it is certainly part of his story.

Jackson was a brave young man. In fact, Jason Hughey, Jackson's father, said that Jackson defined his cancer and defined his life.

Jackson never ever discussed his cancer diagnosis unless he was receiving treatment or getting a checkup at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. Jason and Deanne Hughey are so appreciative of all the care and support they received from the healthcare providers at St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Jackson found comfort through his faith. His family said that Jackson did not allow the cancer to control him or bother him because, in their words, he knew where he was going.

Jackson is remembered for his passion for all sports, specifically football. It was through football that I first met Jackson a number of years ago. Jackson's love for life and for sports truly shined through, and I think this photo here clearly shows that.

Along with his childhood friends, Jackson started H+H Podcast, a weekly show to discuss the latest news and sports and to preview upcoming games. Now whether the topic was football, basketball, baseball, or any other sport, Jackson and his friend, Tanner, covered the bases over their 70 episodes.

Jackson was a big fan of the University of Memphis Tigers. One morning just before Christmas, a couple of months ago, Jackson and his father headed to St. Jude Children's Hospital for a transfusion of platelets. When it was clear that they were not going to be ready for the treatment before they needed to leave for the Memphis Tigers basketball game versus Vanderbilt, Jackson told his St. Jude nurse that he had to wait to get his platelets until after the basketball game, and that is what he did.

Jackson went to the game and then he returned to the hospital for his transfusion. Jackson simply was not going to allow his sickness to stop him from doing the things that he loved.

In the years following his diagnosis, it was moving to see the entire Tipton County community rally in support of him. Even the rival fans started wearing Covington High School colors in honor of Jackson.

Jackson taught all of us that life is precious, and he showed us what it is like to be brave and to fight hard. Jackson showed us how to fully embrace life and how to overcome fear.

As a testament to his courage and to his life, Jackson was awarded the Commercial Appeal's Courage Award in 2021. Jackson passed away on January 28, just a couple of weeks ago.

Yesterday would have been Jackson's 21st birthday. Jackson Hughey is the pride of Covington and Tipton County. Today our prayers go out to Jason and Deanne, as well as Jackson's brother and sister, Jake and Jan Claire, as they mourn their beloved son and brother. Jackson's story and his strength are an inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, last month, I joined my colleague JARED MOSKOWITZ on a tour of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The school is frozen in time. It is just as it was 6 years ago today when a gunman stole the lives of 17 people. There was a box of chocolates left in a classroom on a stack of textbooks, a stuffed animal with a Valentine's Day balloon sitting on a chair, writing assignments left unfinished, whiteboards covered in lesson plans.

It was so ordinary, so hauntingly familiar. It is what you would see today if you walked into any high school on Valentine's Day.

And then there was the horror—the broken glass, the bullet holes, the blood stains, the outlines left by children's murdered bodies, two of them right next to the teacher's desk where their classmates and teacher were hiding inches away.

Three dads joined us that day. One by one, each of them led us to a spot where his child had been shot to death. One told us of how his daughter had run for safety in a stairwell, how she had missed safety by a split second, and how a single bullet ended her life before it had even begun. Her blood and the blood of her classmates mark the floors of that hallway, and they mark the soul of a country that could have saved them but chose not to.

The collective failures to prevent this tragedy permeates every corner of

that building and every corner of this building: the failure of the good guys with guns to respond quickly and without hesitation; the sheriff's failure to act on a warning of a school shooter in the making; the FBI's failure to investigate a tip about an angry, unstable teenager who wanted to kill people; and Congress' failure to keep an AR-15 rifle out of his hands.

The men and women in this building could have prevented him from acquiring a weapon designed to kill and kill fast, but no. Nothing. There were no red flag laws, no universal background checks, no crackdown on high-capacity magazines, no assault weapons ban, no safe storage requirements. All of it was rejected by those, Madam Speaker, who perversely define freedom as unfettered access to weapons of war.

Madam Speaker, there was no freedom for the students and staff gunned down that day. There is no freedom in violence, in terror, and death. There is no freedom in being forced to wonder if your child will come home from school. Will they live to see graduation? And there is no freedom from the grief of those parents whose worst fears had been realized.

□ 1015

Along one of those hallways there is a quote painted on the wall: "Never live in the past but always learn from it."

Madam Speaker, that building is just as it was 6 years ago, and so is this country. Our gun laws are frozen in the past as if nothing has happened. In refusing to act, Republicans not only ignore the past, they condemn the children to future violent death.

Madam Speaker, let us honor our past by changing our future. Let us honor the murdered by honoring the right of the living to be free from fear.

MOUNTAIN GATEWAY OFFICIALS WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13 Mountain Gateway officials who have been separated from their families and wrongly imprisoned in Nicaragua.

Our Founding Fathers in America established our First Amendment, which guarantees the freedom of religion. While we are blessed that the United States ensures these rights, other countries and governments do not offer these same liberties. Mountain Gateway is an evangelical ministry based in Texas that desires to make Jesus Christ's name known to all nations.

The organization has had relations with Nicaragua since 2013, establishing churches, humanitarian relief projects, and a fair trade coffee farm that provides income to rural residents. This past year, Mountain Gateway held a series of mass religious worship services

in Nicaragua with the government's approval. Throughout eight separate gatherings, more than 1 million people attended.

The Nicaraguan Government began arresting Mountain Gateway affiliated personnel shortly after their most recent service in Managua on false claims of money laundering. Thirteen Mountain Gateway officials are currently being held in prison with no access to legal counsel, no visits from their relatives, and no access to the allegations against them.

Beside me are pictures of a family that has been separated because of this catastrophe. The children, who are also U.S. citizens, are currently separated from their family due to the wrongful imprisonment of their parents.

The response of the Nicaraguan Government is unacceptable. While the current U.S. open border has allowed over 300,000 Nicaraguans to access America since 2021, the Nicaraguan Government has targeted numerous U.S. citizens to be arrested and extradited to Nicaragua and separated two U.S. children under the age of 3 from their parents.

As an American and a strong supporter of religious freedom, it is hard to grasp the reality that other nations do not have the freedom to worship in peace. I condemn the actions by Nicaraguan authorities against both Nicaraguan and American citizens for worshipping the God who created them, and I will be praying for peace and comfort for the individuals and their families until they are safely united.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize February 17 through 24 as National FFA Week. President George Washington once said: "Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man."

FFA members and alumni nationwide continue to look up to President Washington as a model of leadership and a champion for agriculture. For the past 76 years, we have celebrated National FFA Week during the week of Washington's birthday, February 22.

My roots in FFA run deep. The organization played a role in shaping me into the man I am today. I was a member of the Fountain Lake FFA chapter in high school and went on to serve as the Arkansas FFA State president. I now have the opportunity to serve on the bipartisan Congressional FFA Caucus, and many of my staff members are previous FFA members, State officers, and even a national officer.

At a time when the average age of a U.S. farmer is nearly 60 years old, agriculturists are looking to the next generation to fill their shoes. It has never been more important to give youth a seat at the table and enhance the agricultural talent pipeline, and that is where FFA excels.

I am proud to recognize National FFA Week to celebrate this incredible organization. May it be a reminder of

the great strides FFA makes in contributing to the future of agriculture.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB R. BROOKS, JR.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bob R. Brooks, Jr.

Bob was loved by many, a true family man. He was proud to be known as Uncle Bob to the light of his life, Ryan, as well as to Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's children. He was deeply involved in the lives of his friends and colleagues, and many considered him a member of their family.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas and was a dedicated Razorback fan, rooting for the Hogs in every sport. Bob served as chief of staff for former Congressman Jay Dickey before returning to Arkansas to serve the Natural State in several ways, in both the public and private sectors. Bob was named chief deputy attorney general by Attorney General Tim Griffin in 2023. He deeply enjoyed golfing, horse racing, and traveling.

Bob was loyal to those around him and the State of Arkansas. I am thankful for his contributions to our State; but furthermore, I am thankful for his friendship. Bob's legacy will be felt by many for years to come.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I have a strong belief in the power of international trade agreements to make a profound difference. It is not just because 95 percent of the global economy is outside the United States. These agreements are necessary to raise standards, protect the environment, and to avoid the tragedy of the commons.

I have seen the global economy raise living standards in China, Africa, and India, Singapore being the most powerful example. However, there were decidedly mixed results with Mexico. The gap between theory and practice showed that the promise of NAFTA was overblown and that the critics were right.

Poor Mexican farmers could not compete against massively subsidized American corn, and U.S. workers could not compete against \$3 an hour Mexican factory workers.

Too much of American business was focused on financial and tax engineering, not actually engineering better products. They were gaming the tax system and extending patent protection, not winning new patents. The worst example was GE's downward spiral under Jack Welch's ruthless capitalism. However, I have been encouraged with the Biden administration's worker-centered trade policy.

I am proud of my work as the lead Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee dealing with international

trade, working to level the playing field, fighting to improve trade agreements.

We made major advances, for example, reducing illegal logging by more than 40 percent and providing legislation that was a model for other countries to help stem this damaging practice. Our May 10th Agreement provided enforceable labor and environmental standards.

I was pleased to help lead the effort to revise NAFTA to strengthen its environmental protections, worker protections, and the enforcement of agreements to protect these advances. I hope these NAFTA revisions will start a new era of trade policy, but it is time to push back against the Chinese.

I am tired of their two-tiered system where they claim to be a developing country when it works to their advantage while being an economic powerhouse, one of the largest and most powerful in the world.

We must fight to protect and strengthen the WTO. There is no substitute for our being engaged in Geneva along with 163 other countries. It is hard work, but it is worth it.

Finally, we must battle to have China honor their WTO commitments made three decades ago. I have a special concern about the de minimis loophole, a provision in our tax code that allows China to ship directly to American consumers \$800 or less in terms of product value. It is going to allow a billion packages into the United States economy untaxed, uninspected. We have 15 Republican attorneys general who have raised the alarm about this provision. We are seeing shoddy products made with slave labor. They are shipping fentanyl precursors directly to American drug dealers. It is time to stop that practice.

I have legislation that would close the de minimis loophole. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor my Import Security and Fairness Act, which would stop these products flowing from a nonmarket economy on the watch list. Currently, that is just China, but they are the source of 60 percent of these 1 billion de minimis products. Doing so will protect American business, American consumers, public safety, and human rights. We can usher in a new era of worker-centered sustainable trade. The world is depending on us.

QUESTIONING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S MENTAL FITNESS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, President Biden may have broken the law when he willfully retained and disclosed classified materials, according to Special Counsel Robert Hur's recent report.

However, Special Counsel Hur chose not to prosecute President Biden because the President's memory has such

"significant limitations" that could hinder the ability to convince a jury that President Biden held a mental state of willfulness that a serious felony requires.

Despite the special counsel reaching this alarming conclusion, Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER has said: "His mental acuity is great. It's fine. It's as good as it's been over the years," which has been echoed by other allies of the President.

Thankfully, the American people aren't buying it. Shortly after the findings of the special counsel were released, President Biden held an embarrassing press conference where he mistakenly referred to the Egyptian President as the President of Mexico. The President's mental acuity was on full display.

This is just another reason out of the many why House Republicans are demanding answers and accountability. The Tennesseans I represent deserve to know whether or not the President is mentally fit to serve in the highest office of the land. They also deserve to know whether or not President Biden and his family may have sold their influence and position in our government to the highest bidder, even to our adversaries.

That is why House Republicans have requested multiple documents and information from Special Counsel Hur's report to get to the bottom of these important questions. This information could potentially be a smoking gun in the impeachment inquiry investigation into President Biden, Hunter Biden, and the Biden family. It may also answer questions about President Biden's mental acuity. However, many of these questions have already been answered through the President's rare press conferences and media interviews.

Since being sworn in, President Biden has done just 86 interviews versus 300 for President Trump and 422 for President Obama at this point in their respective Presidencies, according to data collected by the White House Transition Project. Even worse, he has done just 33 press conferences compared to 54 by President Trump and 65 by President Obama. He even bucked national tradition by skipping out on a Super Bowl interview by CBS.

Madam Speaker, I may not agree with the President or those on the other side of the aisle on a whole lot of issues, but I hope we can all agree on how concerning this situation could be. If the President can't be held responsible for potentially breaking the law by mishandling classified information, then he has no business occupying the Oval Office.

Tennesseans can rest assured House Republicans will do everything in our power to conduct oversight of this administration, including the President's mental fitness for office because the American people deserve to have a President who is up to the task.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from en-

gaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1030

FUNDING FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, the time has come for the Speaker of the House, MIKE JOHNSON, to make a decision.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, the Russian Army, at the direction of Vladimir Putin, invaded Ukraine, a peaceful Nation, a democratic Nation, an ally of the United States.

Putin's missiles rained down on schools and hospitals. His bullets took the lives of children and the elderly.

This is not the first time Vladimir Putin has invaded another country, slaughtering thousands of innocent people for no purpose other than his own selfish ambition. If he is allowed to succeed in Ukraine, he will not stop there.

We must continue to support Ukraine, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because if the United States abandons Ukraine, we endanger our own national security.

After the attacks on this country on September 11, more than 50 nations, including Ukraine and all of our NATO allies, came to America's defense in the war on terror.

The strength of our military is multiplied by the strength of our alliances, and if we turn our backs on our ally, we weaken ourselves.

This week, the Senate passed a bill that will give Ukraine the supplies and ammunition it needs to win the war.

Now, the decision and the fate of millions rests with just one man, the Speaker of the House, MIKE JOHNSON. We know what will happen if Speaker MIKE JOHNSON calls a vote on Ukraine funding.

The bill will pass the House by an overwhelming margin. This is undisputed. It will pass the House by an overwhelming margin, and then the President will sign it.

American factories and workers will produce the ammunition and supplies the Ukrainians desperately need. Once again, America's industrial might will arm the cause of freedom, as we have so many times before.

When the Ukrainians receive that ammunition and those supplies, they will continue to use them to great effect and fight bravely as they have for the last 2 years.

We know all of this will happen if Speaker JOHNSON allows us to vote on the bill. If we do not vote on the bill, if Ukraine falls and millions of people have their freedom violently ripped away from them, and the light of democracy in the world glows a little less bright, and Vladimir Putin turns his menacing gaze to the democracies of

Europe, and dictators around the world rejoice that the United States has retreated from its position of global leadership, it will be because one man, just one man, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, had the power to call a vote and didn't.

Madam Speaker, 77 years ago a young veteran named John F. Kennedy entered this Chamber for the first time as a newly elected Member of the House of Representatives.

In his book "Profiles in Courage," Kennedy predicted: "... in the days ahead, only the very courageous will be able to take the hard and unpopular decisions necessary for our survival in the struggle with a powerful enemy ..."

Now is the time for courage. History is watching. The cause of freedom and the hopes of millions are on the line. What will MIKE JOHNSON do?

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUNDING

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, we have a moral duty to help survivors of violent crime by ensuring that they have access to the care and support they need. That is why I rise today in support of robust funding for the Victims of Crime Act, also known as VOCA.

VOCA is one of the most important sources of funding for victims of crime and particularly survivors of sexual assault.

VOCA funds rape crisis centers, emergency shelters, mental health services, and forensic labs to process DNA casework and help law enforcement bring criminals to justice.

During my time as Rhode Island's general treasurer, I managed our State's crime victims compensation fund, which is funded, in part, by VOCA.

During those years, we helped thousands of Rhode Islanders recovering from violent incidents with healthcare, counseling, reimbursements for lost wages, and other expenses.

I am particularly proud that we helped more than 300 survivors of domestic violence relocate to new housing away from their abusers, no doubt saving lives in the process.

All of this was made possible by VOCA funding. Without VOCA, a survivor of domestic abuse may be turned away from emergency care and shelter because there aren't enough beds. These are necessary services.

As Congress prepares to consider the FY24 appropriations bills in just a few weeks, we must fully fund VOCA at the administration's recommended levels.

I urge my colleagues to stand with survivors, stand with children, and support robust funding for VOCA.

CONGRATULATING MADISON JENNINGS ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate

Madison Jennings for being named a 2024 Rhodes Scholar.

Madison is president of the Agnes Scott Prelaw Society and an intern at the Carter Center where she has worked on issues ranging from supporting women's education to activism in Liberia.

She is the founder and project executive for Pop-Up Library for Peace, a literacy project she developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on childhood literacy in her community.

Jennings will also begin postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom next fall. At Oxford, Madison will pursue a master of public policy and an MS in public policy research.

She is also classically trained in ballet and has three ballet productions.

Through all her hard work, Madison has built a deep commitment and knowledge of policy and strategy, keeping her motivated to continue working toward her goals.

Madison, we in the State of Georgia are very proud of you. Best of luck.

CONGRATULATING RUDY UNDERWOOD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Rudy Underwood, a Georgia native.

Underwood, the former American Chemistry Council vice president of state affairs and political mobilization, has recently retired after 31 years with the ACC.

Mr. Underwood joined the American Chemistry Council in 1992 as the managing director of ACC's southern regional office in Atlanta.

In 2015, Underwood was appointed vice president of State affairs and political mobilization.

The ACC's mission is to advocate for the people, policy, and products of chemistry that make the United States the global leader in innovation and manufacturing.

His work to champion smart policies has helped create and save chemical and plastics industry jobs and has raised awareness of the critical role chemistry plays in improving the lives of Americans across the country.

Congratulations, Mr. Underwood, on your achievements and on your well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING ELAINE TUTEN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Elaine Tuten for 50 years of loyalty and dedicated service to the Defense Credit Union Council, members, and staff.

CEO Elaine Tuten recently received a Hall of Honor award from the Defense Credit Union Council at the group's 55th annual conference.

The Defense Credit Union Council's Hall of Honor was set up to celebrate a few select individuals whose continuous hard work have made a difference in the Defense Credit Union community and council.

Tuten's contributions go beyond her own credit union as she also works to

strengthen the credit union movement in the country of Poland while remaining as a helping hand to those in need.

A coworker of Tuten's stated: Elaine's legacy is a testament to her unwavering dedication to our movement. She has shattered glass ceilings as a woman in our industry and has paved the way for countless others.

Congratulations on 50 years of service, Elaine.

REMEMBERING GEORGE DAME BARNHILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of George Barnhill, a Georgia resident, who passed away peacefully at the age of 91.

George grew up on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp in Clinch County. He loved being in nature since he was a child. He loved farming, gardening, and most of all, traveling with his family. He was an avid quail hunter and a well-known marksman.

He graduated from Clinch County High School in 1949, then attended college in Douglas, Georgia, before joining the U.S. Air Force during the Korean war.

He was discharged honorably at the end of the war and returned to Clinch County to marry his wife, Maldine, in August of 1954.

Shortly after, George completed his degree in chemical engineering at the University of Florida and graduated with honors in May of 1957.

He proceeded to pursue a career in pulp and paper where he worked for International Paper in Panama City, Florida; Interstate Paper in Riceboro, Georgia; and Rayonier Mill in Jesup, Georgia.

George will be missed by all, and I send my condolences to his loved ones.

FIRSTENERGY INDICTMENTS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight significant developments in the ongoing commercial nuclear energy scandal in Ohio, the worst in U.S. history.

It involves FirstEnergy Corporation's conspiracy, wire fraud, and bribery of the highest level of Ohio public officials in return for a legislative bailout of its flagging nuclear plants.

Bribed public officials made sure that the company's debts were dumped on the public as they violated public safety time and again.

This past Friday, a Summit County, Ohio, grand jury returned the indictments against the former CEO of FirstEnergy, the former FirstEnergy senior vice president of external affairs, and the former chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, each for multiple felonies related to their alleged roles in the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.

The indictments by the Summit County prosecutor and Ohio's Attorney General aim to bring these corrupt, un-

ethical, and dangerous—yes, dangerous—individuals to justice.

Driven by greed and self-interest, FirstEnergy not only compromised the Ohio State legislature and its top leaders in other critical public institutions—they were responsible for severely mismanaging time and again the operations of inherently dangerous nuclear assets.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Toledo Blade columnist Tom Henry dating back to 2003, following another dangerous incident at that plant, quoting nuclear Navy retired Admiral Joe Williams.

[From the Toledo Blade, Sept. 22, 2003]

EX-OFFICIAL AT BESSE LINKS WOES,
MANAGERS

(By Tom Henry)

Retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Joe Williams, Jr., who guided Davis-Besse back to service after it was crippled more than 18 months in the mid-1980s, has told The Blade he offered in 2002 to come back and help guide the troubled nuclear plant back into service again.

But FirstEnergy Corp. declined, saying it would keep the project "in-house," according to Mr. Williams.

Now 81 and a resident of an independent living facility in Kennett Square, Pa., near Wilmington, Del., Mr. Williams said he is as strong in his conviction about what needs to be done at Davis-Besse as he was when he was paid \$1,500 a day to straighten things out with his no-nonsense approach—one which, as recently as a congressional hearing last fall, has been recalled with admiration by some former employees.

"When I left, I had a crew of the best plant engineers," Mr. Williams said while claiming that many of his efforts have been undone by a profit-over-safety mentality that some people feel has been the hallmark of the deregulation era of the 1990s.

"Like all plants, when they decided they wanted to make a cash cow out of [Davis-Besse], they neglected maintenance. If they would just learn that the only way you make money from a nuclear plant is by keeping it online. And the only way you keep it online is with safe production," he said.

Richard Wilkins, FirstEnergy spokesman, said he is not aware of any discussions to bring back the retired vice admiral in 2002.

The hiring of Mr. Williams often has been cited as one of the key moves Toledo Edison Co., now a FirstEnergy subsidiary, made in response to its June 9, 1985, incident at Davis-Besse, when a series of pumps and valves failed and caused a temporary loss of coolant water to the reactor core.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has described that incident and the near-rupture of Davis-Besse's reactor head, discovered in March, 2002, as two of the nation's biggest nuclear episodes since the Three Mile Island accident of 1979. The two near-mishaps have resulted in the two longest outages in the plant's history, both in excess of 560 days.

Although the issues are different, Mr. Williams said he sees similarities. He said an underlying problem for years at Davis-Besse has been a general reluctance of employees to come forth with problems they find. Part of the problem these days is a greater reliance on contractors, he said.

"They need to rectify that right now. They need to get a staff that's company people and can do their jobs. Go to the expense of hiring good people," Mr. Williams said.

Mr. Williams, a former commander of the U.S. Atlantic submarine fleet and the NATO submarine fleet, did just that in 1985. Shortly after he was brought in on June 18 of that

year—a mere nine days after the near-accident occurred—he took the helm under the title of senior vice president in charge of nuclear operations and was given wide latitude in decisions. Among other things, Davis-Besse's manpower was expanded to 890 employees, up from 644. Salaries were boosted to attract talent. There was less reliance on contractors.

"They need to get back to what we were doing in 1987," Mr. Williams said. After leaving in the spring of that year, he garnered a rate of \$2,000 a day as an expert witness in court cases involving nuclear plants. Discussions about his coming back to Davis-Besse in 2002 never got serious enough for a fee to be discussed, he said.

But he told *The Blade* he was absolutely serious about returning. "I'm capable of coming out there and getting that [facility] back online," he said.

Mr. Williams said the reactor head would not have become so dilapidated if he had heard about the containment air filters getting clogged by rust every other day, a tell-tale sign of a problem that had gone on for nearly 18 months.

FirstEnergy claimed it did not make a connection between rusty filters and a problem inside the containment building. Such filters are normally changed once a month.

"I would have shut the plant down. That's criminal. No system engineer could have possibly, possibly supported [continued operation]," Mr. Williams said.

"I'll tell you one thing: if my filters had those problems, I would have ripped the insulation off that head [and looked for corrosion]," he added.

As it turned out, the corrosion—the worst in U.S. nuclear history—left a football-shaped cavity in the reactor head. All that was left in that spot was a liner that was less than three-eighths of an inch thick and not designed to hold back the reactor's enormous pressure.

Mr. Williams said he is familiar with a U.S. Department of Labor complaint filed by former Davis-Besse engineer Andrew Siemaszko, who has sought federal whistleblower protection on the grounds he was illegally fired by FirstEnergy in September, 2002. Mr. Siemaszko alleges his termination stems from his insistence on having expensive maintenance done on each of the plant's four reactor coolant pumps.

The Siemaszko case, dismissed in June and now on appeal, claims that FirstEnergy knowingly operated Davis-Besse for years with a severely rusted head. Among other things, the complaint states that scaffolding was removed one night during an outage in 2000 without Mr. Siemaszko's consent, abruptly ending his efforts to clean the head weeks before the job could be completed.

"I think the kid was right," Mr. Williams said, referring to Mr. Siemaszko. "I don't know how many of them [in FirstEnergy] out there ought to be hung."

Mr. Williams said he is interested in the outcome of an investigation into possible criminal activity being headed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Investigations. The results, which have not yet been made public, could be turned over to the U.S. Department of Justice for prosecution.

Certain FirstEnergy officials "ought to go to jail," Mr. Williams said. "There have been enough deliberate acts of management in terms of denial," he said.

Mr. Wilkins said FirstEnergy has addressed most of the concerns cited by the NRC, including problems with Davis-Besse's safety culture.

Recent surveys show employees weren't afraid to come forward but had been reluctant to do so because they felt management

had for years stopped taking their concerns seriously, Mr. Wilkins said.

He said he can't comment on what would have occurred had Mr. Williams been in charge while the problems with the rusty air filters came to light.

"We noted in our root cause report that the air filters were one of several missed opportunities," Mr. Wilkins said, saying plant officials simply failed to recognize it as a symptom of a problem.

Ms. KAPTUR. Admiral Williams strongly condemned the malfeasance and nuclear endangerment attendant to the top managers and corporate chieftains, and that kept on year after year after year.

As I have cautioned before, corporate nuclear culture influences safety culture. We need only look at the troubled history of multiple major nuclear safety violations and criminal conduct at FirstEnergy's Davis-Besse nuclear plant in our district for evidence of this relationship. It is a sad story for America.

One must ask whether and how the fines and penalties at FirstEnergy and its subsidiary, Energy Harbor, have had to pay to avoid criminal and civil trials.

How will America deter future misconduct by the commercial nuclear power energy companies? Federal regulators didn't do their job.

What is clear is that more justice must be achieved to make Ohio ratepayers and our communities safe and whole again.

A class action suit settled by FirstEnergy in August of last year netted payments to individual ratepayers—get ready—a mere \$10 to \$20.

Moreover, Ohio consumers continue to subsidize FirstEnergy's antiquated coal-fired power plants even outside Ohio under the portion of HB6 that passed the State legislature that has yet to be repealed.

Another casualty is the local school district in Oak Harbor, Ohio, where the Davis-Besse plant is located. It continues to suffer millions and millions of dollars of tax losses due to the incremental devaluation of the plant's public utility property values over the years.

I continue to urge the State legislature, State and Federal prosecutors, and State and Federal regulators to take bold action.

Let's right these wrongs, and let's assure Federal authorities achieve safe, clean, modern, and responsible nuclear energy production in Ohio and in this country. This slipshod, corrupt nuclear energy must never, ever, ever happen in America again.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from *The Blade* titled: "Reactor Near to a Dismal Record."

[From the Toledo Blade, Aug. 31, 2003]

REACTOR NEAR TO A DISMAL RECORD

(By Tom Henry)

Still defending itself from allegations that it may have caused the nation's worst blackout, FirstEnergy Corp. is about to break the previous record for futility at Davis-Besse.

On Wednesday, Davis-Besse will have sat idle for 565 days, setting a plant record for consecutive days without producing electricity. The previous record was 564 consecutive days between June 9, 1985, and Christmas Day, 1986.

The cost of the current outage is more than \$500 million, and is starting to approach the \$642 million price tag that it cost to build the plant in 1977.

The 1985-86 shutdown occurred after a series of pumps and valves failed, causing a loss of coolant water to the reactor core of the plant. In circumstances that sound strikingly similar to the current shutdown, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission referred to the 1985 accident as the worst since Three Mile Island in 1979. It resulted in an extensive investigation into the operation and management of the plant, 30 miles east of Toledo near Oak Harbor.

Although then-operator Toledo Edison Co. restarted the plant on Dec. 22, 1986, the reactor "tripped" and shut down after several hours without producing electricity. Three days later, operators restarted the plant on Christmas Day, 1986, and achieved enough power so that electricity could be produced, ending the consecutive-day shutdown streak at 564 days.

However, Davis-Besse continued to struggle with shutdowns on and off into early January, 1987.

The current shutdown began February 16, 2002, as a normal refueling and maintenance outage. NRC staff wanted FirstEnergy to move up the refueling from its scheduled date in March, 2002, to late fall 2001 so that a check could be conducted on control rod nozzles for cracks like those found at a South Carolina plant with a similar pressurized water design.

But FirstEnergy balked and the NRC decided to allow FirstEnergy to keep the plant in operation until February 16—only about a month earlier than the originally scheduled outage.

After Davis-Besse was shut down, plant officials found that boric acid had leaked through flanges atop the reactor head and ate a half-foot hole in the carbon steel of the reactor head.

Only a layer of stainless steel three-eighths of an inch thick prevented the pressure of radioactive steam inside the reactor from leaking into the containment building. The NRC called the corrosion the worst it had ever seen and launched an investigation into what went wrong.

FirstEnergy originally announced plans to return the plant to service in April, 2002, but that date has repeatedly been pushed back in response to the discovery of other problems and NRC scrutiny—such as concerns about the safety culture among management and employees at the plant.

There is a sense of *deja vu* for some NRC and Davis-Besse officials when it comes to the two extended shutdowns and the issues of plant management and regulatory oversight:

During both outages, the workplace environment has been questioned. "What was really necessary was a change in attitude, a change in management style," Joe Williams, Jr., Toledo Edison Co.'s senior vice president of nuclear operations, was quoted as saying about the 1985 incident in the fall of 1986. "A lot of the problems went back to Day One."

The deep cavity found in Davis-Besse's reactor head has been likewise attributed by the NRC to a lack of questioning attitude on behalf of FirstEnergy management and its workforce.

Although FirstEnergy has replaced the reactor head with an unused head from a Michigan plant, the NRC has become so concerned about the company's attention to detail that it has subjected the plant to only

its second formal "safety culture" review. The only other site to have undergone such a review is the Millstone nuclear plant in Connecticut, where NRC officials have said they believe workers were harassed and intimidated if they tried to report problems.

FirstEnergy is to make a lengthy presentation about its progress September 18 at the NRC's Midwest regional office in Lisle, Ill. The agency will take FirstEnergy's presentation under consideration, then hold at least one more meeting on the topic to give the company feedback before restart, Jan Strasma, NRC spokesman, said.

During both outages, the NRC has had its own credibility questioned by members of Congress and other high-powered officials in Washington.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo), after hearing about the reactor head corrosion 18 months ago, questioned the capability of the NRC, an agency she accused of being weak and ineffective with its handling of Davis-Besse's 1985 incident. Although Miss Kaptur called for Davis-Besse to be shut permanently in 2002, she has not been as outspoken in recent months as has U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D., Cleveland).

Earlier this year, Congressman Kucinich petitioned the NRC to revoke FirstEnergy's operating license at Davis-Besse. More recently, in response to finger-pointing alleging FirstEnergy may have responsibility for the nation's worst blackout, he petitioned the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to revoke the utility's right to do business in Ohio.

A long paper trail of records reviewed by The Blade shows others have shared their skepticism about Davis-Besse.

A report prepared for the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power just days after the June 9, 1985, event suggested that the coolant-water episode at Davis-Besse should not have surprised the NRC. The report said 48 problems concerning Davis-Besse's auxiliary feed-water system had been reported by Toledo Edison since July, 1979. The plant unexpectedly shut down 40 times between 1980 and 1985—at least half of those times because of hardware problems and at least nine times because of human error.

In April, 1987, former U.S. Sen. John Glenn (D., Ohio) introduced a bill that ultimately led to the creation of the NRC's Office of Inspector General. Senator Glenn said at the time that the NRC is "supposed to be a watchdog, not a lapdog."

Earlier this year, that same Office of Inspector General accused the NRC of putting profits ahead of safety when it allowed Davis-Besse to wait until February, 2002, to shut down for refueling and the safety inspection for control rod cracks.

Former NRC Chairman Richard Meserve vehemently denied that charge.

George Mulley, the inspector general's senior level assistant for investigative operations, told The Blade that a follow-up probe into the NRC's oversight performance at Davis-Besse will likely be released this month.

Part of the criticism the NRC received following its 1985-86 probe of Davis-Besse stemmed from its decision to back off from a proposed \$900,000 fine against Toledo Edison.

The agency originally said it would impose the penalty because of a "long history of ineffective and inadequate attention and direction in the operation and maintenance of the Davis-Besse facility."

But in 1987, the NRC cut the fine amount to \$450,000. The agency explained that it had changed its mind because it was impressed by Toledo Edison's aggressiveness toward establishing "a long-range, in-depth corrective

action program to address the problems that existed at Davis-Besse."

No fine has been issued in connection with the current problems at Davis-Besse. A decision on any civil penalty depends on whether the NRC's Office of Investigations believes there is evidence of criminal wrongdoing to turn over to the Justice Department for prosecution.

"The criminal process would take precedence over the civil process," Mr. Strasma said.

Although the two extended outages appear to have some parallels in terms of oversight, the country's mood toward nuclear power at the time they each began was likely very different.

Early last year, in the weeks before the reactor head corrosion was discovered at Davis-Besse, the nuclear industry had the best reason for optimism since before the Three Mile Island accident.

After 23 years of doldrums, nuclear energy was embraced by the White House as a solution to energy problems. Congress in 2002 eventually eliminated one of the nuclear industry's most nagging obstacles to expansion when it designated Nevada's Yucca Mountain as a burial site for spent reactor fuel.

Contrast that with how most people felt about nuclear power when Toledo Edison restarted Davis-Besse in December, 1986. Several months earlier, on April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident had occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear complex near Kiev, Ukraine. Thousands died, either immediately from the blast or from radiation-related sicknesses in the following years.

As Davis-Besse moved closer to restart, Toledo Edison's Joe Williams, Jr., sought to allay fears. On Sept. 7, 1986, the retired U.S. Navy vice admiral devoted nearly an entire page in The Blade to a 2,000-word letter in which he explained what happened at Davis-Besse, Three Mile Island, and Chernobyl.

"A Chernobyl simply cannot happen here for a variety of reasons," Mr. Williams wrote, citing the containment at U.S. nuclear plants among those reasons.

The hiring of Mr. Williams has been seen as one of the key moves Toledo Edison made in response to Davis-Besse's 1985 shutdown.

A former commander of the U.S. Atlantic submarine fleet and the NATO submarine fleet, he was brought in on June 18, 1985, nine days after the shutdown began. He took the helm under the title of senior vice president in charge of nuclear operations, and was given wide latitude in decisions.

Davis-Besse's manpower was expanded to 890 employees in 1986, up from 644 in 1985. There was less reliance on contractors.

Compare that with the current workforce at Davis-Besse, which totals 725 full-time employees in a deregulated, more competitive market. FirstEnergy spokesman Richard Wilkins acknowledges there are far fewer employees today and that the trend has been to bring in more contractors to do specialized work.

Lew Myers, chief operating officer of FirstEnergy's nuclear subsidiary, has told the NRC that he has put a renewed emphasis on training.

Yet employees fear burnout: Some have privately complained about working in excess of 72 hours a week throughout much of the 18-month outage.

A number of key positions, including some in Davis-Besse's engineering department, have been filled by employees from FirstEnergy's Perry nuclear plant near Cleveland and the Beaver Valley nuclear station at Shippingport, Pa.

Howard Whitcomb, a Toledo lawyer and former NRC resident inspector in South Carolina who worked under Mr. Williams at Davis-Besse after the 1985 incident, has said

he believes many of the workplace issues that exist at Davis-Besse today would not have been tolerated under the former vice admiral's reign.

"You've had a few really close calls at Davis-Besse," said Jim Riccio, Greenpeace nuclear policy analyst in Washington, citing the two extended outages and a 1998 tornado which narrowly missed the plant.

"I'm wondering when luck is going to run out."

17TH ANNUAL BRENT BERRY FOOD DRIVE

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 17th annual Brent Berry Food Drive in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Named the Brent Berry Food Drive in honor of their son, Brent, the family took the initiative to help those in need.

This year, the food drive was the largest food drive in the event's history, breaking its record in 2022. Members of the community donated \$100,000 worth of food, enough to fill six schoolbuses and two trailers.

□ 1045

With the help of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Salvation Army, this food was distributed to thousands of individuals across the city.

Buck Berry, the lead organizer of this food drive, grew up not knowing where his next meal would come from. His family received help from the Salvation Army so they wouldn't go hungry, and that stuck with him into adulthood, and he felt motivated to provide that same goodness to his community.

This self-sacrifice shown by the Berry family has impacted the lives of so many in the Sixth District for 17 years, and I commend them for their dedication to community service.

RECOGNIZING KOOL KIDS DIGGITY DOGS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a local hot dog business in my district, the Kool Kids Diggity Dogs, for their giving back tailgate at the Roanoke Rescue Mission during the Super Bowl on Sunday.

The goal of the event was to provide a great meal for the big game for the homeless population in Roanoke, and they did just that.

The employees of the hot dog business served up free hot dogs, chips, and drinks to those in need.

In addition to the plate of food, the employees went above and beyond and provided clothing and hygiene products.

The display of community spirit by the Kool Kids Diggity Dogs stands as a testament to the civic spirit of the town and as an example of Jesus' instructions to us in his sermon on the mount: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

I want to thank Melvin Ward, the owner of the business, and the rest of

the volunteers for their selfless service and wish them much success with their business in the future.

RECOGNIZING HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL
ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Harrisonburg High School Electric Vehicle Team for being invited to compete in the 2024 UAE Electric Vehicle Grand Prix.

The Harrisonburg High School Electric Vehicle Team has been competing in the Electric Vehicle Grand Prix as this competition empowers each constructor to use their knowledge and design and build a car that can race the most laps within the time span of an hour.

The Harrisonburg car is unique, as it is equipped with built-in data collection so the team can get feedback in real time to improve technique.

After 2 years of hard work and dedication to build the most efficient car, these young engineers were selected to be one of six teams representing the United States in the International EV Competition in Abu Dhabi.

The engineers of this car include: Jack Rocker, Joshua Nafziger, Johanna Mayfield, Monica Espinoza Martinez, Colin Snider, Peter Johnson, and Davis Bert.

As these young engineers enjoy life in the fast lane, I join all Americans in expressing our support and hope that we see them standing at the top of the podium in Abu Dhabi as winners of the Grand Prix.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS HAS FAILED

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, this weekend while Americans were preparing for the Super Bowl, Secretary Mayorkas appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" and claimed that the Department of Homeland Security did not bear responsibility for the broken immigration system in this country.

The Department of Homeland Security website states that the job of the Secretary is to: counter terrorism and enhance security, secure and manage our borders, enforce and administer our immigration laws, and provide essential support for national security.

The Homeland Security Committee outlined for the House how he has failed in every single category. I commend my colleagues for taking action yesterday to impeach Secretary Mayorkas and hold him accountable for his failures.

Let me give an example for each one.

He has failed in his responsibility to stop the influx of terrorists into this country. Last year, there were 169 people whose names appear on the terrorist watch list who were stopped trying to cross the southern border—a record.

He has failed to secure and manage our borders. There have been over 7 million illegal crossings of our southern border, 1.7 million known got-aways who evaded U.S. Border Patrol, and has empowered and emboldened ruthless criminal cartels to control our southern border and poison our com-

munities with enough fentanyl to kill every American. In 2023, CBP seized a record of over 27,000 pounds of fentanyl at the southwest border.

He has failed to enforce and administer our immigration laws. On day one, Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas ended the Trump-era remain in Mexico policies, the strongest border security laws implemented in generations. He also has the authority to use the current laws in place to secure our border but has neglected any law in the book and this has led to the crisis that has engulfed this country.

He has failed to provide essential support for national security. Border Patrol agents have apprehended individuals from more than 160 countries since January of 2021, including from countries that sponsor terrorism or major U.S. adversaries.

Additionally, between October 2022 and August 2023, CBP recorded nearly 75,000 encounters of aliens who represent a potential threat to national security.

He has failed. It is time to remove him from office.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE PARKLAND
SHOOTING

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

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Madam Speaker, today is Valentine's Day, but I don't celebrate Valentine's Day anymore. I haven't celebrated Valentine's Day in 6 years. Today is a difficult day for myself, many in the city of Parkland, and my constituents. You see, it is the sixth anniversary of the mass shooting at my high school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas in my hometown of Parkland.

I remember February 14, 2018, like it was yesterday. I was in Tallahassee when my wife called and said something terrible has happened at the high school around the corner from our home. I was informed that there had been a mass shooting.

I immediately traveled home to Parkland. I went to the school that I graduated from and saw what it looks like when your high school is turned into a war zone.

I then went to the hotel where they were keeping the families of the kids who were missing. I knew they weren't missing.

For 8 hours, they waited in that hotel while the Broward Sheriff's Office and the FBI told them what happened to their kid. They pulled families out one by one into a separate area of the ballroom separated by a partition. The process went on from 12:30 in the morning until 3 in the morning. I didn't hear crying. I heard screaming. It haunts me every day.

Madam Speaker, 17 innocent people didn't make it out of that building on that fateful day. I knew we had to do something, and so I brought my colleagues from the Florida legislature to

see the building firsthand and see how it affected families in my community.

What we saw was unfathomable to imagine—the sight of the deadliest high school shooting in American history.

Families now have empty rooms in their homes. They have empty chairs at the dinner table. My own son, who was 4 years old at the time, went to preschool right around the corner separated by a traffic light from Marjory Stoneman Douglas. The teacher that was with my 4-year-old in a closet that day, her daughter was killed. While she was protecting my son, her daughter, Jaime, was killed at Douglas.

Like previous Valentine's Days, parents and wives will spend their time visiting their children or their husbands at the cemetery.

I remember parents telling me one thing, and they said it over and over, and it has stuck with me ever since. They said that the only thing I did wrong was send my kid to school. That is not on them. That is an indictment on us. It is an indictment on the elected officials who have failed to do nothing to keep our kids safe in school.

I mean, look at them. These were babies murdered in their classroom. They were teachers. I went to high school with Aaron Feis. He was on my football team when we were in high school. He became a football coach. He ran in to try to help, and he was gunned down.

At least in Florida we did something after the shooting at my high school. The Florida legislature passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act. It raised the age to buy a firearm to 21. It instituted red flag laws and 3-day waiting periods. By the way, those red flag laws which take weapons out of the hands of people who are mentally ill have been used 12,000 times in 6 years. Madam Speaker, 12,000 times law enforcement in the State of Florida has deemed someone either a danger to themselves or a danger to others.

We put hundreds of millions of dollars into mental health, school resource officers, school safety, and this was passed on a bipartisan basis. In fact, it was led by my Republican colleagues, A-plus rated members of the NRA, and signed into law by Governor Scott who became a U.S. Senator. They got it right that day. They got it right. We did that while still upholding people's constitutional freedoms and rights.

Madam Speaker, as we sadly reflect today on the sixth anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, I am going to use the rest of my time to sit in silence after I read the names of the victims: Alyssa Alhadeff, Martin Duque Anguiano, Scott Beigel, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, and Peter Wang.

HONORING LONG'S DRUG STORE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Long's Drug Store, a family-owned and operated pharmacy that has been serving the Knoxville community since its opening in 1956. After 67 years, Long's had its last day on January 16.

My very good friend Hank Peck and his family has kept the store running for over 60 years. His dad became a pharmacist at Long's in 1959 alongside Clarence Long and John Benson. Actually, Mr. Peck was my Sunday school-teacher for a while, so if you all need to blame anybody for anything, that would be him.

When Long's first opened, the idea was to open a drugstore that would also be Knoxville's first shopping center. It was a place where you could stop and pick up your prescriptions, enjoy a milkshake, and pick up some comic books. All the folks at Long's Drug Store are wonderful people. I am so grateful I got to know Sharon, who worked behind the pharmacy counter; Ruth, who has been working there for 47 years and who is pictured right there with Hank; and all the other lovely folks at Long's Drug Store.

They have been good friends to me and my family for a long time, and I wish them very well in the next chapter of their lives.

Knoxville will not forget Long's Drug Store and its many years of service to our great community.

CELEBRATING JOE DUNCAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Judge Joe Duncan as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Joe was born February 11, 1924, in Scott County, Tennessee.

He was raised on a farm with his nine siblings where his parents taught him all the values of hard work, responsibility, and a good education.

During World War II, Joe enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, and he was honorably discharged in 1945. He then got his law degree from the University of Tennessee. Later on, he worked as a special agent for the FBI and was given a letter of commendation from none other than J. Edgar Hoover when he retired.

He also served as the Knox County criminal court judge and spent 15 years on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

In 1946, Joe married the love of his life, Louetta; and they had a son, Philip, and two grandchildren, Meredyth and Tyler.

Joe and his family have been working in public service in east Tennessee for many years. Joe supported his brother John's successful bid for Knoxville mayor in 1959 and 1963, as well as John's successful campaign for U.S. House of Representatives in 1964. Joe also supported the political careers of

his nephew, my predecessor, John Duncan, Jr., who was Tennessee's Second District Representative in Congress before me; as well as his niece, State senator, Becky Massey; and his son, Falls Church city councilor Phillip Duncan.

Judge Duncan has lived a beautiful and full life in public service, and I am honored to wish him a happy 100th birthday on the House floor today.

RECOGNIZING CHARLIE AND PATSY DANIELS' 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Chair, I want to recognize my dear friends, Charlie and Patsy Daniels, who are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this year.

Charlie spent 60 years as a successful political cartoonist in east Tennessee, and he just retired a few years ago. Many of his cartoons are hanging on the walls of my Knoxville office. As you can see on one of them in the poster beside me, during my first years of Congress, I spoke here on the House floor about his retirement. I said back then—and it is as true today—that I have been made fun of by people all over the world, but my friend, Charlie, is my favorite.

His cartoons were razor sharp while still being very respectful. Charlie's lovely wife, Patsy, has been at Charlie's side since they were childhood sweethearts. They made their home in Powell, Tennessee, where Charlie cooks breakfast for Patsy every morning.

Charlie and Patsy often attend reunions for the alumni of Fork Union Military Academy where Charlie attended high school, as well as Tarheel football games. When they travel for reunions or to visit family, Charlie is always the willing chauffeur.

They have a great love for their children, Charles, Jr., and Sarah, as well as their grandkids and great-grandkids.

Madam Speaker, I wish a happy anniversary to Charlie and Patsy. They are an example to all of us of a faithful and loving marriage that has lasted a lifetime.

I would be remiss if I did not note that Charlie is also a member of the United States Marine Corps.

□ 1100

CORRUPTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, for a long time, there have been rumors that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency had a relationship with Hamas. Last week, those rumors were confirmed when we discovered that 12 members of the agency were directly involved in the horrific attacks by Hamas on our friends in Israel on October 7. Another 1,200 employees of the agency have direct connections to Hamas. That is 10 percent of all the agency's employees in Gaza.

The State Department did the right thing by pausing its funding to the agency, but it is also something President Trump did years ago. The Biden administration restarted the funding in 2021. Clearly, the administration did

not do proper research to ensure this funding wasn't going to friends of terrorists.

Also, pausing the funding did not have the huge impact they want us to think it did, since the United States has given them at least \$730 million in taxpayer dollars since 2021. That is about 99 percent of what has been allocated, and we only paused about \$300,000 in the remaining funding.

Now, an Israeli firm is investigating the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's digital wallets to see where their cryptocurrency is going. The firm has found that at least one digital wallet that belongs to Hamas is still active.

We need to defund the United Nations, Madam Speaker.

GUARANTEED INCOME FOR FOSTER YOUTH

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to help improve the lives of thousands of vulnerable youth across our country.

Our Guaranteed Income for Foster Youth Act will create a new Federal program to provide \$1,000 a month to young adults exiting foster care and helping them pull themselves out of poverty, as well as build healthy economic communities across the country.

It is no secret that there are major gaps in the Federal foster care system. More than a fifth of foster care youth experience homelessness within 1 year of emancipation. It is critical that we uplift our foster youth during such a transformative and vulnerable time in their lives.

For my entire career, I have been a strong advocate for guaranteed income programs. When I was the mayor of Long Beach, we built and launched a transformational guaranteed income program that is now directly helping over 900 low-income individuals, including over 500 children.

I have also had the pleasure of working with the Mayors for Guaranteed Income, to show how providing direct payments can end poverty in the United States.

Across the country, guaranteed income programs have done incredible things for families. They have pursued higher-paying jobs, obtained undergraduate degrees, paid off debt, and afforded basic necessities like food and utilities.

The evidence across the country is clear: Guaranteed income programs have been incredibly successful in lifting people out of poverty and helping to preserve economic freedom and independence.

Working together, we can ensure that children leaving the foster care system can have the foundation they need to thrive in our community.

PROBLEM AT OUR BORDERS

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue. In my lifetime, I always heard the saying: There are no problems in our family. There are just a lot of things we don't talk about.

What I am talking about today is the fact that we have an incredible problem at our borders, and not just the southwestern border, by the way, but also our northern border.

Now, if these people coming into our country were wearing the uniform of a foreign country, we would swear we had been invaded and overrun. The other part of that is: It is okay, though, because we will do everything we can to accommodate them while they are here. It doesn't matter if they came here legally or illegally. We are America and those are the things that we do.

Madam Speaker, I bring this thing up because I listen to telecast after telecast from the current administration that says: Well, if Congress would just do something to help us, we would jump on it. We would do everything we can.

I would like to remind the executive branch that we legislate. We make laws, we debate laws, we pass laws, and then it is the executive branch who is responsible for enforcing those laws.

We have an administration that continues to say: There is no problem at our borders; this is imaginary; we don't have a problem; but if it were up to me, I would do something about it.

These are the eight authorities that the President could put into effect: End catch and release, reinstate remain in Mexico, enter into asylum cooperation agreements, end parole abuses, detain inadmissible aliens, use expedited removal, rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for all illegal aliens, and issue a proclamation to suspend or restrict entry.

Madam Speaker, you and I know because we face this every single day. The issues that face America today are America's issues. They do not simply rest in this body. We will do things according to what the laws are and what we structure. The executive branch must be held accountable for enforcing those laws.

We wonder what in the world happened at our southern border. My goodness, the numbers are in the millions of people who have come in. One of the things we don't pay attention to is our northern border.

I brought a picture of this—I know it is very hard to see, but in the whole world, the longest continuous border is our northern border. It is 5,500 miles long and virtually unprotected because we don't have enough people to do it. In one stretch, over 500 miles, there are two Border Patrol agents responsible. That would be like driving from Philadelphia to Columbus, Ohio, and back

again and saying: I didn't see one State policeman. I didn't see one law enforcement officer. I wonder where they are.

Well, the truth of the matter is, we have people pouring in from all over the world; some of them for the right reasons, others for the wrong reasons, and for reasons that in the future will harm our country and harm our fellow citizens.

When you start to talk about what has taken place and how if we ignore it, it doesn't exist, then we are in very serious trouble. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue or a Libertarian issue. This is an American issue. If those of us who run for office and get elected and take an oath of office cannot follow that oath of office, then why are we here? Why are we here?

Millions of people have poured across our border. There were 564 encounters with a terrorist screening dataset, 484 at the northern border. In fiscal year 2022 82 percent of these encounters were at our northern border. In the first 3 months of 2024, 94 percent of the terrorist screening dataset encounters were at our northern border.

While we think we are so safe because of our history and what we have done in history that we can protect ourselves, the underlying effect is the enemy is not from without; it is from within.

When we fail to follow the laws that are put into place and we don't enforce them, then we are at fault. I would suggest to our fellow Americans, please forget about being woke. Please wake the hell up. We are losing our country.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Merciful God, Your Word is rich with promises. You have spoken throughout eternity and reminded us that in You we have all that we require and are in need of nothing. We know in the depths of our heart and soul that not one of Your good promises has failed.

Help us, then, to be patient, to wait on You, O Lord, and trust in Your perfect timing for You are not slow in keeping Your promise, certainly not as we define slowness. Instead, You are patient with us, waiting on us to ac-

knowledge You and trust in Your gracious provisions.

And so this day, we repent of our doubt and receive Your generous gift of space and time, allowing us to discover You and to claim the promise of Your everlasting love.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S TWO-TIERED JUSTICE SYSTEM

(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, I rise to express my grave concern for our country's judicial system.

Recently, a special counsel investigating President Biden's mishandling of classified materials chose not to pursue felony charges because the President's memory had such "significant limitations" that the counsel was not confident he could convince a jury that Mr. Biden held the required mental state of willfulness.

I am highly suspicious that this is yet another example of President Biden's administration's two-tiered justice system, which is a serious concern for me, the Tennesseans I represent, and freedom-loving Americans all across this country.

President Biden should be held to the same standards as anyone else in this country. If he has the mental acuity to be President, he has the mental capacity to be charged with a serious crime, period. Anything else wreaks of an abhorrent two-tiered justice system or a man who has no business being our President.

END HUNGER NOW

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, up to 40 percent of the food produced in our country goes to waste. Food waste packs our landfills, increases harmful emissions that contribute to our climate crisis, and drives up costs for producers, manufacturers, and consumers alike.

With 44 million of our fellow citizens struggling with food insecurity, it is clear we need a better nationwide strategy to divert food that is perfectly good to eat from landfills and to the plates of hungry families.

I am grateful for the efforts of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration for their work in leading an interagency task force to tackle this very issue.

Their work, coming out of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, has resulted in a comprehensive Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics.

The strategy, which I ask all of my colleagues to read, details how each and every one of us, from citizens to government agencies, can do our part to reduce food waste as we work to end hunger now.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE AND AUKUS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan national security package that passed out of the Senate Tuesday which will deliver critical security assistance to our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, and provide historic investments in the U.S. submarine industrial base to dramatically increase capacity in support of our own Navy and the historic trilateral AUKUS security agreement with Australia and the U.K. that Congress last December enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, an overlooked item in this package is the \$3.3 billion for the U.S. submarine industrial base for workforce development, to stabilize the nationwide supply chain, upgrade shipyard infrastructure, and advance mature technology opportunities like additive manufacturing. I would note, as part of AUKUS, Australia has agreed to match that sum and invest \$3 billion into our economy and our industrial base for the same objectives.

Make no mistake, failure to pass this legislation is a vote against AUKUS and limits the outstanding progress that our nations have already made. I implore Speaker JOHNSON to bring the bill to the floor. We know that there are over 300 votes today to get this package through to help our friends

who are desperately looking to America for global and national security leadership.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7160, SALT MARRIAGE PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 987, DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 994 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 994

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 994 provides for consideration of two measures, H.R. 7160 and H. Res. 987. The rule provides

for H.R. 7160 to be considered under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 987 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation. H.R. 7160, the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, would bring much-needed relief to hard-working Americans in high-tax States that make the cost of living unbearable.

This legislation is an important fix to our Nation's tax code that will raise the cap for joint income filers, married couples, to \$20,000. This legislation makes right a provision in our tax code that is clearly unfair and penalizes middle-class families in many States across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden's reckless spending of hard-earned taxpayer dollars means that American families are already saddled with high inflation. Add to that the exorbitant taxes paid by those who live in States like I do that are run by Democrats who want to take and spend even more of their money.

Many of my colleagues have argued that raising the cap for the State and local tax deductions is just bailing out blue States for their reckless spending and failed policies. However, New York, as is the case with many of our higher tax States, pays far more into the Federal Government than it receives in return, and that money that New York State pays into the Federal Government is invested in States across this great Nation for things like infrastructure, law enforcement, and other essential services.

I can assure my colleagues here today that millions of New Yorkers, including those living in my own district, are painfully aware and routinely against the fiscal insanity perpetuated by Governor Kathy Hochul of New York, just as millions of Californians are deeply opposed to the reckless tax-and-spend policies of Governor Gavin Newsom and Democrats in Sacramento. That is why this legislation before us today is not a bailout for harmful State policies. It is a lifeline to Americans who are feeling the pain of this out-of-control taxation firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, it is common to hear from those opposed to the SALT deduction that this deduction only benefits the very rich. I encourage them to talk to police officers and firefighters living on Long Island in Nassau or Suffolk County or middle-class families living in southern California trying to pay their bills, put food on the table, and

ensure their children have a good life. I think you will find that these are the Americans who are in most need of and will benefit the most from this urgent and necessary relief.

Additionally, the rule before us provides for consideration of H. Res. 987, a resolution denouncing the harmful anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration.

On January 6, 2024, President Joe Biden chose to serve his political interests and the interests of the radical environmentalists over the interests and the needs of the American people. His decision to halt the export of American liquefied natural gas only further undermines our economy and further jeopardizes the security of our great Nation.

Liquefied natural gas, or LNG, has played a crucial role in fostering our Nation's economic growth and energy independence. By putting a sudden stop to its export, President Biden is jeopardizing the livelihoods of countless Americans who depend on the energy sector for their jobs.

Let me be clear: This move by President Biden is nothing more than a stab in the back to the very people who fuel our Nation and who have been world leaders in energy technology innovation that makes our country great.

President Biden's action also emboldens our adversaries like Russia and hangs our allies in Europe, who import 68 percent of U.S. LNG exports, out to dry. The bottom line is this: If we are to ensure our secure future of affordable and reliable energy where the United States and our allies are not dependent on foreign adversaries for our energy needs, then we need to ensure that this Nation remains a leading exporter of LNG.

The President's asinine choice to prioritize the shortsighted goals of radical environmentalists and score political points from the woke mob is being made at the expense of long-term stability and compromising our Nation's economic strength. It is our responsibility here as Members of Congress in this House of Representatives to condemn this profoundly un-American action that is in clear contravention of American interests.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) will control the time for the minority.

There was no objection.

□ 1215

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for yielding the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans called us into an emergency meeting to consider today's rules several weeks ago.

Several weeks ago, it is an emergency. Actually, America does have

some emergencies that need to be addressed.

Our national security is at risk. Putin, the dictator, may win his war against our ally if we don't surge aid to Ukraine.

Putin wants World War III, and Putin-protecting Republicans don't want to address that emergency. Remember, Putin's war caused our energy crisis to rise.

I call on responsible Republicans to address our national security emergency. I call on them to address the overwhelmingly bipartisan bill that passed the Senate.

America has another emergency. In 5 legislative days—count them. It is a single hand. In 5 legislative days, our Federal Government won't have money to pay its workers, to pay its contracts, to do our jobs.

Today should be a day to govern, a day to address America's emergencies. Instead, we are taking up one of the most precious resources we have in Congress, and that is floor time, for an election ploy to help certain New York Republicans win their next election.

Last night, New Yorkers told America they were tired of Republicans' failure to govern, didn't they? Now Republicans are using floor time to save the fragile reelection campaigns of some other New York Republicans, but don't let them fool you.

H.R. 7160 is simply a Band-Aid for a problem that the twice-impeached, four times-indicted former President Trump and Republican congressional folks caused in the first place.

They created this problem that they now want to put a Band-Aid on. They capped the SALT deduction in their tax bill to give tax breaks to the wealthiest corporations and CEOs.

As we know, Republicans and Trump seem to care more about the richest Americans. There are real emergencies that all Americans want this Congress to address.

The Federal Government could shut down in just 2 weeks, an absolute disaster that these bills don't even mention. That should be our priority.

Yet, we have another week of chaos and dysfunction, of dealing with things that are not priorities for the American people.

It is another week that Republicans allow small sections of their party to dictate what we see on the floor, based on their reelection priorities.

It is another week that extreme MAGA Republicans push partisan political stunts. The other bill in this rule is another one of those stunts.

H. Res. 987 is a nonbinding, politically motivated resolution that does nothing, nada, nothing, to lower energy costs or provide effective energy solutions.

Like so much of what Republicans do in the House, it is a distraction from the real bipartisan work Congress must do.

From the first paragraph, it is wrong. Just yesterday, we got a new Consumer

Price Index report which shows energy prices fell last month. They have fallen 4.6 percent in the last year.

The United States is producing more oil than ever before, more than any time during the Trump administration.

More importantly, energy is not just oil and gas. The Inflation Reduction Act that Democrats passed and President Biden signed into law last Congress created more than 170,000 clean energy jobs in the U.S. so far.

Wind, solar, geothermal—these are important elements of our American energy portfolio. The Inflation Reduction Act provided \$369 billion in investments for clean energy and for reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

This resolution that does nothing is just wrong. It is a do-nothing Congress. It is yet another day in our do-nothing Congress.

Let's not take our word for it. In the first session of the 117th Congress, 81 bills were enacted into law; in the first session of the Republican-led 118th Congress, 34 bills. That is all—just 34 bills.

It is one of the most unproductive Congresses in modern history. The American people deserve more. They want more. They want us to do our work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), my good friend and colleague in the New York delegation.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, in a time when middle-class families are increasingly squeezed by the rising cost of living, providing real tax relief is imperative.

That is why I introduced the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, which is designed to correct an inequity that has burdened married couples across New York and the United States since 2017.

The current tax code unfairly caps State and local tax deductions, otherwise known as SALT, at \$10,000 for married couples filing jointly, essentially penalizing them for their marital status and depriving them of the full \$20,000 deduction they would rightly deserve.

This arbitrary threshold does not reflect the economic realities faced by dual-income households, especially in high-cost areas like New York's 17th District. It is an issue that transcends tax policy. It is about fairness and supporting the backbone of our communities—our families.

The implications of the SALT cap are significant. Since its implementation, we have witnessed a dramatic decline in taxpayers claiming the SALT deduction, a drop from nearly 50 percent in my district to 19, or nationwide, from 31 percent to 9.

This stark decrease has disproportionately impacted high-cost States like New York where the cost of living far exceeds the national average.

In my district alone, the percentage of filers itemizing taxes have halved since the cap's introduction, underscoring the urgent need for reform.

The SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, my first bill introduced in the House, seeks to address this issue head-on by eliminating the marriage penalty and reinstating a fair deduction limit.

During the Rules Committee hearing, there was some insinuation that this legislation was hurried and rushed in the dead of night.

I am here to tell you that this legislation has been available for people to review for over 13 months and is less than 2 pages long.

This isn't some thousand-page omnibus deal. It is something that we have worked on with Republican leadership and our Democrat colleagues to address for over a year.

Passage of the SALT Marriage Penalty Implementation Act would represent a significant step toward alleviating the financial burden faced by countless families in my district and across the country, offering relief from the double taxation that has unjustly impacted them.

Additionally, with housing costs reaching near record highs and inflation continuing to erode purchasing power, the need for this bill is all the more necessary.

For instance, in Rockland and Westchester Counties in my district, the monthly cost of a mortgage surged by \$1,000 in the past year alone, thanks to rate increases brought about by the trillions in new spending from this administration and the prior Congress.

These spikes in housing costs, coupled with rising grocery prices, are unsustainable for the average family, making tax relief essential.

This House Republican majority was built by the contributions of New Yorkers, and this legislation would help those same New Yorkers see immediate tax relief.

Some critics might balk at the cost of this measure. The fact is that relief provided to families across the country would spur additional economic growth that would outpace the minor cost.

This bill is a compromise that fixes an unfair penalty and stands to revitalize communities, stimulate economic activity, and most importantly, support the hardworking families who are the lifeblood of our Nation. It provides immediate tax relief.

SALT is expected to expire in 2025, but these families can't wait that long. I urge all of my colleagues to support this profamily measure that corrects this unfair penalty, and I encourage my Democratic colleagues to support it, as well.

They talk a good game, but when they had complete control in the prior Congress, they failed to provide a fix.

They failed to enact legislation that would provide immediate tax relief. Governor Hochul, Senator SCHUMER, Senator GILLIBRAND, and Leader JEFFRIES have been silent.

They should embrace this. They should be championing it. They should be supporting our efforts. This is about providing real, tangible support to those who need it.

As we move forward, I am hopeful that this can be a moment of unity amongst my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, reflecting the bipartisan understanding that when it comes to supporting our families, fairness is critical.

Together, we can ensure that unfair tax policies that penalize families are a thing of the past, putting the well-being of American families above all.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, let's go back to who caused this problem in the first place. It was those Republicans with their Republican tax cut.

The Trump tax cut is the one that caused this problem. Let's not forget why we are facing this. Let's not forget, and, hopefully, New Yorkers won't forget as to why they are facing this problem in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW), my esteemed colleague.

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore House Republicans to bring the bipartisan national security supplemental to the floor for a vote. All we want is a vote.

I just returned from Ukraine with a bipartisan group where we met with Ukrainians, and I can tell you that these folks are fighting and dying, not just for their own freedom and their own democracy but for freedom and democracy around the globe because Vladimir Putin and Russia will not stop at Ukraine. They will continue marching if they are not stopped here.

This national security supplemental bill, this is not charity. We are not doing this simply out of the goodness of our hearts. This is in the best interests of Americans and American national security.

Let's break this down. By providing this support, we will be able to stop Russian from its march anywhere else in Europe.

We will be able to protect the 100,000 servicemen and -women, Americans and their families who live in Europe and work with our allies and who would be at great risk if Putin is not stopped here.

We also protect our largest trading partner in Europe and our largest security partner. Our economy and our businesses rely on a stable and prosperous Europe.

We would also be protecting the world's food supply and food prices, keeping food prices lower and making sure that food supplies are not interrupted. That is all the things that this bill will do.

Let's also talk about how this bill is structured and how it provides that support. It provides that support by spending over half of the money right here in the United States in U.S. businesses and on U.S. workers, from

places like Texas and North Carolina and Pennsylvania and Colorado, all throughout this Nation who will be building the equipment and supplies that we will be sending to our military, because that is another part of this.

Our military sends our old equipment to Ukraine, and Ukraine uses it with great effect on the battlefield, then the new stuff is kept by our military.

Let's break this down. We are supporting our economy. We are protecting our 100,000 troops. We are ensuring a stable and prosperous Europe. We are defeating the Russian military. We are ensuring food supplies. We are updating our own military stocks. We are infusing money in the U.S. defense industrial base and into our own workers and businesses. We are doing all of this for less than 5 percent of our annual defense budget.

That is a great deal for the American taxpayer. It is a great deal for the American people. We would be remiss if we didn't act now and take this up.

There are moments in history that will judge people and determine the course of the world. We are at one of those moments now.

I implore you. Bring this for a vote so we can ensure a stable and prosperous world and make sure it is one that our children and grandchildren want to grow up in.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN), my friend and colleague.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule providing for H.R. 7160, the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act.

This crucial piece of legislation is aimed at providing much-needed tax relief to hardworking families across my home State of New Jersey and to many families across the United States.

This bill begins to address the issue of double taxation that New Jerseyans and countless families far and wide have been hindered by for nearly 7 years—7 years too long, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1230

We are trying to bring relief back home for the marriage penalty elimination. This will make an adjustment to the State and local tax deduction, specifically raising the cap from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for joint returns with adjusted gross income below \$500,000.

With this bill, we are acknowledging the economic challenges faced by our neighbors, ensuring that the tax burden is alleviated for those who need it the most.

New Jersey families need tax relief right now, and this specific approach to doubling the joint returns cap is a critical and necessary step to taking the tax burden off the backs of our neighbors.

The economic destruction of the SALT cap spares nobody. It deters

young families from purchasing their first home, and it denies seniors the ability to stay close to their roots and near family.

As a result, every industry across our great country suffers, and when that happens, no matter what your ZIP Code or your income, every individual is hurt in some measure.

Let me be clear, this legislation is the floor, not the ceiling, for the SALT relief that we can and must fight to deliver for New Jersey families.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we all represent different communities and districts. Let me remind each and every one of us that we all share the honor of representing hard-working Americans who play by the rules and simply want to be treated fairly.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, today, we must have the opportunity to come together with a united voice in this House for fairness. We can deliver immediate relief for those who need it. It would be a monumental win for millions of families across our country.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I remind everybody here that Democrats offered an amendment in the Rules Committee so that we could have fixed the SALT problem not just for tax year 2023, which is when you pay your taxes now in 2024, but fixed it for 2 years. If Republicans were really interested in solving this problem, they would have made sure that it got fixed for the 2 years.

Do you know what the Republican vote was? Unanimous. Every single one of my Republican colleagues on the Rules Committee said, no, we don't want a fix that would actually fix it for 2 years. We just want to get past this next election. We want to make sure that when people file their taxes now, as April 15 is coming up, that this is fixed. One year—they could have had it for 2. Every single one of them, even our New York colleague, voted “no.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, let me remind everyone how we got here. State and local taxes were always deductible—State and local taxes—since the Civil War, before we even had a tax code, until the House Republicans and Mr. Trump stole the deduction in the 2017 Republican tax scam.

Do you remember that? It wasn't advertised as a tax increase. It was, furthermore, buried. Mr. Speaker, over \$600 billion was buried. Where did that money go? You know where it went.

Despite pervasive half-truths and outright lies, SALT has always been about the middle class. The \$10,000 cap Republicans imposed has been a heavy burden for middle-class families across

this Nation, and our public services relied on SALT absolutely.

All told, firefighters, police officers, first responders, teachers, mayors, county officials, and Governors have begged us to fix this.

Democrats passed a full repeal through this Chamber. We passed SALT relief numerous times. Over and over, we have been blocked. We have never given up, and we won't.

Multiple times this term, Ways and Means Republicans voted down an amendment which I put forth to raise the deduction and fix the marriage penalty. This is double taxation. I thought this was what we were trying to get rid of. Instead, they had a tax cut in 2017 where they hid getting rid of the deduction. Now, it is a \$10,000 minimum.

My amendment is the same as legislation put forth by Mr. LALOTA of New York, a Republican. When we tried a few weeks ago, every committee Republican voted “no.”

This badly flawed measure is a far cry from middle-class tax relief, and it is really the bare minimum we could do.

This certainly is no way to enact tax policy. This is no way to treat tens of millions of Americans and communities.

What we have before us is a fig leaf to paper over that Republicans opposed middle-class tax relief. I believe, in the election of 2018, this was one of the issues.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, that fact should surprise no one, since it was Republicans that stole away that middle-class tax help in the first place.

This is a very critical issue, Mr. Speaker. I hope we address it sooner rather than later.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 7160, the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, to allow families to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets.

I thank my colleague, Representative LAWLER, for his leadership to introduce this bill and push for its consideration.

H.R. 7160 would eliminate the so-called marriage penalty on the State and local tax deduction for families who file their taxes jointly. Under the current tax code, married couples filing jointly are penalized and have the same SALT cap of \$10,000 as single filers.

H.R. 7160 doubles the SALT deduction cap for married couples to \$20,000 and does right by them.

Limited housing supply, high mortgage rates not seen in decades, and high housing costs are making it impossible for many first-time homebuyers to purchase a home and reach the American Dream.

The SALT cap is not and should not be a blue versus red issue. We are simply advocating for our constituents who want us to consider progrowth, profamily values and policies.

In my district, the median price of a home is over \$1 million. However, we can pass this rule today to allow us to provide much-needed tax relief and stop discriminating against families through the tax code.

H.R. 7160 will not mark the end of our fight to provide full SALT tax relief for our constituents. This is only the first step to get us there. I will always fight to make life more affordable for my constituents.

I also encourage my colleagues to consider the underlying resolution to condemn the Biden administration's disastrous energy policies and promote affordable sources of energy. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill and resolution. I urge my colleagues to support all of these measures.

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

Mr. Speaker, Mr. PASCRELL made a really important point, and that is that this problem arose and impacted middle-class Americans. That happened because Republicans and the Trump tax cuts didn't really much care about middle-class Americans. They didn't much care about working-class Americans.

In fact, as we know, the Trump tax cuts mostly benefited the wealthy. The Trump tax cuts highlight the priorities that we see in this Chamber between Republicans and Democrats because they imposed the SALT deduction cap for a reason.

They wanted to make sure that they could pass these tax cuts that, as you can see, benefited the richest Americans so much more than they did middle-class Americans. The magnitude is astounding.

Their goal of what they tried to do and what they did do back then worked. The top 0.1 percent had an average tax cut of \$193,000. What kind of cut did middle-income Americans receive? A paltry \$930. If you earned \$3 million or more a year, you got to keep an extra \$193,000. People who earned \$1 billion got to keep even more.

Do those millionaires and billionaires really need that help? Do you know who really needed that help? The middle class, which got \$930, that is barely \$77 a month.

These were their priorities. These remain their priorities, except for the fact that there are some election problems happening over there in New York, and they acknowledged it. A few of the New York Republicans helped them get their majority, so this is

what they are getting back for 1 year and 1 year only because they didn't want to vote for a 2-year fix.

Imagine what a middle-class family would have been able to do if they had gotten thousands of dollars of tax cuts. They would have been able to do some of the things we are talking about: buy a house, send their kids to college, go on a vacation, make sure that they didn't have to worry about the bills. Mr. Speaker, they could have bought 20 years' worth of groceries if we just allowed them to get what the rich got. But that didn't happen.

Democrat priorities are that we are always standing with the working class and not the wealthiest corporations and CEOs. We want to lower costs and grow the middle class.

H.R. 7160, you know, it is not solving the problem. It is not a permanent fix. It is not even a 2-year fix. When you guys get up and complain that this should not be a problem for us, we wanted to fix it for 2 years. You said no.

They just don't want to let us vote on things that are important. They don't want to let us vote on a 2-year fix. They don't want to let us vote on Ukraine funding, on emergency security issues that are about protecting our troops.

Let us vote on these issues. Let the House Members have a say.

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

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAREY). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, we have been in this Chamber for a few minutes now, and we have been reminded at least three times with fancy posters and words from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about how we got here. Clearly, we know how we got here, and that is why we are trying to fix it.

We have also heard that, well, we don't want to support this because it is only 1 year, and we have heard offers of 2 years. We just got past the Super Bowl, and I am pretty confident that for every play in football, you don't get to throw a Hail Mary and score a touchdown or run a 90-yard run back into the end zone. Sometimes you need to make your way down the field in order to score that touchdown. That is exactly what we are trying to do here.

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My constituents in New York's Fourth Congressional District sent me here to Congress to provide meaningful tax relief to local families, and the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act will do exactly that. This important bill would double the State and local tax deduction for married couples from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the 2023 tax year. This would allow middle-class

families to receive tax relief when they file this year.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act wrongly penalized married taxpayers as the \$10,000 cap was implemented for single taxpayers as well as married couples who filed jointly. Married couples were further penalized with the establishment of a \$5,000 SALT cap if these taxpayers filed separately.

The SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act fixes an anti-family policy and will help middle-class families across New York and the country.

Since my first day here in the House of Representatives, I advocated for lifting the SALT cap, including as current vice chair of the House SALT Caucus. This bill is an important first step to deliver needed tax relief for constituents and increasing or ultimately removing the SALT cap.

We have heard countless stories of Americans who are suffering from sky-high inflation due to the Biden administration's rising gas and grocery prices and out-of-control spending. We must advance these policies.

Just the other day, Leader JEFFRIES sent out a tweet that New York Republicans were sent here to provide SALT relief, and they have failed because it wasn't in the tax package. Mr. Speaker, it will be on the floor just today. We look forward to Leader JEFFRIES and others supporting this for New Yorkers and this country.

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

We have seen the Republicans kill a lot of their own rules. A record number of Republican rules have been killed on the floor of the House. I think it is a little too early to crow about getting this done when you don't know if you are going to get your Republican colleagues to vote for your own rule.

There is something else that is in this rule, and that is H. Res. 987. My colleagues like complaining a lot. They have a politics of grievance, but they don't actually solve the problem. They go on and on about various issues, like energy, immigration, other things, but they do not solve the problems. They don't actually pass laws. They don't take up the bills that actually would solve the problem.

That is what we are seeing today in H. Res. 987. It is just a bill of complaint. It is also not very accurate. They are complaining about President Biden's energy policies. Let's look at those energy policies.

The United States is producing a record 13.2 million barrels of crude oil per day, more than Russia or Saudi Arabia, more than any time during the Trump administration. We are also producing record amounts of natural gas.

H.R. 987 itself even notes that the U.S. became a global leader in LNG exports for the first time in 2023, which was under President Biden.

Moreover, oil and gas companies are reaping the benefits. In the last 2

years, we have seen record profits, \$196 billion one year and \$123 billion the next.

What we see a lot in this other resolution is complaining but not a good recitation of facts on the ground. The resolution also complains that there isn't enough domestic production of reliable and affordable energy.

Let's talk about affordable energy. When Democrats were in control last Congress, we and President Biden took historic action to spur clean energy development right here at home.

We know that clean energy helps stabilize prices because we are not subject to international price fluctuations. As we talked about earlier, as Representative CROW mentioned, one of the reasons we saw the surge in gas prices was because of Putin's war, yet we are not taking up the bipartisan security package that passed overwhelmingly in the Senate. If we want to look at ways of making sure that our international markets don't go crazy, let's address Putin's war.

They don't want to do that.

What we are doing at home is looking at that renewable energy because when we produce renewable energy here at home, we are not dependent on Saudi Arabia, and we are not dependent on Russia.

President Biden knows the importance of energy independence, and we are creating independence by weaning ourselves off of those international markets.

Let me tell you, we are doing that in New Mexico, because when we build in New Mexico, we bring down costs.

What are we doing in New Mexico? Last year, the Inflation Reduction Act created more than 170,000 clean energy jobs and provided \$369 billion in investments. Some of that went to New Mexico. I am going to give you a couple of examples from my own beautiful State.

It spurred \$1.4 billion in funding for clean energy projects to create at least 2,105 jobs.

In New Mexico, these clean energy jobs are also bringing to our State manufacturing jobs, like in Belen where we will be building wind towers. For the first time, we are creating manufacturing jobs in the United States.

Wind power and solar power are actually the cheapest electricity we can invest in. Our big companies know that, and they are investing in wind and solar.

Indeed, I recently met with Chevron representatives, and they told me excitedly about the plans they have to invest in clean energy, to invest in wind and solar.

Rather than pass a resolution that doesn't do anything but complain, I invite my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats to pass bills that bring down our energy costs while we invest in America's clean energy future here at home.

Help us build on progress we made last Congress so that we can grow the

middle class and lower costs for the American people. We can achieve both goals when you put people over politics.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, let's add some honesty to the SALT conversation. I am from a blue State, and I am willing to concede to my red State colleagues especially that an increase in the SALT cap benefits blue States more than red States. There; I said it.

After all, it is the blue States with the highest State income taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes. At 10.9 percent, my State, New York, has the dubious distinction of having the highest taxes in this great Nation of ours.

As bloated and out of control as my State's spending and taxes are under one-party Democrat rule, it cannot be said truthfully that red States are subsidizing the blue States. The data demonstrates the opposite actually, that blue States like mine are giving far more to Washington than we get back. The opposite is true, that many red States get far more from Washington than they give.

As you can see from this chart, the home States of many of my Republican colleagues shown in red, who say SALT is a subsidy to blue States, are, in fact, the States that get much more from Washington than they give, Mr. Speaker.

Here in this chart, you can see that New York gets one of the worst returns on investment of our Federal dollars. It is the blue line down there. Yet, many red States are at the top of this list whose taxpayers are getting much more from Washington than they are giving.

Mr. Speaker, States like New York are not asking for a bailout. We are simply asking to break even. Many of my colleagues are correct to say a large part of the problem starts in Albany. Sadly, I live in that reality, and I know better than to rely on Albany Democrats to try and improve the lives of the average New Yorker. Why do you think so many are fleeing my State for States like Texas and Florida? It is not just for the weather, Mr. Speaker.

Second, I want to address some serious intellectual dishonesty and rewriting of history by my Democrat colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats had complete control of Washington for 2 years, the House, the Senate, and the White House, yet they have never signed any SALT relief into law, even though they passed several massive omnibus and reconciliation bills. They failed their constituents and mine and embarrassed themselves and are now trying to blame blue State Republicans, even though we are clearly fighting tooth and nail to deliver some sort of relief.

When they had majorities and the White House, why didn't Speaker

PELOSI and New York's own Leader SCHUMER take action to deal with this issue?

Mr. Speaker, this is a political talking point for Democrats but a serious policy item for me and my fellow New York Republicans. Restoring the SALT deduction is not just a matter of tax policy for Long Island families. It is a crucial step toward ensuring economic fairness, supporting the middle class, and sustaining vibrant communities. The lack of a meaningful SALT deduction hurts my constituents, and we must address this injustice.

Since so many of my Democrat colleagues have been so passionate about this issue, I am sure they will have no issue, Mr. Speaker, voting to advance this legislation and voting in favor of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the combined rule.

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

Give me a break, really. Republicans caused this problem. When Republicans were in complete control, they created the problem that that chart just highlighted. Everybody is paying for that. They created a problem where the middle class—I don't use that kind of language, but you know what I would have said—where the middle class really did not benefit, because they were prioritizing the rich. Now they are scolding us? You have to be kidding.

In 2019, when Democrats took control of the House, what did they do? They passed a fix to the SALT problem. It went over to the Senate, and MITCH MCCONNELL killed it. The Senate, remember, was 50/50, so we needed 10 Republican votes to get things across. We needed 9 Republican votes. We needed Republican votes to get things over. Republicans were not willing to fix things over there.

Our priorities have always been the middle class. Their priorities were the rich, and that is why we have this problem in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a 2023 Center for American Progress report titled: "Biden Tax Proposals Would Correct Inequities Created by Trump Tax Cuts and Raise Additional Revenues."

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

There was no objection.

[From the Center for American Progress, Apr. 14, 2023]

BIDEN TAX PROPOSALS WOULD CORRECT INEQUITIES CREATED BY TRUMP TAX CUTS AND RAISE ADDITIONAL REVENUES

(By Jean Ross)

Key members of the new U.S. House of Representatives Republican majority have announced their intention to permanently extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which the Republican-controlled Congress enacted in 2017. Signed into law by then-President Donald Trump, the TCJA slashed taxes for corporations and the wealthy and on the estates the wealthy pass on to their

heirs. The law permanently cut the corporate tax rate and changed the way the United States imposes taxes on multinational corporations. It also included a temporary reduction in personal income tax rate along with other personal income tax changes that expire at the end of 2025. Overall, the measure was projected to increase the federal deficit by about \$1.9 trillion over 10 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The wealthiest 5 percent of households received nearly half—42.6 percent—of the Trump tax cuts, with the top 0.1 percent receiving an average tax cut of \$193,380 in 2018.

Nearly all of the TCJA's personal income tax changes sunset at the end of 2025. By including a sunset date, the bill was able to move through the Senate with no support from members of the Senate minority. This allowed the Senate to consider the bill using the reconciliation process, which requires that a measure not increase the deficit over the long term and that it fit within the reconciliation instructions—in this case, within the maximum deficit increase allowed by the budget resolution passed by the House and the Senate. Congressional leaders included an expiration date as a means to game the rules designed to impose fiscal discipline, as demonstrated by the fact that the vast majority of House Republicans approved a measure making the TCJA's individual tax cuts permanent less than one year after the TCJA was signed into law.

As part of his fiscal year 2024 budget proposal, President Joe Biden introduced a set of tax proposals that would reform and reverse some of the changes made by the TCJA and take ambitious steps toward ensuring that income from wealth is taxed comparably to that from work. Taken as a whole, the Biden proposal would substantially improve the equity of the nation's tax code while raising revenues to support investments that will advance economic growth and opportunities and the well-being of American families. This issue brief examines and contrasts between the two sets of proposals, which offer starkly different visions for the future of the nation's tax laws.

THE TCJA PROVIDED MASSIVE TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

The TCJA made sweeping changes to the nation's tax laws—including some for low- and middle-income households—that provided the largest tax cuts to the wealthy. The law included four major changes expiring at the end of 2025 that were overwhelmingly tilted to high-income Americans:

Cutting the top tax rate: The TCJA cut the top personal income tax rate from 39.6 percent to 37 percent on taxable income of more than \$600,000 for married couples or \$500,000 for single people or heads of household. The lowering of the top tax rate had no impact on the taxes paid by a middle-income household but did, for example, provide a \$119,918 tax cut to a married couple with \$5 million in taxable income in 2018.

Creating a new pass-through loophole: The TCJA allows owners of partnerships, limited liability companies, and other so-called pass-through businesses to escape tax on 20 percent of their income. Pass-through business income has skyrocketed in recent decades and is highly concentrated at the top of the income scale. From 1979 to 2019, total business income received by the top 1 percent of households rose nearly sixfold (587 percent). By contrast, labor income—wages and salaries—increased by 248 percent, and capital gains and other capital income, which accounts for the largest fraction of income received by the top 1 percent, rose by 152 percent. The 20 percent deduction effectively reduces the top rate on pass-through income

for owners in qualifying industries from 37 percent to 29.6 percent. As a result, a married architect with \$300,000 in taxable income from a pass-through business would pay \$13,157 less in personal income taxes than a person with the same amount of wage and salary income in 2022. Recent research by economist Lucas Goodman and colleagues analyzing administrative tax data found “no evidence of any immediate ‘real’ responses to section 199A in terms of investment, employment, or wages.

Dramatically reducing the alternative minimum tax (AMT): The AMT was designed to ensure that higher-income people who claim certain tax breaks pay at least some minimum amount of personal income tax. Prior to the TCJA, the AMT worked as a partial backstop; however, its ability to ensure that the wealthiest paid a minimum amount of tax was limited by the fact that it did not apply to income from either realized or unrealized capital gains. The TCJA substantially weakened the AMT by increasing the amount of income exempt from the tax from \$86,200 to \$109,400 for married taxpayers and from \$55,400 to \$70,300 for single filers. It also increased the income level—where the exemption begins to phase out—from \$164,100 for married couples and \$123,100 for single people to \$1 million and \$500,000, respectively, and indexed the exemption for inflation going forward. Taken together, these changes substantially limited the ability of the AMT to ensure that households claiming certain tax preferences paid at least a minimum amount of tax and dramatically reduced the number of households affected by the AMT. The Tax Policy Center, for example, projected that the number of AMT taxpayers fell from more than 5 million in 2017 to just 200,000 in 2018.

Lowering taxes on inherited wealth: The TCJA doubled the amount of wealth that can be passed on tax-free to heirs. The exemption, which was \$11 million per couple in 2017, is now \$25.8 million and is indexed for inflation. This change contributed to a reduction in the number of estates with any tax liability by roughly half, from 5,185 in 2017 to 2,584 in 2021.

Taken as a whole, the TCJA slashed the taxes of the wealthiest 0.1 percent of Americans by an average of \$193,380 in its first year of implementation—more than 200 times the average \$930 reduction for households in the middle fifth of the income distribution.

THE TCJA PERMANENTLY SLASHED TAXES FOR PROFITABLE CORPORATIONS

The 2017 law slashed the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and shifted the United States to a territorial system of taxing the income of multinational corporations, which exempts certain offshore income from tax. Unlike the changes to personal income taxes, nearly all the corporate law changes were made permanent, signaling their importance to the drafters of the law. To date, there is little evidence that the corporate tax changes boosted investment or employment, as promised by the law's proponents, or that the changes aimed at stemming offshore profit shifting have managed to do so.

Wealthy households also disproportionately benefited from the tax rate cut and other corporate tax changes in the bill, which increased corporations' after-tax rates of return. In 2019, the most recent year for which data are available, the wealthiest 1 percent of U.S. households owned 38 percent of overall equity holdings. Foreigners, who owned 40 percent of US corporate equity in 2020, also benefited significantly from the reductions as the corporate tax.

While the House Republican leadership's approach would entrench the costly and re-

gressive corporate tax cuts enacted in 2017, President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget would take steps to unwind them. The corporate minimum tax enacted as part of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act is designed to ensure that large and very profitable corporations pay at least some minimum amount of tax, however far corporate taxes remain below their pre-TCJA level. President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget proposal would modestly raise the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent. And it would make important changes to the system of taxing profits of multinational corporations that would bring the United States into compliance with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's two-pillar framework, which establishes a global minimum tax on very large multinational corporations and penalizes profit shifting to low-tax jurisdictions.

EXTENDING THE TCJA'S TEMPORARY PROVISIONS WOULD BE COSTLY AND OVERWHELMINGLY BENEFIT THE WEALTHY

While the temporary provisions of the TCJA will mostly expire at the end of 2025, a number of House Republicans have already announced their desire to make the temporary changes permanent without offsetting these changes' cost. Doing so would substantially add to the United States' fiscal challenges by lowering tax revenues by about \$3.1 trillion from 2027—the first full year that the changes would take effect—through 2036, equivalent to slightly less than 1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). The additional cost of extension would come on top of the ongoing cost of the permanent changes contained in the bill, nearly all of which reduced corporate and other business taxes. The 2017 law changes, along with those from the tax cuts originally enacted under President George W. Bush, substantially increased the federal debt and are the major source of the rise in the U.S. debt ratio: the ratio of debt to GDP.

Making the 2017 changes permanent would also compound the damage done to the fairness of the tax code by extending large tax breaks for the wealthy and exacerbating inequities that enable them to shelter large shares of their income from taxation. The top 0.1 percent of households would receive an average tax cut more than 175 times the size of that received by middle-income families, on average—\$175,710 as compared with \$990, respectively, in 2026—and the poorest fifth of households would receive, on average, just \$100. Moreover, high-income households would continue to benefit from the already permanent corporate tax cuts discussed above.

BIDEN TAX PROPOSALS WOULD INCREASE TAXES ON THE WEALTHY, EXPAND TAX CREDITS FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget includes a set of proposals that would reverse many of the TCJA's tax cuts for the wealthy and reform how the tax code treats income from unrealized gains. The Biden budget would also restore the child tax credit's full refundability and expand the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children age 6 and older and to \$3,600 per child for children younger than 6 years old. Taken as a whole, these proposals would, on average, result in lower taxes for the bottom 90 percent of the income distribution while significantly increasing taxes on the top 1 percent. Specifically, the president's budget proposal would:

Restore the top 39.6 percent tax rate for married couples with taxable income of more than \$450,000 and single earners with taxable income above \$400,000. The TCJA lowered the top rate to 37 percent.

Equalize the tax rate on capital income with the rate on work for millionaires. Cur-

rently, long-term capital gains and qualified dividends are taxed at a rate of 20 percent. The new rate would only apply to the extent that the taxpayer's taxable income exceeds \$1 million (\$500,000 for married people filing separately) and would be indexed for inflation after 2024.

End the so-called stepped-up basis at death for assets that are passed on to heirs by taxing capital gains at death or the date of transfer. The proposal would also impose a 25 percent minimum tax on the total income of taxpayers with wealth exceeding \$100 million. The tax would apply to income from unrealized capital gains and would function as a pre-payment of the tax that would ultimately be owed when the gain is recognized at sale or death. Taken together, these provisions would close loopholes that currently allow the very wealthy to avoid ever paying taxes on appreciated investments.

Stem the abuse of tax-preferred retirement accounts by the wealthy. The president's proposal would impose a minimum distribution requirement on tax-favored retirement account balances exceeding \$10 million. It would also limit the ability of the wealthy to use so-called mega IRAs to avoid paying capital gains taxes and to avoid paying estate taxes on amounts passed on to wealthy heirs.

Close the carried interest loophole that allows investment fund managers to treat most of their income as capital gains—which are taxed at a lower rate—rather than wage and salary income. The change would apply to individuals with taxable incomes above \$400,000.

Close loopholes in the net investment income tax (NIIT) that benefit high-income taxpayers with pass-through business income, ensuring that all pass-through business income is treated consistently with other investment earnings of high-income individuals. The president would also increase the NIIT and related Medicare payroll tax rate by 1.2 percentage points for those with more than \$400,000 of income and dedicate the entire proceeds of the tax to boost the solvency of the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

The TCJA doubled the size of the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child, made the credit partially refundable, and phased it in faster, so that families whose incomes were too low to receive the benefit of the credit could receive some assistance. It also extended eligibility to higher-income families. These changes all expire at the end of 2025.

In 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) temporarily increased the credit for one year only to \$3,600 per child up to age 6 and to \$3,000 per child aged 6–17. Importantly, the ARP made the credit fully refundable and removed the income phase-in, making it fully available to families, including those with little or no income, who previously received a partial credit or no benefit at all. The ARP also allowed families to receive up to half of their credit as a monthly payment, making it available to help meet ongoing living expenses such as rent and groceries. The ARP's expansion, which applied for one year only, resulted in a historic reduction in child poverty, lifting 2.1 million children out of poverty in the United States.

The president's proposal would restore the size of the credit to its ARP level, make it fully refundable, and establish a monthly payment mechanism. These changes would apply in 2023 through 2025 and correct a flaw that left families who could benefit most from the expanded credit with little or no assistance and help sustain the reduction in child poverty observed in 2021.

THE BIDEN BUDGET PROPOSALS ADDRESS FLAWS
IN U.S. TAX SYSTEM THAT ALLOW THE
WEALTHIEST TO AVOID TAXES

The president's proposed minimum tax would address flaws that allow the nation's very wealthiest families to pay a lower tax rate than middle-income families or even then slightly less wealthy counterparts. Recent research examines the impact of provisions of the tax law that provide preferential treatment for investment income and the fact that this income goes untaxed until an asset is sold. Taken together, these factors allow the wealthy to pay low tax rates year after year and, in many instances, to avoid paying tax altogether.

Using a broader measure of earnings that includes income from unsold stock, economists Greg Leiserson and Danny Yagan estimated the average individual tax rate paid by the United States' 400 wealthiest families and found that for the period from 2010 to 2018, they paid an average tax rate of 8.2 percent. This analysis takes into account the benefits the wealthy receive from the assets they own, as well as the tax preferences provided to realized and unrealized investment income.

A separate analysis by Martin Sullivan, using only income reported for tax purposes, compared the taxes paid by the super-wealthy—those earning more than \$10 million—versus their modestly wealthy counterparts and found the federal income tax to be progressive up until the very-highest incomes. This analysis cites the wealthiest individuals' very high share of income from tax-preferred capital gains and dividends as the reason for the sizeable drop in their average tax rates. These households had adjusted gross incomes (AGI) of more than \$10 million but paid a rate that was lower than that paid by those reporting \$1 million to \$10 million in AGI. Tax-favored capital gains and dividends accounted for the majority of the income of the superwealthy—57.8 percent in 2020, as compared with 37.6 percent for those with incomes of \$5 million to \$10 million and less than 4 percent for those with incomes below \$200,000. The author of the study notes that the disparity would be even more significant if the income from unrealized gains is taken into account, saying:

Perhaps the absence of unrealized gain from the tax base wouldn't be such a big deal if working folks and the rich all had unrealized gains proportionate to their taxable income. But nothing could be further from the truth. Most working folks have relatively small or nonexistent unrealized gains (except for gains on their personal residences). For the superrich, unrealized gains routinely account for an overwhelmingly large proportion of their wealth accumulation.

CONCLUSION

Congress should not extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts. In fact, debate over the law's future should revisit and reform its permanent changes to corporate tax law that have failed to deliver on their promises and that endanger the nation's fiscal future. In contrast, President Biden's fiscal year 2024 tax proposals outline an alternative vision that helps ensure that the wealthy and very large profitable corporations pay a more equitable share of taxes, supports families with children, and raises revenues to support critical investments and fiscal stability.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this report details the massive tax breaks that the Trump and Republican 2018 tax bill primarily benefited the wealthiest Americans, and we constantly hear them want to make it permanent. We constantly hear them say: Oh, those were the greatest things,

except for when they need to have a couple of their Members get reelected. We are looking for a repeat of what we saw yesterday.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, imagine spending so much time and so much energy and so much air opposing that which one actually supports. I have sat here for a few moments, and I have listened to my colleague across the aisle suggest they didn't break it and therefore they should be under no obligation to fix it; that for years they have been trying to remedy this problem, but it is the other side of the aisle's fault and therefore we won't take this next step forward. Imagine that is your argument.

I wasn't here when the SALT cap was established. I opposed it in local government, mostly because I know that middle-class families in upstate New York are being—I will use the language; pardon me—screwed by decisions of State government, decisions out of their control.

Let's talk about what this bill does. This is a very simple effort to ensure tax fairness for working families. Last week, the House came together and recognized commonsense tax relief is a shared priority between both parties. I was proud to support the bipartisan bill that helped parents and small businesses weather rising costs, but we left low-hanging fruit on the table, a simple incremental success. Right now, married couples are unfairly and arbitrarily punished with the SALT deduction in a way that matches almost no other facet of the tax code.

Let's make one thing clear. We are not talking about the wealthiest of New Yorkers that are being impacted here. I am talking about families and parents in towns and communities like Vestal, Dryden, and Hudson, upstate communities that most don't know, but they struggle every day, they are barely getting by because they are being slammed by property taxes and State taxes. These are not individuals who choose to be overtaxed. They were forced to by Democrats and one-party rule in the State of New York.

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These folks are struggling every day to make ends meet, and they are having many difficult choices to make between childcare, groceries, and their mortgage all because they get taxed twice on their incomes. This bill doesn't solve the entire problem, and my colleague knows it. This bill doesn't undo the damage that we both agree existed.

Nonetheless, my colleague is faced with one important question: Will they support an effort to undo this one piece of unfairness?

Double the SALT cap for married couples, eliminate the arbitrary mar-

riage penalty, and free up working families' budgets to invest in their kids and their local economies. This isn't about what happened then, and it is not about who broke it. It is whether or not we can find, as we did last week, the commonality to begin to fix it.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' fix needs a fix. Really. They are proposing that instead of actually fixing the SALT problem, they keep trying to say: Oh, it is all right for us to do just a teeny, tiny, little bit just as long as we can get reelected, because if they really wanted to fix it, then they would have at least taken it up and raised it in committee, had a good debate, and brought it to the floor with a robust fix that actually makes a difference not just for an election year.

I might remind everybody, again, that in the Rules Committee, JOE NEGUSE, a member of the Rules Committee, proposed that this SALT fix actually go for 2 years so that it would be consistent with the other tax cuts that Trump did. They didn't want that.

The other thing that the amendment does was strike \$20,000 and half \$30,000. They didn't want that either. Every single Republican voted against it. Every single Republican voted against having this goal for 2 years.

Why?

It was because that wasn't part of the deal. They don't need it after November, I guess. They only need it for this November.

Is that it?

Once November goes by, their constituents don't need another year of tax relief with regard to this deduction?

Why would they vote against that?

I have no idea why they would not let the Members on the floor of the House decide whether this bill should go for 2 years.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this bill is about fairness. I do want to mention, though, the memory is a little short on the other side of the aisle. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act where this was implemented was passed on reconciliation. It only required a simple majority.

Moreover, the Democrats when they passed the Inflation Reduction Act depended on only a simple majority. They could easily have put their recommended SALT cures into that bill. It absolutely fits in with reconciliation which are budgetary items. That is what this is. Nonetheless, they chose not to.

So one has to ask: Why did they choose to spend \$1 trillion on expensive green energy projects and not yield tax relief to their own constituents?

I can't answer that, only they can. Nevertheless, let's set the record

straight. The Democrats had the opportunity to do whatever they wanted to on SALT. They complained about it for years. They could have fixed it. They choose not to. They deliberately chose not to in a vehicle that only required a simple majority.

So this is about fairness.

Mr. Speaker, when we passed that in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—one of the greatest stimuli to the American economy ever—we, interestingly, chose not to inflation index that \$10,000. Now, thanks to Bidenflation, it should be around \$15,000.

So our decision is that even just to make it fair for inflation caused by President Biden and his policies, we could have chosen to just raise it \$15,000, but, no, we did, I think, what was the right thing to do, which is to say that there is no penalty to a family, because on this side of the aisle we actually think the idea of family is pretty good for this country. We don't want to disincentivize it.

We decided we would take and just remove what I would call the marriage penalty from this. I think it is the right decision.

One of the gentlemen who supports this mentioned that this goes far beyond blue States. This goes into States where, because of Bidenflation, housing prices have gone up, and, Mr. Speaker, I guarantee you, those property taxes are going to go up for a variety of reasons.

The time to do this is now, it is appropriate, and I fully support the rule.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we just have to keep saying it over and over again: How dare the majority scold us for not fixing a problem that they created. How dare they scold us, and how dare they actually even think about it when they don't want to fix the problem.

The majority's fix needs fixing. Let's move on.

I was flabbergasted when I heard my colleagues say that the Trump tax cuts, which benefited the wealthy, the superwealthy, the millionaires, and the billionaires, were the greatest stimulus ever. They were actually not.

Mr. Speaker, I call Members' attention to a report titled: "The Biden Tax Proposals Would Correct Inequities Created By Trump Tax Cuts and Raise Additional Revenues."

Mr. Speaker, what this report shows is that it wasn't the greatest stimulus, indeed, that with the Trump tax cuts, revenue plummeted from the expected.

Those Trump tax cuts are the reason we have the deficits, which is what they always usually complain about.

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

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that today's legislative calendar highlights the very distinct differences in priorities and values between Democrats and Republicans.

Democrats are committed to putting people over politics. We are dedicated to lowering costs for everyday Americans, to raising the middle class, to growing that middle class, and to investing in our communities.

On the other hand, the Republicans don't have much of an agenda other than chaos and trying to win the next election.

The SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act is a Band-Aid on a wound Republicans inflicted on the American people when they passed the Trump tax cuts. It is not the kind of emergency that should be taking up our time when we don't have a budget, when we can't pay our bills in a couple of weeks, and when we have Putin possibly winning the war in Ukraine.

Be that as it may, here we are taking that up and taking up a nonbinding resolution about the President's energy policies that ignore how much we have invested in clean energy, how many jobs we have created in the energy sector, and how we are lowering prices.

That is putting people and our planet first.

Their nonbinding resolution does nothing. Republicans keep taking up our time doing nothing on this House floor. We should be on the House floor this week talking about funding the government.

The American people deserve more than the political stunts and the partisan gridlock that comes out of this wonderful, beautiful people's House. It was in this people's House last Congress that we got so much done.

We invested in our infrastructure, we invested in our communities, and we saved America from the economic catastrophe that we were facing coming out of a pandemic. We did so much then, and we have done so little now. What a contrast.

Be that as it may, in the face of chaos and dysfunction, I and everybody in my Democratic Caucus remain steadfast in our commitment to progress and prosperity for all Americans.

The bills that we will be taking up if this rule passes—if this rule passes, they keep defeating their rules—they won't be doing that. This is a teeny, tiny, little Band-Aid on a big, open wound. This rule is all about politics and not about people.

Let's reject the rule and put people over politics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Today, we have heard plenty of arguments and weak accusations pushing back on a necessary piece of legislation

that provides relief for hardworking, middle-class Americans crushed by an economy racked with inflation and gouged by the failed tax-and-spend policies of State governments like my own State of New York.

These aren't the richest of Americans we are talking about here, these are everyday families who just want to achieve the American Dream in an economy ravaged by skyrocketing costs and State and local governments that play to the whims of the radical left. Congress has an opportunity today to make a straightforward, reasonable fix that will make an enormous difference in the finances and futures of these hardworking Americans in States across this great country.

Mr. Speaker, we also have the opportunity to send a powerful message from this Chamber today to the Biden administration and to the world that Congress does not endorse and, in fact, condemns the President's decision to bring our Nation's LNG exports to a screeching halt.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of this rule.

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

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

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7176, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1009 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1009

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

House Resolution 1009 provides for consideration of H.R. 7176, which is the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024, under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. It provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, he has waged a war on American energy independence while supporting policies that have emboldened Vladimir Putin, the Ayatollah of Iran, and the dictator in Communist China, Chairman Xi.

Mr. Speaker, if you don't believe me, then let's go through some of the facts.

President Biden green-lit the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to provide Russian gas to Europe at the same time that he blocked the Keystone XL pipeline here at home. He has proposed and enacted rules that have devastated clean, coal-fired power plants while China approves two coal power plants a week.

□ 1315

He has deleted the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its lowest levels since 1983 and sent millions of barrels of oil to where? Communist China.

Mr. Speaker, on the 22nd anniversary of 9/11, almost as if he was trolling patriotic Americans and the families of victims of 9/11, on that same day, he turned around and unfroze \$6 billion in oil sanctions to Iran. Just days later, the Iranians turned around and helped fund a horrific, medieval, barbaric attack on our number one ally, the State of Israel.

The Biden administration's policies have truly embodied the slogan, America last. That is not all. You might be thinking there can't be more that he has done to devastate energy production and harm ourselves and our allies, but wait, there is more. We are going to talk about it right now.

Last month, this administration announced an indefinite pause in new approvals of liquefied natural gas exports. This deeply concerning decision puts American family-sustaining jobs and the security of not only ourselves

but our allies and other partners around the globe at risk.

In the wake of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, our European allies have nearly tripled their import of U.S. LNG while significantly reducing their reliance on Russian natural gas.

Studies have shown that LNG exports can provide upward of \$73 billion to the U.S. economy by 2040, create an additional 450,000 jobs, and help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, Biden and his administration have tried to put a stop to all that.

This administration's actions will undoubtedly cause significant disruptions to the United States and global economies.

Let me be clear about one thing. The only people who stand to benefit from this decision are people based in Beijing, Tehran, and Moscow, and maybe White, affluent suburbs that vote for Joe Biden and want to feel good about themselves. Other than that, no one else benefits from this decision.

That is why House Republicans are bringing to the floor this week the bipartisan Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024, which ends the Biden administration's ban on LNG exports and streamlines the permitting process by removing the Department of Energy from the approval process.

This week's vote will be very clear. Do you support American workers and American energy, or do you support authoritarian and Communist regimes abroad?

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my Republican friends, enough with the lectures. I just spent the last hour listening to the debate on the previous rule where the Republicans basically were saying the Democrats had an obligation to fix what the Republicans screwed up to begin with, that we basically have to clean up their mess.

I just heard the gentleman talk about our obligation to our allies as the basis for this crummy piece of legislation that we are now talking about. Really, to get a lecture from Republicans about our obligation to our allies while they are blocking aid to Ukraine as we speak? The Senate, with a 70-vote margin, passed in a bipartisan way aid, to provide essential aid to Ukraine so that Putin will not have a victory, will not invade Ukraine.

When I hear my friend talk about an obligation to our allies, I urge him to ask his Speaker to please let the House work its will to bring this bill to the floor. Let us have a vote. What we are talking about here today is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the fourth time this Congress that language either identical or nearly identical to this bill has been reported out of the

Rules Committee. First, it passed as part of Republicans' destructive H.R. 1 energy package. Then, Republicans tried to pass it as a standalone bill but had to pull the rule for the bill from the floor because they didn't have the votes. The third time, the bill was put on the floor, but it failed to pass because the MAGA clown show threw a fit after not getting what they wanted. Here we are again, for the fourth time.

I don't know if my Republican friends have looked at the calendar recently, but Groundhog Day was actually last week. Maybe they think this is Nick at Nite, and they want to start airing more reruns.

This is Congress. This is Congress—Congress. The American people vote for us and pay us because they expect us to work together to get things done.

The only real difference this fourth time around is that Republicans—and you really can't make this stuff up—Republicans blocked Democratic amendments that were made in order the last two times. The last two times this bill came through the committee, they made two Democratic amendments in order. Now, they have been blocked because this is a completely closed rule.

Last night, I asked my colleagues across the aisle why. Why did you block two Democratic amendments that were germane and made in order the previous times we looked at this bill? Nobody could answer. My Republican friends kind of just looked at each other and shrugged.

I am assuming it must have been a directive of the Speaker. Maybe Speaker Johnson decided that he doesn't even want to pretend to care about bipartisanship anymore, and that is why he told Republicans to block Democratic amendments that were made in order in previous rules. We are dealing with a completely closed rule. The worst part is that this whole circus is for a garbage LNG bill.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who is happy about this Republican LNG bill? Big Oil CEOs, and fossil fuel tycoons. China is thrilled with what my Republican friends are doing today. Wall Street is applauding them.

This bill is awful for hardworking families. It is awful for people who are worried about high energy prices. It is awful for our climate.

The American people are worried about climate change. They say we need action. I don't know if my Republican colleagues got the memo, but climate change is real. Thankfully, President Biden is doing something about it.

Republicans still can't answer another simple question from us. Why do they want to turn LNG into a Wild West that mimics the oil market? For people who are sick of OPEC and Russia fixing the prices that we pay at the pump every day like I am, just know that this bill makes it easier for that to happen with LNG.

Republicans talk a big game on China. Their bill helps China and other

adversaries who rely on American LNG imports.

The truth is this is just another handout to the GOP's best friends. They want to make sure that Big Energy CEOs and corporations can pad their pockets while raising prices on all of us. Follow the money. Look who contributes to them. That tells you all you need to know about why we are dealing with this bill today.

This entire week is just a master class in Republican incompetence. My friend across the aisle tells us routinely how crucial their bills are and how important they are, and then the bills are defeated not by Democrats but by Republicans.

Republicans just wasted time debating a rule that would bring to the floor a 1-year, limited fix to the SALT problem that they created with their Trump tax scam. They caused the problem. Now, we are debating a rule that they didn't have the votes for last week, and it is likely to fail on the floor today.

Last night, they impeached Secretary Mayorkas by one vote. They had to rush and redo that one before TOM SUOZZI was sworn in.

The Rules Committee is supposed to meet on a new FISA bill later today, our third attempt this Congress. Maybe this one will pass. Who knows?

Everything we are doing this week is a rerun: another impeachment vote, the FISA bill, the SALT bill, and this LNG bill. This is all because Republican leadership keeps bringing half-baked ideas to the floor without knowing where their own Conference stands. It didn't work the first time or even the second or third time. I guess we have to do it again.

Look at what is going on in this country. My Republican friends are barely hanging on to this majority by their fingernails.

Mr. Speaker, you would think that Republicans would look at the results of last night's election and have a come to Jesus moment. The American people are rejecting Republican extremism. They are voting against Republicans' cynical move to tank the bipartisan border deal.

I don't know if you looked at some of the exit polls and some of the commentary about people who were voting yesterday. People are puzzled why my Republican friends made such a big deal about the border crisis. Then, you have a bipartisan border deal that is negotiated in the Senate, and then the Speaker of the House says it will never see the light of day and that we don't need any legislation. People are seeing through this cynicism.

People are against the sham impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas. What an offensive waste of time that was yesterday. I don't know, maybe MAGA-based donors are impressed by that kind of behavior, but it does nothing about anything at the border. It is more grandstanding. People are sick of that.

Here is the deal. People actually want Republicans to work with Democrats to get stuff done. What a radical idea that, in Congress, people would try to work together to pass legislation to help improve the lives of the people we represent.

That is not what this is today. That is not what we have been seeing the last several months.

Mr. Speaker, I pointed this out the other day, but I think it is worth repeating. The Rules Committee is kind of the traffic cop of Congress. Almost every major piece of legislation that comes to the floor goes to the Rules Committee, certainly legislation of consequence.

The last time the Rules Committee brought a bill to the House floor that actually became law, that passed the Senate and was signed by the President, was 9 months ago. All this time, bringing these messaging bills to the floor, the impeachment of Mayorkas, all this garbage that is being brought to the floor, none of it becomes law.

Why are you here? Mr. Speaker, we are here today considering the same old bills over and over again because the Republican Party has nothing to offer but chaos, confusion, and disarray.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot to rebut there, but let's start with the notion that we are here passing the same bill over and over again. That is simply not true. We are here for one reason and one reason only. Last month, Biden and the far-left radical Democrats catered to their base and put an indefinite ban on LNG exports.

Again, as I said in my opening, this is going to hurt American workers. This is going to hurt our allies and partners around the world. If you are worried about carbon emissions, it is going to be bad for the environment. Who benefits from this?

The people who benefit from this are Putin; the dictator in Communist China, Xi; and the Ayatollah in Iran. They are the only three that benefit from this. The loser, again, is the American worker and our allies abroad.

If you support dirty Russian and Iranian oil and gas, then go ahead and vote against this bill, but know that your vote supports them. If you support American energy and the American worker, then vote for this bill. That is why we are here today.

To talk about this being a handout to Wall Street and big corporations, I tell my colleague across the aisle that the early 2000s want their Democratic Party back because, the last time I checked, we are now the party that supports the people who shower after work, not before. They are the party of Wall Street, and we are the party of Main Street.

When President Biden took office, you can look at what he did. What he

did was detrimental to Main Street, detrimental to the American workers, very beneficial to corporate America, and very beneficial to Wall Street.

When President Biden took office, inflation was at 1.4 percent. Since then, prices have risen 17.9 percent. That includes a 28.6 percent increase in electricity, a 20 percent increase in food prices, and an 18 percent increase in rent prices.

If you factor in inflation, wages have actually fallen 4 percent since Biden took office. For 26 straight months, inflation has outpaced wage growth. Last October, mortgage rates hit a 23-year high.

Today, Americans are spending just about \$12,000 more per year just to buy the basics. That is like coming and saying we are going to take \$1,000 out of your paycheck every month just to keep up with Bidenomics.

□ 1330

Who does that hurt? It doesn't hurt the executive working at BlackRock that sends money to the Democratic Party. It doesn't hurt the fat cats running corporations. It hurts the supporters and the American workers. The base of the Republican Party is who pays the price for this.

Mr. Speaker, for the Democrats to say that we are somehow concerned with Wall Street, that is their party. We are worried about Main Street on this side of the aisle.

Now, talking about Republicans not wanting to support our allies abroad, maybe I was asleep last week when the Democrats voted down a clean Israel aid package, because that aid package would have helped our allies abroad. I am not sure who my friend is talking about when he is saying we don't want to help our allies abroad.

It is very clear that we are the party who wants to support democracy abroad because the LNG issue is one of the most beneficial things we can do for our allies in Europe, in particular. Despite disaster after disaster on the foreign stage, this could actually help alleviate it.

Let's talk about Biden's disasters on the international stage. Biden's foreign policy has led to—and I will list it: a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that killed 13 Americans.

By the way, my friends across the aisle claim they care about women and children, but do you know who is paying the price for Biden's disaster in Afghanistan right now? It is all the women who had rights when we were there, and all the children that now have to grow up under the medieval-style rule of the Taliban.

Biden's disaster just didn't stop with Afghanistan. He also emboldened Iran to unleash a proxy network that killed American troops in the Middle East, along with three brave servicemembers lost in Jordan from Iran's aggression. Also, the Biden administration has had a failure to protect commercial shipping in the Red Sea from ragtag Houthis

rebels, which Biden delisted from the terrorist organization list.

This shouldn't be surprising, though. Former President Obama's own Defense Secretary commented that Joe Biden has been wrong on every single foreign policy decision he has ever made. I would submit to you that this LNG export ban is in that list of decisions that Biden has made for foreign policy that is simply wrong.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania just kind of regurgitated a whole bunch of statistics. I am not going to rebut every single one of them. He went through a whole litany of things that are wrong with our country.

Here is a novel idea for Republicans: rather than just complain, maybe actually try and find some solutions. If all the things the gentleman says are problems that we need to deal with, then my suggestion is to get about the business of passing legislation in a divided Congress to fix them.

This is the least productive Congress, I think, in decades or maybe even since the Great Depression. My friends have done nothing. They have done nothing.

They come to the floor and they complain. This is not just a do-nothing Congress, this is a do-nothing Congress over and over and over again. We are doing reruns this week. We have dealt with this legislation. This is the fourth time we are dealing with it, and I predict we will probably deal with it a fifth, a sixth, a seventh, and an eighth time before the end of the year when, hopefully, your majority comes to an end.

I don't want to be lectured about jobs from somebody who supported Donald Trump, who when he was President, had the worst jobs record since the Great Depression. I don't want to be lectured about blue-collar workers. I come from an area in Massachusetts where we actually stand proudly with our unions, something that my Republican colleagues fight against every single day in this Chamber.

I will just give some friendly advice to the gentleman based on the results of last night's election, which my Republican friends were predicting a victory, but I am saying that the reason why you did not win last night is because people think that what you are doing is not the right thing.

Your ideas are unpopular, and they are sick of the incompetence and the inaction. They are sick of the complaining and no solutions. You complain about the border. Democrats and Republicans work together in the Senate to come up with a bill. Maybe it is not everything you want, but it was negotiated by some pretty conservative, rightwing Republicans. Rather than bring it to the House floor so we can have a debate and a vote, the Speaker and Republican leadership says it is

not allowed to be considered on the House floor.

Again, the gentleman talks about national security. None of us can understand the game the Republicans are playing with Ukraine. How can you do this to the Ukrainian people, playing into the hands of Vladimir Putin? Are Republicans cheering a Putin victory against Ukraine? If so, that is sick.

The Senate passed this in an overwhelmingly bipartisan manner, and the Speaker said it is dead on arrival. We can't even consider it here. I just want to also say, because I think it is important for the record, that last night in the Rules Committee, Ms. SCANLON of Pennsylvania offered an amendment to the rule to make in order amendment No. 2 to H.R. 7176, offered by Representative HOULAHAN, which requires the commission to deny applications with regard to covered foreign countries including China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran, as well as foreign entities owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of the government of those countries.

Do you know what happened, Mr. Speaker? It was defeated 4-9. Mr. BURGESS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Chairman COLE all voted "no." They all voted against making that amendment in order, which would have made sure that none of these countries that I just mentioned would benefit in any way, shape, or form.

Sometimes we come to the floor to debate these issues, and I am not quite sure whether we are dealing in reality or an alternate universe. The bottom line is, if the gentleman cared about the things he just said, why couldn't we make this amendment in order and have an up-or-down vote on it? Why was this such a radical idea? Why was this such a bad thing to do?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN), a great colleague.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I don't get up very often and speak much on the floor, to be honest. What I heard in the few minutes here from my colleagues is, as the gentleman from Massachusetts said, the greatest hits, the recurring talking points over and over and over that are completely disconnected from where constituents in my district, in the Hudson Valley of New York, are on a whole host of issues.

These are people who want us to actually fix problems. Specifically, they are people who want us to stand up for freedom and democracy in the face of rising authoritarian access around the world. Instead of doing any of that, we are debating these same bills over and over and over.

We should be voting right now to stand strong with our democratic, small d, allies around the world from

Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific. I am not going to read this letter, but as I was walking here, I received a letter from one of my constituents, an 18-year-old young man—I am not going to say his name and embarrass him without his permission—from Warwick, New York, who I had the incredible honor to nominate to the United States Military Academy at West Point, my alma mater. All of us have been giving these nominations to great American young men and women who, even in the time of incredible risk and danger around the world, are willing to stand up.

He said: I now fully realize why I want to serve my country; why I need to serve my country.

How are we going to send our young men and women in uniform into harm's way without looking them in the eye and saying: We stand for something. We stand for democracy. We stand for freedom. That is why I signed up and raised my right hand and took the oath as a commissioned officer in the United States Army.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, by ignoring the bipartisan Senate bill to provide support to our allies, instead of keeping faith with our allies in Ukraine, who have stood proudly and strongly against all odds and against all expectations, and who continue to do so, instead of voting to send them the support they need, to have our allies' back, we are debating this same stuff over and over.

We all know why. It is at the direction of one former President for political, selfish reasons, the same person who called my brothers and sisters in arms suckers and losers. He is now the puppet master as Putin gets every single thing he wants.

How can I look this young man and all the people who we are sending to all of our service academies in the eye, when we can't even have a vote? If you don't want to vote for democracy and freedom, fine, but at least be proud enough and brave enough to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives and let your constituents know that.

Mr. Speaker, I won't use the full balance of the time that the gentleman yielded. I just strongly urge all of my colleagues, not as partisans, not as politicians, but as patriots, demand a vote on this bill and stand and be counted.

Let us stand with our allies in Europe. Let us stand with our allies in the Middle East against Iran. Let us stand with our allies in the Indo-Pacific. That is what we owe the American people.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, there is a lot to rebut there.

If the gentleman wants to talk about Trump and foreign policy, let's talk about it.

It is not a coincidence that under the Obama administration, you had an aggressive Russia moving into Crimea. Then you have 4 years where Russia does not invade any of their neighbors. Then enter Joe Biden and the radical Democrats, and Vladimir Putin senses the weakness of Joe Biden and invades Ukraine.

I will take President Trump's record on the foreign stage over Joe Biden's record any day of the week. Furthermore, to suggest that President Trump doesn't care about the military and about advancing American interests abroad, I would remind the gentleman—maybe he forgot—that it was President Trump who took out Soleimani. It was President Trump who took out al-Baghdadi. It was President Trump that debilitated and destroyed ISIS. It was President Trump who brought forward the Abraham Accords that actually brought the promise of peace and stability to the Middle East.

I will take President Trump's foreign policy any day of the week, as would probably the Ukrainians, the Israelis, and the Taiwanese people.

Now, the comment about this bill benefiting authoritarian regimes, it is completely the opposite. If we limit our export of LNGs, the demand for LNGs abroad is not going to go away. That is fantasy land.

Our allies will still need liquefied natural gas, but instead of having the benefit of buying it from places like Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, our allies will have to buy it from places like Russia, Tehran, and Venezuela, for example.

So who are you supporting when you ban the export of LNG? I would submit to you that you are supporting the authoritarian regimes that you proclaim to despise.

Now, my friend and colleague—and I do consider him a friend—from Massachusetts made a comment that we are operating under a different set of facts. It is like we are looking at two different fact patterns. That might be right, but I think we are looking at two different decades.

Again, this is no longer 2006. This is a new Democratic Party. This is a Democratic Party made up of radical extremists, leftists, and the Republican Party has also shifted.

There was a comment about union jobs. It is pretty clear where the Democrats stand on union jobs when literally on day one of the Biden administration, right out of the gate, he cancels the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Do you know how many union jobs were lost? There were over 60,000 union jobs lost.

So the guy that is driving the EV to the yoga class, he might be happy that the Keystone XL Pipeline went down,

but that is the guy that has the "Ridin' with Biden" bumper sticker on his car.

□ 1345

The guy that is actually driving to work in a truck, that is the guy who is voting Republican, so a different set of facts. I suggest a different decade. It is a new Republican Party, and it is a new Democratic Party, for sure. Those union workers are voting Republican.

Let's talk about what we have done in Congress so far. It is hard to prove a negative, but in some ways we can talk about the rush to the Green New Deal and us preventing a rush to the Green New Deal. If the Democrats were in power right now, we would be all in on the disastrous policies of the Green New Deal, which does nothing but benefit China. However, because we are in the majority, we have been able to stop extreme left positions and ideas.

Again, let's go back to the Green New Deal. The path forward for the Green New Deal has been propped up by adversaries like China. Why is that? It is because we rely on China for critical minerals. We need those critical minerals to build everything from an electric vehicle to a solar panel to windmills.

Biden's administration, by the way, openly admits this. According to his own Secretary of the Interior, the administration's rush to green policies has furthered our dependence on China. She said that in a hearing, by the way, in the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. She is right about that. China accounts for 63 percent of the world's rare earth mining, 85 percent of rare earth processing, and 92 percent of rare earth magnet production.

While Democrats hamper our domestic energy production, China is busy emitting more greenhouse gases than the U.S., the entire EU and Japan combined. China is the one that is bringing two coal-fired power plants online every week, two a week.

It is clear when the White House and congressional Democrats push for the Green New Deal, they are actually absolutely colorblind. What they really are pushing for is a red new deal that benefits our number one adversary, China.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 12 minutes remaining.

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

Boy, that is a lot to try to wrap my head around, listening to the gentleman from Pennsylvania. This is not just reruns week in terms of legislation. It is reruns week in terms of talking points.

The previous President, Mr. Trump, who my Republican friends are so enamored with, let me just remind you of some of what he was all about.

He called President Xi brilliant. He said he got love letters from Kim Jong-un of North Korea, and then he said: "We fell in love." Who says that?

He says Prime Minister Orban is one of the strongest leaders in the world.

He can't say enough nice things about Vladimir Putin. While he was President, Vladimir Putin was planning his invasion of Ukraine.

The other day, Donald Trump said, do you know what? If NATO doesn't do what I want, then I don't care whether or not Putin invades them. Who says that?

Biden has united the world against Putin's aggression in Ukraine. Rather than helping Ukraine stand up to Vladimir Putin, my friends on the other side of the aisle are basically giving him a gift. They are denying essential aid to help the Ukrainian people repel a violent and vicious attack by Vladimir Putin.

What is wrong with this place, Mr. Speaker, that this is where we are?

I don't know whether my friend from Pennsylvania supports the Ukrainian people in their struggle to prevent Russia from invading them or not. If he does, then he should join with us and say let's have a vote. I mean, they are literally down to bullets.

Putin is ecstatic. Putin is thrilled that the Republican leadership in this Congress is holding up aid that will prevent Ukraine from being able to repel a Russian invasion. Putin is thrilled.

Please, give me a break.

Putin is a thug. He is a dictator. He is trying to re-create an old empire. The idea that people in this Chamber are sitting by and saying, okay, do whatever you want, I never ever thought we would ever get to this point, but here we are.

We are debating a bill for the fourth time that is going nowhere, and my friends are pretending like it is some big deal. It is a nothing burger, yet we can't bring legislation to the floor to help the Ukrainian people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind my friend across the aisle that when President Trump was naming those world leaders, those world leaders were actually alive.

Let's talk about Ukraine aid. I don't know if my friend knows my record, but it is pretty hard to find someone who is more hawkish on Russia than me. The difference with my position is I am consistent. My friends across the aisle are not.

It is amazing. The same people who are calling for a blank check for Zelenskyy, saying it will take as long as it takes, those are the same people who are telling our allies in Israel who are under attack every single day from the north, south, and west that they need an off-ramp, that they need to

turn it down. They are the ones who voted against a clean Israel aid package just last week.

I am very proud to be consistent. I don't like Russians in Ukraine, and I also don't like Hamas attacking Israel. I wish that consistency were across the aisle. I think my friends, though, are too beholden to their radical, anti-Israel, far-left base.

If we want to talk about Biden failures, there is more than just foreign policy. Let's talk about the border crisis. Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, I would submit to you, have intentionally left the southern border open. Under President Trump's leadership, America never had a single month of over 150,000 illegal border crossings. It never crossed that threshold. Do you know what that number is under Joe Biden? Thirty-four. It is as if he is intentionally leaving the border open. This is an absolute dereliction of duty by Mayorkas and Joe Biden, and it is because they are beholden to their far-left radical extremist base.

Just how bad is this? Let's be clear. On day number one, this administration put in motion a border agenda that endangers our national security, exacerbates our fentanyl crisis, and puts our communities at risk.

Do you want to talk about more numbers? Every single day, roughly 300 Americans die of fentanyl overdoses. It happens every day. That would be like a commercial airliner once a day going down and my friends across the aisle not caring or saying anything about it. It is amazing the silence on the fentanyl issue.

It didn't have to be this way. Joe Biden could have had remain in Mexico. He could have had catch and release. He could have done numerous executive orders that President Trump did, but Joe Biden, Mayorkas, and, again, the extreme radical Democrats have refused to do anything to secure the border.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend, to add more.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and the underlying legislation, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

The decision by the Biden administration to halt the export of American LNG will only further cripple our economy by killing good-paying jobs, driving energy costs even higher for hard-working families, and inflicting more pain on American businesses.

We cannot cut off LNG exports, regulate natural gas out of existence, and lock away America's natural resources without inflicting enormous long-term pain on American families and communities.

The Department of Energy announced that this "pause" on LNG exports allows for the Department to assess the impacts of these exports on climate and consumer costs. Yet, with

this pause in exports, Americans are expected to see gas prices soar, making it more expensive than ever for hard-working families and businesses, big and small, to survive in the Biden economy.

A pause in shipping LNG to our closest friends and allies in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere further emboldens our greatest adversaries on the world stage. At a time when the President is pushing for more funding for Ukraine, it is disingenuous that he is turning around and forcing our allies to rely on Russia for natural gas.

This pause is incredibly shortsighted, and it undermines everything this country stands for. It is absolutely disgusting that President Biden has chosen to appease the woke mob that runs his party instead of doing what is right for our Nation. The American people are sick and tired of Biden's America last policies.

We must end the Biden administration's all-out war on American energy. The future of our economy depends on it. For that reason, I strongly support this legislation and the rule before us today, and I urge its adoption.

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

What the American people are sick of is all of this. I mean, the disingenuousness of what is being said here takes my breath away.

The gentleman talks about the border. When conservative Republicans negotiated a bipartisan border deal, and Donald Trump said we would rather have it as an election issue than actually do anything, the Speaker decided to pull it.

The same with our allies. The idea is that Vladimir Putin has viciously attacked Ukraine, and my Republican friends are standing by and cheering Putin on. I can't believe we are at the point we are at in this Congress.

What the American people are sick of is this do-nothing Republican majority, and they can't wait, quite frankly, to replace this current regime, as evidenced by the election last night.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from Newsweek titled: "Chip Roy Furiously Tears Into Fellow Republicans."

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

There was no objection.

[From Newsweek, Nov. 16, 2023]

CHIP ROY FURIOUSLY TEARS INTO FELLOW REPUBLICANS

Chip Roy attacked his fellow Republicans in a surprising speech on Wednesday.

Speaking on the House floor, the Texas Republican and Freedom Caucus member accused his own party of having done "nothing" with their majority in the House of Representatives. They have 221 seats to the Democrats' 213.

He said: "You know, we have had a tumultuous year of sorts, but in the eyes of the American people, they've been watching from afar wondering when this body, the people's House, will stand up in defense of the people who send us here."

"When are we going to do what we said we would do?" he continued.

His attack comes amid internal divisions in the GOP, which led to the ousting of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy in October. Mike Johnson was elected as the Speaker of the House later in the month, but it took four ballots of voting.

The House has just averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding bill, but 93 Republicans voted against it, in part because it did not include the spending cuts they wanted.

"For the life of me, I do not understand how you can go to the trouble of campaigning, raising money, going to events, talking to people, coming to this town as a member of a party who allegedly stands for something . . . and then do nothing about it," Roy said.

"One thing: I want my Republican colleagues to give me one thing—one—that I can go campaign on and say we did. One!" He then asked Republicans to come down to the floor and "explain to me one material, meaningful, significant thing the Republican majority has done besides, well, 'I guess it's not as bad as the Democrats.'"

Reacting to a clip of the speech on X, formerly Twitter, Matt Gaetz, a Florida representative, said Roy was "correct."

Campaign group Republicans Against Trump also shared a clip and wrote: "Republican Congressman Chip Roy just gave Democrats their best campaign ad for 2024."

Brian Williams, a surgeon and a Democrat who is running for Congress in Texas, said: "Never thought I'd say this . . . but if you agree with Chip Roy, make a contribution to our campaign to help flip Congress and put Republicans leadership out of their misery."

This is not the first time Roy has clashed with his own party. Marjorie Taylor Greene took umbrage with him and 23 other Republicans voted who voted against Greene's efforts to censure Democratic Representative Rashida Tlaib over her response to the Israel-Hamas conflict. She was later censured in another vote.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. ROY took to the floor and said: "One thing. I want my Republican colleagues to give me one thing—one—that I can go campaign on and say we did. One. Anybody sitting in the complex, if you want to come down to the floor and come explain to me one material, meaningful, significant thing the Republican majority has done."

Frankly, it seems like my fellow colleague on the Rules Committee and I agree on something: The Republican majority has been useless. It has done nothing unless you enjoy lurching from crisis to crisis or peddling sham impeachments.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's refocus this debate on what we are here to discuss, and that is LNG exports, making sure that we are exporting clean liquefied natural gas to our allies abroad.

Let's talk about LNG export stats. In 2021, Russian gas accounted for more than 40 percent of the European Union's gas supply. Today, roughly 10 percent of the EU's natural gas supply still comes from Russia, a share that could be lowered further with U.S. LNG.

In 2022, the U.S. surged more than 800 LNG cargoes to Europe, a 141 percent increase from 2021.

In December 2023, more than 87 percent of the U.S. LNG exports went to the European Union, the United Kingdom, or Asian markets. U.S. LNG has helped reduce natural gas prices in Europe by over 83 percent from 2022 levels, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

American LNG has 41 percent lower lifecycle emissions than compressed natural gas from Russia. The Department of Energy estimates that LNG exports could add between \$50 billion to \$73 billion—that is “billion”—to the U.S. economy by 2040 and create between 200,000 and 500,000 jobs as well as increase downstream industries like manufacturing. The top five importers of U.S. LNG are South Korea, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and Spain.

By standing against LNG exports, you are reversing all this good that is coming from it. You are making our allies more dependent on Russia. You are hurting the environment because you are having our allies burn Russian gas that is 40 percent dirtier than any LNG that is coming from the United States. You are standing in the way of American jobs and the American economy by the devastating impact of stopping our LNG exports.

However, don't just take my word for it. Let's go through some quotes on LNG exports. Let's look at our European allies and what they say. Here is what Eurogas said: “If additional U.S. LNG export capacities don't materialize, it would risk increasing and prolonging the global supply imbalance. This would inevitably prolong the period of price volatility in Europe and could lead to price increases with the consequent implications that would have for economic turmoil and social impact.”

Again, that is Eurogas. That is our European allies. That is not the Republican Party saying this.

□ 1400

Let's talk about the Directorate-General for Energy for the European Union. The director said:

We do not have the abundance of energy sources in Europe. We need to rely on partners in the United States, and we need to become as resilient as possible within that reality.

Again, what the director of the EU is saying is if they don't have LNG from the United States, they are going to go elsewhere.

Where is that elsewhere? That elsewhere is Russia.

Let's look at industry. My good friend Toby Rice, the CEO of EQT has said: “These types of executive orders send a chilling effect through the industries and the investors.” Again, that is Toby Rice, the CEO of EQT, the largest LNG exporter in the United States.

The American Petroleum Institute, American Exploration & Production

Council, and other industry leaders have said: “Any action to halt U.S. LNG export approvals would be a major mistake that puts American jobs and allies at risk while undermining”—wait for it—“global climate goals.”

Let's end with our friends from across the aisle. What are Democrats saying about LNG exports?

Well, Secretary of State Antony Blinken says: The U.S. is “. . . now the leading supplier of LNG to Europe to help compensate for any gas or oil that it's losing as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.”

It stands to reason that if you want to help Russia and do exactly the opposite of what Blinken is saying, you would stop LNG exports from the United States.

Let's look at what Secretary Granholm has said. “I believe U.S. LNG exports can have an important role to play in reducing international consumption of fuels that have greater contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.” That was Secretary Granholm, not exactly a right-winger.

Again, if you are against this bill, you are against all these individuals that are speaking up for U.S. LNG exports.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my good friend, to add more to the conversation.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the rule and to address a pressing issue affecting each and every American—our energy security.

You see, Mr. Speaker, energy is not a luxury. It is the bedrock of our Nation's strength. It heats our homes, it cooks our food, and it fuels our travels.

Yet, our energy independence is threatened as domestic energy producers face unprecedented challenges. The pause on LNG export permits empowers countries like Russia and Iran and hurts our allies who depend on U.S. energy.

This is precisely why we need this legislation, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act. We have witnessed a regulatory assault that has stifled investment. It has spiked energy prices. It has hit families where it hurts the most, in their pocketbooks and purses.

Remember, American-produced LNG is cleaner with 41 percent lower lifecycle emissions than Russian gas, but now, because of a political stunt by the President of the United States, our Strategic Petroleum Reserve is at its lowest level since the 1980s.

This is just not an environmental issue. It is an economic and security crisis. The energy sector supports millions of American jobs and has been the engine of our economy, but the current policies risk these jobs and our growth.

This is not about politics. This is about our very survival as a Nation. We must act, and we must act now. We must support policies that bolster

American energy, support our American allies, and ensure our American security. By doing so, we uphold the American legacy of resilience and ensure a prosperous future for all American citizens.

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, two quick things.

Let me correct myself. I said EQT is the largest exporter. They are the largest producer in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I inform my friend across the aisle that I have no more speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, my friend from Pennsylvania talked about his good friend, some CEO of some LNG corporation that he is worried about.

You know what? I am more worried about the consumers in this country who will see their energy costs rise, potentially, if this bill were ever to become law.

I will make two quick points. This bill is going nowhere because it is written in such a way that it will not get bipartisan support in the House or in the Senate, and it certainly will not make it to the President's desk and will not be signed into law. For the fourth time, I will say that this bill is going nowhere, and this is a colossal waste of time.

The second point I make is this Congress is doing nothing not only on energy, but it is doing nothing on everything that matters to the American people.

My Republican friends have spent more time electing a Speaker and then replacing a Speaker and on useless, baseless impeachments than they have on actually legislating.

Here is a radical idea. We get elected to Congress. We should work together to try to pass legislation that becomes law, that will improve the quality of life for the people we represent. That is something that is foreign to my friends on the other side of the aisle.

Madam Speaker, it has become a familiar pattern by now. We have a looming government shutdown. We have urgent issues at home that require congressional action. We have pressing national security challenges and wars abroad, and Republicans are wasting time on impeachment stunts, silly censures, and MAGA messaging bills.

I mean, look. They have us here debating the same bill for the fourth time. We can pass it 4 times or 400 times. It doesn't matter because it is not written in a way that can become law in a divided government. My friends won't admit that on the floor, but we all know it is true.

Meanwhile, the Senate is sending us bipartisan bills that Speaker JOHNSON refuses to bring to the floor. The Speaker doesn't seem to think that his job is to solve problems, but rather, he thinks his job is to block bipartisan solutions.

We had a bipartisan immigration solution. It was blocked.

Well, guess what? My Republican friends now own the issue. You are responsible, solely now, for what is going on at the border. You are responsible for the fentanyl crisis in this country.

We had a bipartisan bill that was passed in the Senate to help aid our allies in Ukraine and in Israel. The Republican leadership is blocking it, can't even get a vote. You are responsible.

Madam Speaker, my friends on the other side are responsible for basically setting the world afire right now, creating all this insecurity and potentially giving Vladimir Putin a free pass to go in and invade Ukraine. I never thought we would be at this point.

The bottom line is this: Democrats want to work together with Republicans to get things done. They seem to be able to do that in the Senate.

I never thought I would ever say anything nice about the Senate, but they are working in a bipartisan way. That is why President Biden had us sit down and negotiate a bipartisan border deal.

That is why Democrats work with Republicans in the Senate to come up with a bipartisan deal to address our national security challenges.

The Speaker of the House says: The House should work its will. Then the Republicans refuse to bring bipartisan bills up for a vote on the floor because they are afraid of MAGA, they are afraid of Trump, and they are afraid that these bills will pass.

Having a campaign issue seems more important than solving a problem. It didn't work for my friends last night. This idea that my friends have about not solving problems, that somehow that is good for their election chances didn't seem to pan out last night.

What Republicans need to realize is that they control one-half of one branch of government and only barely.

They are not dictators—at least not yet. They have a two-seat majority in the House—two seats—because the American people voted against extremism last night.

This bill that we are talking about here today, the infomercials that are being delivered on the floor, they are going nowhere.

The reason why my friends keep losing is they keep following the most extreme Members of their Conference. People don't want the solutions that MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE brings before Congress.

They don't want a deranged former President who has been indicted more times than he has been elected to be calling the shots here. They want leaders that have vision, not petulant children that have nothing to offer but division.

Madam Speaker, my Republican friends lost last night for the same reason I believe you will lose in November. You have nothing to offer, nothing at all, but division, chaos, and incompetence. This is just a continuation of that.

What is happening here is we are debating trivial issues passionately, but

important ones, not at all. There are important issues that we need to deal with and to debate and to legislate on right now that affect the people of this country, that affect people all over the world, and we are doing this—bringing back a bill for the fourth time, a bill that we all know is going nowhere because it has been written so poorly and in such a partisan fashion.

If my friends want to be serious about governing, you are going to have to learn to work with us. It is that simple. Take “yes” for an answer and work with us for the good of the American people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this administration's decision will have long-lasting impacts on the workforce, including union jobs that my Democrat friends across the aisle claim to care about.

It will also have long-term lasting impacts on our country's long-term economic growth. That is why House Republicans will pass this legislation, which removes Biden's export regulations that add uncertainty to the market and that curtail production and decrease global price volatility prices at home and abroad.

The underlying legislation lowers global emissions, strengthens energy security, and creates thousands of family-sustaining jobs.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the previous question and “yes” on the rule.

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

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question are postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

STRENGTHENING THE QUAD ACT

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5375) to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5375

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 “Strengthening the Quad Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as a Pacific power, the United States should continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan (commonly referred to as the “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or “Quad” and referred to as such in this Act) to enhance and implement a shared vision to meet regional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclusive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is characterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free from undue influence and coercion;

(2) the United States should expand dialogue and cooperation through the Quad with a range of partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience in the Indo-Pacific;

(3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared challenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the foundation for critical cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) the Quad countries, working through institutions, including the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and through partnerships with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, should finance development and infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competitive, transparent, and sustainable;

(5) President Biden's decision to elevate the Quad to the leaders level was critical to bolstering cooperation, and all four countries should work to ensure that the Quad Leaders' Summit continues to take place regularly;

(6) the ambitious framework for ongoing cooperation laid out by the four leaders at

the fifth convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 20, 2023, should continue; and

(7) the formation of a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group will—

(A) sustain and deepen engagement between senior officials of the Quad countries on a full spectrum of issues; and

(B) be modeled on the successful and long-standing bilateral intra-parliamentary groups between the United States and Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom, as well as other formal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of how the United States intends to demonstrate democratic leadership in the Indo-Pacific through quadrilateral engagement with India, Japan, and Australia on shared interests and common challenges.

(2) A summary of—

(A) current and past Quad initiatives across the whole of the United States Government, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth and investment, and to advance technology cooperation, energy innovation, climate mitigation and adaptation, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, resilient supply chains including in critical minerals, and global health security;

(B) proposals agreed to by all Quad countries since January 2021 to deepen existing security cooperation, intelligence sharing, economic partnerships, and multilateral coordination; and

(C) initiatives and agreements undertaken jointly with Quad countries, in addition to other like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, on areas of shared interest since January 2021.

(3) A description of the diplomatic and bureaucratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

(4) A list of recommendations on how Congress could assist in addressing the barriers described in paragraph (3), as well as—

(A) any new authorities needed to strengthen United States leadership in and contribution to existing and proposed Quad initiatives and programs; and

(B) additional resources needed to scale up and expand successful Quad initiatives and programs.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Japan, Australia, and India (collectively, with the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate close

er cooperation on shared interests and values.

(b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the governments of the Quad countries enter into a written agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group, there shall be established a United States Group, which shall represent the United States at the Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall be comprised of not more than 24 Members of Congress.

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of Congress appointed to the United States Group under subparagraph (A)—

(i) half shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, based on recommendations from the minority leader, from among Members of the House, not fewer than four of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and

(ii) half shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, based on recommendations of the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, from among Members of the Senate, not fewer than four of whom shall be members of the Committee on Foreign Relations (unless the majority leader and minority leader determine otherwise).

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall seek to meet not less frequently than annually with representatives and appropriate staff of the legislatures of Japan, Australia, and India, and any other country invited by mutual agreement of the Quad countries.

(B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in subparagraph (A) may be held—

(i) in the United States;

(ii) in another Quad country during periods when Congress is not in session; or

(iii) virtually.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the House from among members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the chairperson or vice chairperson of the delegation of the United States Group from the Senate from among members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States Group may accept gifts or donations of services or property, subject to the review and approval, as appropriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(6) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from the House of Representatives or the delegation of the Senate of the United States Group shall be final and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is made for the United States Group, including a description of its expenditures under such appropriation.

(8) ENGAGEMENT WITH US OFFICIALS ON THE QUAD.—Senior United States officials shall provide regular updates and briefings to the United States Group, including leading up to and after major Quadrilateral dialogues, to ensure close coordination with Congress.

SEC. 5. 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5375.

The Chinese Communist Party is a generational threat and is becoming increasingly coercive toward its neighbors and other nations around the world.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue—commonly known as the Quad—brings together the United States, Australia, Japan, and India, four nations that share democratic principles, respect for the rule of law, and a vision for the free and open Indo-Pacific.

In the face of growing CCP aggression, it is more important than ever to foster strong, resilient ties with our Quad partners to combat malign CCP influence and protect democracy in the Indo-Pacific.

That is why I support the Strengthening the Quad Act, introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

This legislation will enhance Quad ties by ensuring regular engagement between the United States Congress and the legislatures of the Quad countries.

It also requires the administration to provide Congress with a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Together, we can more effectively counter coercion from any nation looking to dismantle democratic values and the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 5375, Strengthening the Quad Act, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about the importance of this very bill, just a few minutes ago before coming to the floor, I had a meeting with the Ambassador of Japan, Ambassador Yamada, who talked about the significance and the importance of inter-parliamentary conversation. We talked about how today

freedom and democracy around the world are under threat.

According to the organization Freedom House, the world has experienced 17 consecutive years of decline in global freedom as a result of war, coup d'etats, attacks on democratic institutions, and the rise of authoritarianism.

To stem this illiberal tide, America must lead with our values and harness diplomacy like never before. This is especially important in the Indo-Pacific region where America's presence, engagement, and alliance system have maintained peace and stability for decades.

In fact, the Ambassador also talked about how much he appreciated America being in the region and staying there and working collectively together.

Today, China's growing global influence and authoritarian model is serving to undermine freedom in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

We need to work with fellow democracies in the region to showcase the heft of open markets and open societies. We need to demonstrate to the region that democracies can deliver real results.

Consecutive U.S. administrations have utilized the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India to enhance our diplomatic and development efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

The Trump administration restarted the Quad, and President Biden elevated it to the leaders' level, supercharging Quad diplomacy.

Today, there is a strong bipartisan consensus—I worked very closely with my colleagues on the other side, especially Chairman MCCAUL—that the Quad is integral for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

To ensure the Quad's success and its longevity, we need a clear, long-term plan, as well as political and institutional support in all four capitals.

This is why H.R. 5375 calls on the State Department to develop a Quad strategy that focuses on building democratic coordination in the region for the long term.

The strategy and report to Congress will allow successive administrations to chart forward-looking objectives and partner with Congress to best meet them.

The bill also establishes a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate engagement and cooperation among the legislatures of the four democracies.

Inter-parliamentary engagement will facilitate legislative input and strengthen oversight to enhance the Quad's effectiveness. It will also help to sustain political support and adequate resources for the Quad in all four countries.

Plain and simple, Mr. Speaker: The world has shrunk, and working collectively together, the four countries, sharing the values that we have here in the United States for the long term is

better for the security of all of us, and I believe it will make the place that we call the planet Earth a better place, a safer place, for all.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I will point out that the recently approved National Defense Authorization Act, indeed, pivoted our hard power, our military power, toward the Indo-Pacific.

This is a critical and important piece of building our alliances across the Indo-Pacific so that we can have a coherent, coordinated approach toward the CCP.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

With growing instability in the Indo-Pacific and freedom under threat globally, the Quad is more important than ever for upholding regional rules and helping maintain stability.

Regional rules, high values, and standards—that is what this is all about. That is why I am thankful that we are able to work in a bipartisan manner, collectively together, speaking with one voice in the region and with our Quad partners.

I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I am also thankful to President Biden for elevating the Quad to the leaders' level.

In less than 3 years, President Biden has held five Quad leaders summits with the leaders of Japan, Australia, and India.

In the past 3 years, the Quad has initiated cooperation in a whole host of new areas, from infrastructure development and critical and emerging technologies to maritime issues and climate change.

My bill, H.R. 5375, will ensure the Quad is effective and sustainable, not just for today, not just for tomorrow, but for the long term.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank both President Trump and President Biden for their vision of the importance of the Indo-Pacific.

I thank Ranking Member MEEKS for introducing this bill, which was unanimously supported by the Foreign Affairs Committee at our markup.

I support its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5375, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY HAMAS IN ITS WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 966) condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 966

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel and brutally murdered 1,200 men, women, and children, injured thousands, and took 240 hostages including babies and children;

Whereas Israeli police have gathered thousands of testimonies from eyewitnesses of Hamas violence on October 7, 2023, including countless instances of rape, gang rape, sexual mutilation, and other forms of sexual violence, and are continuing to gather evidence;

Whereas photographic evidence, forensic medical units, and morgue workers have identified bodies subjected to mutilation and trauma consistent with sexual assault and rape, including shattered pelvises;

Whereas eyewitness accounts from survivors of the attacks and Hamas body camera footage in Israel's southern communities and the Nova music festival in Re'im document gang rape and genital mutilation;

Whereas terrorists captured by Israeli security forces admitted they had been ordered by Hamas leaders to carry out sexual violence against Israeli civilians;

Whereas it has been reported that many victims of rape and sexual assault on October 7th, were murdered by the Hamas perpetrators and are unable to provide testimony;

Whereas released Israeli hostages have reported instances of sexual assault or abuse that occurred while held hostage by Hamas;

Whereas Israel's police, in coordination with Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, has launched investigations to build cases on charges of mass murder, rape, torture, and bodily mutilation of civilians during the Hamas attacks;

Whereas human rights lawyers, criminologists, and researchers leading the "Israeli Civil Commission on October 7th Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children" have concluded that Hamas terrorists "weaponized violence against women" to inflict physical and psychological trauma;

Whereas rape and sexual violence have, throughout history, been used as weapons of war around the world to terrorize and subvert populations;

Whereas rape and sexual violence have serious and difficult mental, physical, and emotional impacts on victims, their families, and communities; and

Whereas some international bodies have been slow to condemn Hamas brutal actions on October 7th, and in some cases, failed to explicitly mention instances of sexual and gender-based violence against women: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns all rape and forms of sexual violence as weapons of war, including those acts committed by Hamas terrorists on and since October 7th;

(2) calls on all nations to criminalize rape and sexual assault, and hold accountable all perpetrators of sexual violence, including state and non-state armed groups;

(3) calls on all international bodies to unequivocally condemn the barbaric murder, rape, sexual assault, and kidnapping by Hamas and other terrorists on and since October 7th, and hold accountable all perpetrators;

(4) reaffirms the United States Government's support for independent, impartial investigations of rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas on and since October 7th; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence, including those brutalized on and since October 7.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 966. On October 7, Israel suffered one of the worst days in its history as over 1,200 innocent people were slaughtered in cold blood and more than 220 people taken hostage.

In the days following the initial attack, Israeli police began gathering evidence of the atrocities committed that day.

Since then, eyewitnesses from survivors and captured terrorists have confirmed that Hamas terrorists were ordered and encouraged to commit disgusting acts of sexual violence against Israeli civilians.

These gruesome assaults did not end on October 7. The Hamas terrorists that perpetuated this attack dragged innocent men, women, and children away from their families into dark, cold, underground tunnels where they were kept hostage in brutal conditions.

Only recently has it become clear what kind of horrors the hostage faced in their captivity. Survivors have described the awful conditions they were kept in and the abuse they suffered underground, including instances of rape and sexual abuse.

The U.N. and other international bodies have glossed over these atrocities and failed to fully condemn Hamas for its rape and sexual assault, despite purporting to stand for human rights.

Today, we will unequivocally condemn sexual violence as a weapon of war by Hamas and all other depraved aggressors.

I thank Congresswoman FRANKEL for introducing this resolution, which I am

proud to support and which deserves our unanimous support.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 966 condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1600

I was proud to join my dear friend and colleague, Representative LOIS FRANKEL of Florida—one of the strongest champions for the rights of women and girls around the world—in introducing this important, bipartisan resolution.

I am also grateful to our colleagues, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART and JEN KIGGANS for their leadership and commitment to raising awareness of the sexual and gender-based violence committed against Israeli women.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, going house to house, murdering civilians, executing parents in front of their children, and massacring hundreds of young people at a music festival. In addition to the 1,200 people Hamas killed that day, it took an estimated 250 innocent civilians into Gaza, including women and children.

Since that day, we have only begun to understand the full scale of the horrific sexual violence that Hamas used as a weapon of war against Israeli women in its attack.

Just this morning, I heard firsthand testimony of witnesses and saw photographs of Israeli women of all ages who were raped, mutilated, brutalized, burned, and killed in horrific and unimaginable ways. Every day, more and more evidence is surfacing of the widespread and deliberate sexual violence that is almost unspeakable in its brutality.

This weaponized sexual violence should shock the conscience of the entire world. Despite all the evidence, however, some have minimized or outright denied the fact that Hamas used rape as a weapon of war on October 7.

The collective silence about this heinous sexual violence from groups around the world who purport to stand up for women's rights has been devastating—groups including UN Women, which took months to issue a statement clearly condemning these despicable acts as evil.

We are here today because we cannot and will not allow these horrific crimes to be denied. We must confront the terrible reality of what Hamas did in these attacks and the trauma inflicted on so many women and men.

That is why this resolution unequivocally condemns these atrocities, calls on all international bodies to denounce them, and reaffirms that the U.S. House of Representatives stands with these victims just like we stand with all women who are survivors of rape and sexual violence.

We remain deeply concerned for the women who are still among the hostages being held by Hamas. There is deep concern that these women are continuing to be sexually abused and may be pregnant. This House and this Congress must continue to do everything we can to get every single one of the remaining hostages released and home to their families.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2023, Hamas infiltrated Israel and brutally attacked and murdered thousands of men, women, children, and babies, taking 240 hostages, including those that were so unbelievably innocent.

Women were beaten. Women were raped. They were paraded around covered in blood. Some were so brutally raped that their pelvises were broken. They begged for mercy, but none was given. They begged to die, but Hamas would not allow that until they were first dehumanized, beaten, and raped.

Hamas celebrated. They celebrated, and they took photos and videos of these horrific crimes. Families were forced to watch videos of their loved ones, their daughters, their babies, their wives, their mothers being brutalized, raped, and killed. Babies were decapitated. They were put in ovens.

This was not a military operation. Hamas is not a military group. They are not freedom fighters. They are not fighting against oppression. They are nothing more than the face of evil.

This vote is not complicated. You can vote to stand against rape, torture, and murder of women. You can vote to stop the innocent from being harmed. You can vote to stand alongside those who committed these horrific, evil crimes, or you can vote to say that it is awful.

It is up to the men and women in this Chamber. It is a simple choice. Every single Member of Congress should acknowledge that these actions are despicable, barbaric, disgusting, and evil. Every single Member of Congress should stand on this House floor and vote to condemn these violent acts and show your support for the innocent victims of these terrorists. Every single Member of Congress must stand on the right side of history.

I stand with Israel. I stand with these women, with these babies, and with these mothers. I hope that we all do.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), my friend, the chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, the co-chair of the Bipartisan Women, Peace, and Security Caucus, and the author of this resolution.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today not only as a Member of this Congress but as a mother and a grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, there are some subjects that are so difficult to talk about, but it is our responsibility to do so.

Today, we shine a light on something very terrible: sexual violence used as a weapon of war. Today, our usually divided House, with the support of our Speaker, the Democratic leaders, and my friends, KATHY MANNING, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and JEN KIGGANS, are presenting with 200—let me repeat that, 200—cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, from all philosophical bents, a bipartisan resolution condemning sexual violence as a weapon of war and Hamas' despicable acts of rape and sexual violence in its war against Israel.

I send a special shout-out to my good friend from Florida, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, for his exceptional leadership for standing up for Israel and for the girls and women of this world.

Mr. Speaker, today we mark 131 days since October 7 when Hamas terrorists attacked Israel, mercilessly killed 1,200 people, tortured and maimed thousands of others, taking 240 hostages.

War is never nice, but some actions in war are so awful and so devoid of humanity, they are considered crimes.

Hamas terrorists' actions on October 7 and continuing are almost too difficult to speak about—raping, mutilating, burning, and assaulting victims to inflict physical and psychological pain, unleashing trauma that continues to plague a grieving Israel.

This is what Raz Cohen, a survivor who witnessed Hamas' brutal rampage remembers. He said that five men came out of a van. They captured a woman, ripping off her clothes as they formed a circle around her. One raped her and killed her with a knife. Then he raped her again. He said that he still remembers her voice, screams without words—while Hamas just laughed.

Raz' story is just one account of the widespread, unimaginable crimes Hamas committed.

A well-known Israeli activist and actress, Noa Tishby, put it this way, saying that these rapes were not spontaneous. They were planned. They were calculated. In fact, they were a priority.

In their interrogations, captured Hamas terrorists calmly shared their orders to soil the women. They gang-raped women to death. They shot them in the head while they were raping them. They stabbed them and shot them while raping them. They raped them next to bodies of those who already had been slaughtered. They sliced off their breasts. First responders found bodies with nails driven inside girls' vaginas.

Mr. Speaker, together with colleagues, I recently met with the parents of two young women kidnapped by Hamas. They are 19 and 20 years old. They are both musicians. They, along with 20 other young women, are feared to be held captive underground in Gaza where air and food are scarce and abuse is abundant.

They have been there 131 days.

It is excruciating to imagine the horrors they are experiencing each day and the emotional torture of their families.

We must bring these hostages home now.

Shockingly and alarmingly, Hamas' brutal violence has been met with a shrug from many corners of the world. Some even deny it.

Sexual violence as a weapon of war has been used throughout history and around the world to terrorize and traumatize victims, but that doesn't make it okay. It must never be normalized.

Our resolution makes it clear: Sexual violence is a crime against humanity. Our resolution condemns all rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war, including those acts committed by Hamas. It calls on all nations to criminalize rape and sexual assault. It calls on all international bodies to condemn Hamas' barbaric actions. It reaffirms our support for an independent investigation of rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas and reaffirms our commitment to supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence.

I urge all our Members to join us in supporting this important amendment in a statement of humanity.

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

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

Ms. TLAIIB. Mr. Speaker, all acts of sexual violence are horrific. We should all be fighting to end it here at home and all around the world.

So, while the resolution on the floor today rightfully denounces any sexual violence by Hamas, I am disturbed that it completely ignores and erases any sexual violence and abuse committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians, especially children.

War crimes cannot justify more war crimes. We must stand up for everyone's safety and human rights, no matter their faith, no matter their ethnicity.

There are numerous, well-documented reports of sexual violence, including rape, committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians in their custody; children detained and stripped to their underwear in public for the world to see.

Mr. Speaker, I call your attention to a Haaretz article titled: "Cigarette Burns, Beatings, Attempted Sexual Assault: Settlers and Soldiers Abuse Palestinians," which can be found at: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-21/ty-article-magazine/.premium/beatings-burns-attempted-sexual-assault-settlers-and-soldiers-abused-palestinians/0000018b-530f-d1d7-ab8b-7f5fca1d0000>.

The U.N. and human rights groups have raised alarms for years, but Congress did nothing. They never cared.

We all have a responsibility to denounce sexual violence in all forms, regardless of who is responsible. This resolution falls well short of that responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MANNING for yielding me time and for her leadership. I thank Representative FRANKEL for her phenomenal leadership on this issue and so many other issues.

I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting a bipartisan resolution which forcefully condemns Hamas' use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war on and since October 7.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and committed horrific and repulsive acts of violence, murder, and torture, including sexual assault, rape, and genital mutilation on babies, children, women, men, and the elderly, including Americans.

□ 1615

These deliberate and targeted acts on civilians have been verified through the testimony of first responders, eyewitness accounts, CCTV, pictures, and forensic evidence. If that wasn't enough, Hamas terrorists even recorded their acts using cameras and the phones of their victims, and cheered and celebrated as they did it. Then, these terrorists proceeded to post these videos online and send them to the families of their victims, who they mutilated and murdered.

These terrorists didn't even try to cover up their heinous acts because they wanted the world to know what they did. They wanted the world to know what they think is an acceptable way to treat Jewish people. Since then, they have promised more waves of violence and second, third, and fourth October 7s. Who would do this?

As a Member of Congress, the House Intelligence Committee, and someone who has traveled to Israel since October 7, I have seen these gut-wrenching videos and heard the testimony of survivors of the horrific acts of sexual violence and torture. These stories and images will stay with me forever. I will never forget seeing them.

That is why I continue to wear this dog tag around my neck. It symbolizes the hostages who are still being abused and held by Hamas terrorists, including the Americans still kidnapped and all of those who were victims on October 7 and experienced the most gruesome acts imaginable.

Sexual violence, assault, and rape have no place in our world, and I am shocked by those who continue to deny that these acts were used by Hamas as weapons of war against innocent civilians on October 7.

There are those who equivocate about Hamas and the terrors they have committed. There should be no equivocation. Any equivocation is despicable. Hamas is designated by the United States of America as a foreign terrorist organization. They are terrorists, period. There is no argument to be had.

In the past, the biased United Nations and its affiliated organizations have been quick to condemn acts of brutality, sexual violence, and rape

around the globe. However, the response from UN Women, whose job is to defend and promote women's rights anywhere and everywhere, was egregiously late. I cannot fathom why an organization that exists for the sole purpose of advancing women's rights would hesitate, even a single second, to condemn the use of rape as a weapon of terror. There is no excuse.

There are those today who try to deny what Hamas did on October 7. We see people constantly pumping misinformation on social media, including TikTok, which is controlled by the Chinese Communist Government, to further spew anti-Semitic, anti-Israel rhetoric and even denial of acts of sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas terrorists. Sexual violence is a recognized war crime that must always be condemned.

The silence and lies from those who continue to deny acts of sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas terrorists and those who vote against this resolution is unacceptable. To deny the events of October 7 is an insult to the many victims of extreme sexual violence in Israel that day and to those who remain hostage today, including Americans we must bring home.

Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues have a chance to recognize the horrific sexual violence from Hamas terrorists on innocent civilians 131 days ago. I urge them all to vote for and help pass this bipartisan resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleagues who have spoken out and condemned the brutal sexual violence committed against Israeli women and girls on October 7.

With the passage of this important bipartisan resolution, we send a clear message that rape is wrong, the rape of Israeli women is wrong, the rape of all those brutalized during war is wrong. It must be called out, and it must be condemned. The United States stands firmly against gender-based violence and sexual abuse of women by Hamas.

Once again, I thank Representative LOIS FRANKEL for her extraordinary leadership on this issue, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel on October 7 can never be forgotten. The brutal torture, murder, and rape of innocents will forever go down as one of the worst terrorist attacks in the world's history. We, as the United States, must stand against the use of sexual violence in any form as a weapon of war. We must continue to work for the safe return of all remaining hostages.

It is essential that Congress stands united to show the world that we will not turn a blind eye while terrorists slaughter, torture, and rape innocents.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution. I ask all of my colleagues in this House to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 966.

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. SELF. 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 agree to H. Res. 966 will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1009;

Adoption of House Resolution 1009, if ordered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 994;

Adoption of House Resolution 994, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3202.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]

YEAS—418

Adams
Aderholt
Agullar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack

Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette

DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Español
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)

Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Good (VA)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas

Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moonenar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger

Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Swailwell
Sykes
Takano
Tennet
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Tlaib

NOT VOTING—12

Chu
Gallagher
Gooden (TX)
Grothman
LaMalfa
Mace

Omar
PhillipsRogers (KY)
SalazarSpartz
Williams (TX)Loudermilk
Lucas

Luetkemeyer

Luna

Luttrell

Malliotakis

Maloy

Mann

Massie

Mast

McCaul

McClain

McClintock

McCormick

McHenry

Meuser

Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)

Miller-Meeks

Mills

Molinaro

Moolenaar

Mooney

Moore (AL)

Moore (UT)

Murphy

Nehls

Newhouse

Norman

Nunn (IA)

Oberholte

Ogles

Owens

Palmer

Pence

Perry

Pfluger

Posey

Rescenthaler

Rodgers (WA)

Rogers (AL)

Rose

Rosendale

Rouzer

Roy

Rutherford

Scalise

Schweikert

Scott, Austin

Self

Sessions

Simpson

Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)

Smucker

Stauber

Steel

Stefanik

Steil

Steube

Strong

Tenney

Thompson (PA)

Tiffany

Timmons

Turner

Valadao

Van Drew

Van Duyne

Van Orden

Wagner

Walberg

Waltz

Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)

Wenstrup

Westerman

Williams (NY)

Wilson (SC)

Wittman

Womack

Yakym

Zinke

Waters

Watson Coleman

Wexton

Wild

Williams (GA)

Wilson (FL)

□ 1649

Messrs. SCHWEIKERT and THANEDAR changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 44.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7176, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1009) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 206, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 45]

YEAS—212

Aderholt	Crane	Greene (GA)
Alford	Crawford	Griffith
Allen	Crenshaw	Grothman
Amodei	Curtis	Guest
Armstrong	D'Esposito	Guthrie
Arrington	Davidson	Hageman
Babin	De La Cruz	Harris
Bacon	DesJarlais	Harshbarger
Baird	Diaz-Balart	Hern
Balderson	Donalds	Higgins (LA)
Banks	Duarte	Hill
Barr	Duncan	Hinson
Bean (FL)	Dunn (FL)	Houchin
Bentz	Edwards	Hudson
Bergman	Ellzey	Huizenga
Bice	Emmer	Hunt
Biggs	Estes	Issa
Bilirakis	Ezell	Jackson (TX)
Bishop (NC)	Fallon	James
Boebert	Feenstra	Johnson (LA)
Bost	Ferguson	Johnson (SD)
Brecheen	Finstad	Jordan
Buchanan	Fischbach	Joyce (OH)
Buck	Fitzgerald	Joyce (PA)
Bucshon	Fitzpatrick	Kean (NJ)
Burchett	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Burgess	Flood	Kelly (PA)
Burlison	Foxx	Kiggans (VA)
Calvert	Franklin, Scott	Kiley
Cammack	Fry	Kim (CA)
Carey	Fulcher	Kustoff
Carl	Gaetz	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Garbarino	LaLota
Carter (TX)	Garcia, Mike	LaMalfa
Chavez-DeRemer	Gimenez	Lamborn
Ciscomani	Gonzales, Tony	Langworthy
Cline	Good (VA)	Latta
Cloud	Gosar	LaTurner
Clyde	Granger	Lawler
Cole	Graves (LA)	Lee (FL)
Collins	Graves (MO)	Lesko
Comer	Green (TN)	Letlow

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

NAYS—206

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

Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz

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

NOT VOTING—13

Bowman	Mace	Salazar
Chu	Magaziner	Spartz
Gallagher	Omar	Williams (TX)
Gooden (TX)	Phillips	
Horsford	Rogers (KY)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1656

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 44 and “yea” on rollcall No. 45.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayeas 212, noes 208, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

AYES—212

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

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westernman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thandekar

Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar

Thompson (CA)	Trahan	Wasserman
Thompson (MS)	Trone	Schultz
Titus	Underwood	Waters
Tlaib	Vargas	Watson Coleman
Tokuda	Vasquez	Wexton
Tonko	Veasey	Wild
Torres (CA)	Velázquez	Williams (GA)
Torres (NY)		Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Chu	Mace	Rogers (KY)
Gallagher	Omar	Salazar
Gooden (TX)	Phillips	Williams (TX)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1709

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 225, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 48]

AYES—195

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

Scalise	Steil
Schweikert	Strong
Scott, Austin	Tenney
Sessions	Thompson (PA)
Simpson	Tiffany
Smith (MO)	Timmons
Smith (NE)	Turner
Smith (NJ)	Valadao
Spartz	Van Drew
Stauber	Van Dуйne
Steel	Van Orden
Stefanik	Wagner

NOES—225

Adams	Garcia, Robert	Pallone
Aguilar	Golden (ME)	Panetta
Allred	Goldman (NY)	Pappas
Amo	Gomez	Pascrell
Auchincloss	Gonzalez,	Payne
Balint	Vicente	Pelosi
Banks	Gosar	Peltola
Barragán	Green, Al (TX)	Perez
Beatty	Grijalva	Perry
Bera	Harder (CA)	Peters
Beyer	Hayes	Pettersen
Biggs	Himes	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Horsford	Pocan
Bishop (NC)	Houlahan	Porter
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Pressley
Blunt Rochester	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Bonamici	Huffman	Ramirez
Bowman	Hunt	Raskin
Boyle (PA)	Ivey	Rosendale
Brown	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Brownley	Jackson (NC)	Roy
Budzinski	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Bush	Jacobs	Ruppersberger
Caraveo	Jayapal	Ryan
Carbajal	Jeffries	Salinas
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Carson	Kamllager-Dove	Sarbanes
Carter (LA)	Kaptur	Scanlon
Cartwright	Keating	Schakowsky
Casar	Kelly (IL)	Schiff
Case	Khanna	Schneider
Casten	Kildee	Scholten
Castor (FL)	Kilmer	Schrier
Castro (TX)	Kim (NJ)	Scott (VA)
Cherfilus-	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
McCormick	Kuster	Self
Clark (MA)	Kustoff	Sewell
Clarke (NY)	Landsman	Sherman
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Slotkin
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Smucker
Connolly	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Correa	Lee (PA)	Soto
Costa	Leger Fernandez	Spanberger
Courtney	Levin	Stansbury
Craig	Lieu	Stanton
Crane	Lofgren	Steube
Crockett	Lynch	Stevens
Crow	Magaziner	Strickland
Cuellar	Manning	Swalwell
Davids (KS)	Matsui	Sykes
Davis (IL)	McBath	Takano
Davis (NC)	McClellan	Thanedar
Dean (PA)	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	McGarvey	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	McGovern	Titus
DelBene	Meeks	Tlaib
Deluzio	Menendez	Tokuda
DeSaulnier	Meng	Tonko
Dingell	Mfume	Torres (CA)
Doggett	Miller (IL)	Torres (NY)
Escobar	Mills	Trahan
Eshoo	Mooney	Trone
Espallat	Moore (WI)	Underwood
Evans	Morale	Vargas
Fletcher	Moskowitz	Vasquez
Foster	Moulton	Veasey
Foushee	Mrvan	Velázquez
Frankel, Lois	Mullin	Wasserman
Frost	Nadler	Schultz
Fry	Napolitano	Waters
Geatz	Neal	Watson Coleman
Gallego	Neguse	Wexton
Garamendi	Nickel	Wild
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Williams (GA)
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Chu	Mace	Salazar
Gallagher	Omar	Sherrill
Gooden (TX)	Phillips	Williams (TX)
Gottheimer	Rogers (KY)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1715

Mr. MURPHY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was not agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASSAD REGIME ANTI-NORMALIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 32, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]

YEAS—389

Adams	Carbajal	Deluzio
Aderholt	Cárdenas	DeSaulnier
Aguilar	Carey	DesJarlais
Alford	Carl	Diaz-Balart
Allen	Carson	Dingell
Allred	Carter (GA)	Doggett
Amo	Carter (LA)	Donalds
Amodei	Carter (TX)	Duarte
Armstrong	Cartwright	Duncan
Arrington	Case	Dunn (FL)
Auchincloss	Casten	Edwards
Babin	Castor (FL)	Ellzey
Bacon	Chavez-DeRemer	Emmer
Baird	Cherfilus-	Eshoo
Balderson	McCormick	Espallat
Balint	Ciscomani	Estes
Banks	Clark (MA)	Evans
Barr	Cleaver	Ezell
Barragán	Cline	Fallon
Bean (FL)	Cloud	Feenstra
Beatty	Clyburn	Ferguson
Bentz	Clyde	Finstad
Bera	Cohen	Fischbach
Bergman	Cole	Fitzgerald
Beyer	Collins	Fitzpatrick
Bice	Comer	Fleischmann
Biggs	Connolly	Fletcher
Bilirakis	Correa	Flood
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Foster
Bishop (NC)	Courtney	Foushee
Blunt Rochester	Craig	Fox
Boebert	Crane	Frankel, Lois
Bonamici	Crawford	Franklin, Scott
Bost	Crenshaw	Fry
Boyle (PA)	Crockett	Fulcher
Brecheen	Crow	Garamendi
Brown	Cuellar	Garbarino
Brownley	Curtis	Garcia, Mike
Buchanan	D'Esposito	Gimenez
Buck	Davids (KS)	Golden (ME)
Bucshon	Davidson	Goldman (NY)
Budzinski	Davis (IL)	Gomez
Burchett	Davis (NC)	Gonzales, Tony
Burgess	De La Cruz	Gonzalez,
Burlison	Dean (PA)	Vicente
Calvert	DeGette	Good (VA)
Cammack	DeLauro	Gottheimer
Caraveo	DelBene	Granger

Graves (LA)	Mann	Schiff
Graves (MO)	Manning	Schneider
Green (TN)	Mast	Scholten
Griffith	Matsui	Schrier
Grothman	McBath	Schweikert
Guest	McCaul	Scott (VA)
Guthrie	McClain	Scott, Austin
Hageman	McClellan	Scott, David
Harder (CA)	McClintock	Self
Harris	McCollum	Sessions
Harshbarger	McCormick	Sewell
Hayes	McGarvey	Sherman
Hern	McHenry	Sherrill
Higgins (LA)	Meeks	Simpson
Hill	Menendez	Slotkin
Himes	Meng	Smith (MO)
Hinson	Meuser	Smith (NE)
Horsford	Mfume	Smith (NJ)
Houchin	Miller (IL)	Smith (WA)
Hoyer	Miller (OH)	Smucker
Hoyle (OR)	Miller (WV)	Sorensen
Hudson	Miller-Meeks	Soto
Huffman	Mills	Spanberger
Huizenga	Molinaro	Spartz
Hunt	Moolenaar	Stansbury
Issa	Mooney	Stanton
Ivey	Moore (AL)	Stauber
Jackson (NC)	Moore (UT)	Steel
Jackson (TX)	Moran	Stefanik
Jackson Lee	Morelle	Steil
James	Moskowitz	Steube
Jeffries	Moulton	Stevens
Johnson (GA)	Mrvan	Strickland
Johnson (LA)	Mullin	Strong
Johnson (SD)	Murphy	Swalwell
Jordan	Nadler	Sykes
Joyce (OH)	Napolitano	Takano
Joyce (PA)	Neal	Tenney
Kaptur	Neguse	Thanedar
Kean (NJ)	Nehls	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Newhouse	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	Nickel	Thompson (PA)
Kelly (MS)	Norcross	Tiffany
Kelly (PA)	Norman	Timmons
Khanna	Nunn (IA)	Titus
Kiggans (VA)	Obernolte	Tlaib
Kildee	Ogles	Tokuda
Kiley	Owens	Tonko
Kilmer	Pallone	Torres (CA)
Kim (CA)	Palmer	Torres (NY)
Kim (NJ)	Panetta	Trahan
Krishnamoorthi	Pappas	Trone
Kuster	Pascrell	Turner
Kustoff	Payne	Underwood
LaHood	Pelosi	Valadao
LaLota	Peltola	Van Drew
LaMalfa	Perez	Van Dyne
Lamborn	Perry	Van Orden
Landsman	Peters	Vargas
Langworthy	Pettersen	Vasquez
Larsen (WA)	Pfluger	Veasey
Larson (CT)	Pingree	Wagner
Latta	Porter	Walberg
LaTurner	Posey	Waltz
Lawler	Quigley	Wasserman
Lee (CA)	Raskin	Schultz
Lee (FL)	Reschenthaler	Waters
Lee (NV)	Rodgers (WA)	Watson Coleman
Leger Fernandez	Rogers (AL)	Weber (TX)
Lesko	Rose	Webster (FL)
Letlow	Rosendale	Wenstrup
Levin	Ross	Westerman
Lieu	Rouzer	Wexton
Lofgren	Roy	Wild
Loudermilk	Ruiz	Williams (GA)
Lucas	Ruppersberger	Williams (NY)
Luetkemeyer	Rutherford	Wilson (FL)
Luna	Ryan	Wilson (SC)
Luttrell	Salinas	Wittman
Lynch	Sánchez	Womack
Magaziner	Sarbanes	Yakym
Malliotakis	Scalise	Zinke
Maloy	Scanlon	

NAYS—32

Blumenauer	Garcia (TX)	Lee (PA)
Bowman	Garcia, Robert	Massie
Bush	Gosar	McGovern
Casar	Green, Al (TX)	Moore (WI)
Castro (TX)	Greene (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	Pocan
Escobar	Houlihan	Pressley
Frost	Jackson (IL)	Ramirez
Gaetz	Jacobs	Schakowsky
Gallego	Jayapal	Velázquez
Garcia (IL)	Kamlager-Dove	

NOT VOTING—10

Chu	Omar	Salazar
Gallagher	Pence	Williams (TX)
Gooden (TX)	Phillips	
Mace	Rogers (KY)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1721

Mr. GREEN of Texas changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING U.S. MARINES KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of five marines who tragically lost their lives in a helicopter crash last week:

Lance Corporal Donovan Davis of Olathe, Kansas; Sergeant Alec Langen of Chandler, Arizona; Captain Benjamin Moulton of Emmett, Idaho; Captain Jack Casey of Dover, New Hampshire; and my constituent, Captain Miguel Nava of Comstock Park, Michigan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence to recognize these heroes and their service. We are holding their families and their fellow servicemembers close in our thoughts and prayers at this devastating time.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF SHOOTING AT TODAY'S SUPER BOWL PARADE

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to acknowledge the heartbreak that so many people in the Kansas City metro area, Kansas and Missouri, are feeling right now.

I am positive that more eloquent words will be spoken in the future, and we will have many conversations about this. However, today, we had a tragedy occur, and I would like for us to take a moment of silence to honor the victims and families of those who are suffering right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for a few words.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, this was supposed to be one of the great celebrations. We won the Super Bowl and probably had a million or so people at the parade. In a great tragedy that has befallen all of us over and over again, a shooter has ruined the lives of many

people who attended and those who represent them. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE CBYX 40TH EXCHANGE COHORT

(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 talk about the CBYX program and to thank Linus Wullner, a current participant and intern in my office.

As the chair of the bipartisan German-American Caucus and a Congressman for the 15th District for Pennsylvania, a State with a history of German heritage, I have supported the CBYX program for many years.

Established in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program celebrates its 40th exchange cohort this year and is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Congress.

Every year, this unique program offers 75 young Germans and 75 young Americans the opportunity to study, work, and volunteer in Germany and the United States.

Participants fully immerse themselves into the other culture, attending university, interning, and living with host families all across the USA and Germany.

Linus was first placed with the welcoming host family of Patricia Vazquez in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he worked in the hospitality industry while studying political science at Southern Nevada University.

Now he is living with a host family in Burke, Virginia, and experiences everyday working life within my office.

Mr. Speaker, I emphasize the importance of cultural exchange programs. The American-German friendships don't stop after participants like Linus return to Germany and his hometown of Hinnenkamp.

The cultural exchange continues. American friends will visit Germany, Linus will visit the United States, and he will continue to share his experiences in the United States with his family, neighbors, and coworkers in Germany.

It is through citizen diplomacy that we expand cultural knowledge across the globe.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

(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 celebrate Valentine's Day. The day began to honor St. Valentine. Some believe that he was a priest who married Romans in love to defy an emperor's ban. Others believe he helped Christians escape brutal Roman prisons.

Either way, the spread of Christianity helped February 14 become St. Valentine's Day in the fifth century.

Europeans associated the day with love because it coincided with the mating season for some birds in Europe.

My favorite English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, first wrote about St. Valentine's Day as a celebration of love in 1375.

In 1415, the Duke of Orleans wrote the first valentine to his wife while in prison in the Tower of London.

Today, at least 30 countries celebrate Valentine's Day, and an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards will be sent out.

If you have been busy, I encourage all my colleagues to pick up some chocolates and flowers before you head home tonight.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the world is in a conflict we did not choose between dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law.

The anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by war criminal Putin is near. Over 400,000 deaths and 10,000 were murdered in the 2014 Putin invasion.

It has been over 100 days since the murderous invasion of Israel by Iran puppet Hamas, slaughtering 1,200 Israelis with 200 hostages, including Americans.

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo exposed: "China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Venezuela represent a new axis of evil regimes that is pushing a dangerous model for the world." We must work together to stop mass murder.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terror moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

APPEASEMENT DOES NOT WORK

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the very serious national security and global stability crisis that we face—preventing a global war in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East.

There is now a bipartisan bill that should be brought to a vote to prevent what we all know could happen because it has happened before.

It was 1938 when Hitler took Austria. A policy of appeasement was pursued. A year later, Hitler invaded Poland. Appeasement didn't work.

In fact, appeasement cost American taxpayers the equivalent of \$4 trillion, over 400,000 soldiers killed, and 6 million Jews murdered.

We may not get this bipartisan national security and global stability bill because of the dangerous ideology of appeasement.

Unless folks are compromised, it is appeasement. Encouraging Putin to do whatever he wants—which are the actual words of the former President, and something that many in this Chamber believe—is shocking.

We cannot appease Putin as others did with Hitler. We must push Putin back and get him out of Eastern Europe now. We have to pass this bill, and when the Speaker brings it to the floor, we will.

COMMEMORATING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Career and Technical Education Month.

In the construction industry, I spent over 40 years talking to young people in Georgia's 12th District about the benefits of working in a skilled trade.

As we all know, a 4-year degree is not the right fit for everyone, and often-times, our skilled and technical jobs are among the most in demand and highest paying in the workforce.

With 9 million unfilled jobs throughout our Nation, it is imperative that we bridge the gap between the business and education communities, ensuring our students are equipped with the skills necessary to compete in this modern economy.

The number one issue I hear about from businessowners is the need for a quality workforce, and career and technical programs offer young people an effective path to filling in-demand jobs.

This Career and Technical Education Month, we affirm that the American Dream is attainable, and it is different for everyone.

I am thankful for the educators and community leaders who remain committed to the success of America's future workforce.

WATER IS LIFE

(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, America's Great Lakes constitute the largest body of fresh water on Earth. Water is life.

I rise to highlight the importance of legislation to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative introduced last week.

As co-chair of the congressional Great Lakes Task Force and a senior member of the House Appropriations

Committee, funding the GLRI is among my highest priorities.

The district I represent traces much of the southern rim of Lake Erie's westernmost watershed, the largest in the entire Great Lakes.

Our citizens know how important protecting our Great Lakes is for today and the tomorrows to come. The GLRI provides instrumental funding to meet enormous unmet environmental needs for our region and the millions of people who depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, livelihoods, and leisure.

In 2020, the Great Lakes contributed \$3.1 trillion to our economy, 25.8 million jobs, and \$1.3 trillion in wages.

Analysis shows that every GLRI dollar spent produces \$3.35 in economic activity, which demonstrates a clear return on investment.

Supporting GLRI benefits the quality of these precious lakes, the adjoining communities, and the people who depend on them for the sustenance of life.

Supporting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is just common sense.

HONORING DR. SWATI KULKARNI

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Swati Kulkarni for her time serving as the consul general of India.

Dr. Kulkarni, who initially aspired to pursue a career in medicine, made a pivotal shift to Foreign Service. Her journey included work in diverse locations like Oman, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Understanding the responsibility of representing a country with a flourishing economic profile and a population constituting one-fifth of the world, she realized the importance of looking beyond her own community.

Throughout her time as consul general, Dr. Kulkarni conducted a series of more than 150 meetings with elected officials across the southern United States.

This extensive outreach included interactions with 7 governors, over 20 mayors, and more than 20 congressional leaders.

Her efforts were aimed at building alliances and fostering connections that extended beyond regional and cultural boundaries.

As a testament to her dedication, Swati Kulkarni was honored with flowers and a plaque commemorating her impactful contributions, marking a momentous occasion in her diplomatic journey.

Thank you for your important diplomatic work, Dr. Kulkarni.

HELP FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE LAHAINA FIRE

(Ms. TOKUDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, last week on Thursday I flew to Maui to be with our Lahaina ohana as we mark the 6-month anniversary of the fires.

On Sunday, our hearts were full and our eyes were misty as we watched our Lunas do the coin toss at the Super Bowl.

Just yesterday, Maui police confirmed the identity of the 101st victim, Mr. Paul Kasprzycki. He was 76 years old.

It is a stark reminder of the pain and loss that our people feel and the roller coaster of emotions our community experiences every single day.

According to a preliminary study of Maui's fire survivors released last week, 55 percent of people surveyed are exhibiting signs of depression.

Survivors also report higher than average rates of low self-esteem and suicidal ideation. Our people are hurting.

The reality is we can clear debris, we can rebuild our schools and reopen roads, but healing the pain and the trauma you can't see but people feel, that is much harder, which is why we need to hold wellness fairs and meet people where they are.

We need to make sure that the work of our Federal public health officers are supported so they can be there for survivors and frontline workers.

There is a mental health crisis ravaging our people now. All of us need to be there for them, and we must do everything we can to provide all of our survivors and disaster responders with the mental health care and support they need now. Mahalo.

□ 1745

A SCATHING REPORT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Special Counsel Robert Hur released a scathing report as part of a Department of Justice investigation into President Biden's mishandling of classified documents.

Despite evidence of President Biden's willful retention and disclosure of classified documents to his biographer, Special Counsel Hur's report recommended that no criminal charges be brought forward against President Biden.

This was in part because the special counsel determined that President Biden's memory had such "significant limitations" that it would not be possible to convince a jury that President Biden held a "mental state of willfulness" that a serious felony requires.

It is time for the White House to release the full recordings of President Biden's interview with the special counsel and for the American people to hear what was said in these meetings where the President was determined to be too incompetent to stand trial.

REAL LEGISLATION IS BEING BLOCKED

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, we just learned that Congress is being sent home early yet again this week because the Speaker doesn't have the votes to pass the bills he scheduled for this week. This keeps happening because Members of House leadership are unwilling to do the hard work of negotiating legislation that is supported by the majority of Congress, much less the majority of the Senate or the American people.

It is bad enough that they are wasting time and taxpayer dollars to have Congress spinning its wheels with failed bills and stupid stunts, like impeaching Cabinet members for policy disputes, but the Speaker is blocking real legislation to solve real problems, like passing the overdue budget or immigration reform or passing common-sense gun safety bills.

Early yesterday morning, the Senate passed a comprehensive national security package with a vote of 70-29, including strong bipartisan support.

If Speaker Johnson would put that bill on the House floor, it would pass with strong bipartisan support here, too.

The bill provides urgently needed humanitarian relief, as well as support for Ukraine, our allies, and our national security.

Instead of taking the day off, the Speaker needs to put that bill on the floor.

SUPPORT GREAT LAKES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024.

Having grown up on the shores of Lake Erie, I know that the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable resource and an invaluable economic driver for not only Ohio but for our entire country.

They provide clean drinking water for 48 million Americans, support more than 1.5 million jobs, and generate over \$62 billion every year for our economy.

That is why I am proud to be leading the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative alongside my colleagues in the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force.

The GLRI provides funding to Federal agencies, the Great Lakes States, local communities, and businesses to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem and the economic health of the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation moving forward.

LIFE AND LEGACY OF CECILIA GENTILI

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the life and legacy of beloved Queens community leader, Cecilia Gentili.

Cecilia was a beacon of hope for so many communities in my district. She was only 26 when she fled Argentina to seek asylum in the United States. She arrived in New York City in 2003 and lived her truth as a trans woman. She was finally granted asylum in 2012, as well, and she devoted much of her life to uplifting our trans and undocumented community in Queens.

Most recently, Cecilia shined in her artistic pursuits as an author, playwright, and actress. Cecilia was a leader in the fight for HIV/AIDS healthcare and founded a free healthcare clinic in New York City.

At the State level, she championed the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, GENDA, which was signed into law in 2019. Today, Cecilia would have also wanted to continue to uplift her advocacy against dangerous proposals like KOSA that would allow States to cut off access to lifesaving online resources for isolated trans youth, like healthcare information.

Our community will continue to remember Cecilia as an unwavering leader in the fight for equality.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

(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, I am speaking out today about an issue that has been going on in the northern part of my district in northern California. They are touting it, of course, as one of the biggest dam removal projects in American history, but it also is turning out to be one of the biggest environmental disasters in American history.

You can see right here the plume. This is the Klamath River, and this is one of the tributaries that feeds into it. This dark muck that is coming down is a result of what they have done to tear down dams or cut loose the material at the bottom of them under the drain.

This is a tributary coming in with winter water on that. It is kind of greenish and such. So you see, it is two different diverging bodies of water that is turning into muck, and it is an unbelievable mess there. It is killing wildlife, killing fish.

The Klamath River project used to make 70,000 households' worth of clean electricity. Good-paying jobs are very important to Siskiyou County. Now, the project, indeed, is an assault on the people who live there in the basin that are opposed to this, but outsiders are coming in to tear this out.

At a time when the U.S. is trying to electrify everything—automobiles, stoves, leaf blowers, and everything else—they are taking out clean, hydro-electric power.

The chromium levels in this material, the pollutants in there, is unbelievable. There is a lot more to this story. Keep watching to see what is going on with this Klamath River system and the disaster that it is becoming.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE ALLEN SWOOPE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to recognize Lawrence Allen Swoope II as the Champion of the Week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Swoope, as he is widely known, is a Christian hip-hop and gospel artist who was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, and he is a shining example as to why our community is the birthplace of champions.

Swoope released his first extended play record, or EP, in 2010 called "Applause Volume 1" and has since released multiple studio albums that have made an impact on the Christian and gospel music charts, including his 2014 album "Sinema," which peaked at number 1 on the U.S. Gospel Chart and was number 55 on the U.S. Billboard 200.

Last week, Swoope won the 2024 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song as a producer on the song "Your Power."

The son of Lawrence Allen Swoope I and the late Pastor Diana Lynn Swoope of Arlington Church of God in Akron, Swoope has continued the mission of the church and dedicated his life's work to spreading the Lord's message and bringing people together through his music and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Swoope for this incredible accomplishment. Ohio's 13th Congressional District is proud of him, and we all wish him many more years of success in his endeavors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is Black History Month. This is a moment to recount the journey of African Americans in America.

I rise today to speak about H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparation Proposals introduced by John Conyers almost 40 years ago. I was honored and privileged on his retirement for him giving me the honor of carrying this legislation.

For many in this body, one would wonder why we need to retrace that history of slavery. It is an amazing and

powerful history. It is an amazing history of unselfishness, but at the same time the dividing of families, the blocking of learning to read, and the violence of the whole condition of slavery.

Again, it is a time in America's history that we must review and understand.

As a Member of the United States Congress, I have introduced this legislation and look forward to its passage by executive order. At the same time, I want my colleagues to come join me, to walk the Emancipation Trail, which I have introduced and it has passed in this House. That is the trail that slaves took in 1865 after General Granger came and indicated that slaves west of the Mississippi were free.

That trail has not yet been finalized, but, Mr. Speaker, this will be a major part of America's history. Join me in supporting the Emancipation Trail.

STORM DAMAGE

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, since December 18, 2023, my home State of Maine has endured a barrage of devastating storms causing severe flooding, power outages, and millions of dollars in damages.

The sheer destruction that these storms have done to our working waterfronts is astonishing.

More frequent, intense storms, floods, and rising sea levels mean our communities will continue to be faced with the kind of devastation we have seen in Maine over the past few weeks.

At the same time, our working waterfronts are rapidly disappearing nationwide due to heavy development pressure.

When fishermen must grapple with the loss of wharves, processing facilities, and other essential infrastructure, in addition to navigating the challenge of climate change, it threatens the very survival of our communities.

My and Congressman WITTMAN's bipartisan Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act will help reverse a worrying trend of shrinking waterfronts while simultaneously protecting jobs and preserving the character of our coastal communities.

Congress must act to protect our working waterfronts and the more than 30,000 Mainers and 2.3 million Americans who rely on marine-related industries for their livelihoods. This is bigger than any of us.

CELEBRATING CREDIT UNIONS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate America's credit unions during National Credit Union Education Month.

Credit unions play a crucial role in improving the financial well-being of households and local businesses across America, offering working people affordable financial services for acquiring a home, investing in their child's education, and providing accessible lending options that help build generational wealth.

Credit unions are legally owned by the people who use their services, meaning that when you deposit money into a credit union, you are not just a customer, you are a part owner. This makes credit unions all the more responsive and accountable to the communities they serve.

This not-for-profit cooperative structure also ensures that earnings are paid back to members in the form of higher savings rates and lower loan rates, not to private investors.

Rhode Island boasts 18 credit unions that serve 480,000 Rhode Island residents—nearly half of our State's population. During my time as State treasurer, I worked with our credit unions in our State to help promote financial empowerment and stability for all Rhode Islanders. I look forward to continuing to support this credit union model in Congress.

GAMBLING ADDICTION

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a growing public health problem in this country. It is estimated that nearly 7 million Americans are suffering from a gambling addiction, and while it may not be as visible, it can be just as harmful as any other addiction.

About 90 percent of gambling addicts reported having one or more mental health disorders, as well as increased dependence on alcohol and other substances.

Problem gambling can also cause deep financial and emotional harm to families when the gambler takes on debt to pay for their addiction or manipulates loved ones to get what they want.

Clearly, this is a serious problem that must be addressed. It is why I have introduced the Gambling Addiction, Recovery, Investment, and Treatment, or GRIT Act last week. This legislation would utilize current revenues to devote funding toward gambling addiction, research, and treatment.

My bill would give State health agencies and nonprofits the resources they need to study this kind of addiction and get more people into recovery.

This is a commonsense solution that would improve mental health and well-being for countless families across America. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the GRIT Act.

□ 1800

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. DOLLY PATEL SKEETE

(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, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Dolly Patel Skeete, who left this world way too early, on January 29, 2024, at the age of 49.

Dolly's journey, from an injured leg at 11 to becoming an all-American runner at the United States Air Force Academy in the class of 1996, truly embodies the essence of the American Dream.

As an orthopedic surgeon, wife, and mother of three, Dolly shattered stereotypes, radiating positivity. From running cross-country to deploying to Afghanistan, she illuminated the lives of those around her.

Dolly leaves a legacy challenging us to live life fearlessly, uplift others, and relentlessly pursue our dreams. May her story inspire generations to come.

WITNESSING THE AUTO INDUSTRY BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be on the House floor this evening, this Valentine's Day, collecting my thoughts and remembering a bit of history.

We had quite the whirlwind year last year in Michigan and in this country. As I think about the fall, we were preparing to appropriate fiscal year 2024's authorizations, and we were stalemated and still in a continuing resolution of funding the government.

At the same time, we were also witnessing our United Auto Workers union set forth a record strike effort, targeting all of the Big Three for what they dubbed as record profits, meaning a record contract. That was, in many respects, a whirlwind time period. Then, to add to it, our beloved ally in the Middle East, the only democratic nation in the Middle East, Israel, was attacked.

Members of Congress, residents in Michigan, and people across this country, our heads were certainly spinning in many respects. For those of us tied to the auto industry, we were looking at the strike that took place, and we were being reminded of a little bit of history. We were being reminded why the UAW, at that moment, was saying we have record profits in the auto industry, but now we are looking for a record contract, because 15 years ago, the UAW made major concessions.

They made major concessions during a strategic effort led by the Obama ad-

ministration and carried over from the Bush administration. The Bush administration said we are going to leave this to the next administration for how we make decisions impacting the auto industry.

Fifteen years ago, we were in the wake of the Lehman Brothers crash. We saw our economy spinning out of control, unemployment shooting up in ways that we hadn't experienced as a country since the Great Depression. We had pressure on our insurance industry and our housing sector. We had a foreclosure crisis, and then we had the unbelievable challenges that were facing our auto industry.

The Troubled Asset Relief Program was passed through this very Chamber at a time when I was on the campaign trail. I was working to elect the next President of the United States of America. This very Chamber, under the leadership of then-Speaker PELOSI, passed the Troubled Asset Relief Program to stabilize our financial sector that had gotten in trouble due to lack of regulation, to stabilize the insurance industry, to stabilize the housing sector, and some emergency relief dollars for the auto industry, which President Bush gave in a temporary fashion and then said, very famously, whoever is elected President will inherit the ability to make the decisions.

We know that in this country, we used to have a longer transition process. Presidents would get elected in November and then be sworn in in March. Now, you get elected in November and are sworn in in January.

I had the very sincere privilege of working on President Obama's campaign. I was in the policy operation for the Vice Presidential nominee, now President Biden, then-Vice Presidential nominee Joe Biden. President Obama won that election. We were in Grant Park. Then, the next day, the transition began with the Presidential transition team.

It was the year 2008, which is kind of an interesting moment because the internet wasn't as populated with the vast amounts of information it has today. As a young 20-something-year-old, I was working on this transition and hearing about people looking to go into the administration and really having very little understanding of what that meant.

As a daughter of Oakland County, Michigan, as a family member of a former Chrysler engineer who worked on some of the original designs for Jeep, and as a granddaughter of a Ford UAW member, I couldn't help but take the time during lunch breaks, or breaks in the schedule while working on that transition operation for President Obama, to look at the Detroit Free Press, to pause and try to get a sense of what was going on back home because it was head spinning. From September 2008 to January 2009, we were absolutely in a pressure-cooker moment.

You have a brand-new President, a whole new administration, including 8

years of the Bush administration, an Iraq war that many Americans disagreed with, and some true injustices that were taking place back home in my home State. I couldn't help but humbly think that maybe I should go home to Michigan and try to help these automakers, try to help these auto-workers.

In Michigan, we were, in many respects, the example of what was taking place in this Great Recession. It was a capital G, Great Recession, capital R. It was a major challenge for us.

It was not just "for sale" signs in front of people's homes. It was massive foreclosures and people wondering if they were going to have their job in the auto industry, an absolutely unprecedented economic whirlwind taking place.

To shine some light on this, what happened to our Big Three automakers, General Motors, Chrysler, Ford—we call them the Big Three. We all know that. The Big Three had 71 percent of market share for the auto industry in 1998, and it dropped to 47 percent in 2008, in 10 years. We saw a dramatic decrease in car sales. We saw a shoring up of capital.

This was pre-Affordable Care Act. They had large responsibilities for healthcare obligations, the right obligations, to workers who had paid their entire lives for that benefit.

We faced the very stark reality that these companies were maybe not going to survive and, with them, millions of jobs.

As it became apparent that President Obama was going to put in place a senior counselor in the Department of the Treasury under these emergency authorities to manage the auto rescue, I had the opportunity, while working on that transition operation, to introduce myself to that individual whose name is Steve Rattner. He was in need of a chief of staff. He received a recommendation to interview me. It was a frenetic time. It was a several-minute interview. I was hired. I was brought in as a political appointee.

We were set up in temporary office space in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which is right next to the White House on East Executive Avenue over there.

Steve Rattner and myself and some individuals from the National Economic Council and the Council of Economic Advisers, people like Brian Deese, Alan Krueger, Austan Goolsbee, Gene Sperling, Diana Farrell, and, of course, Larry Summers, who was leading the NEC, created a makeshift team.

We realized we needed to hire a team, by the way, but it was kind of a makeshift team to make a series of rapid recommendations to the President of the United States about what to do with General Motors and Chrysler because they were running out of money. They were staring liquidation in the face. It was 15 years ago this month, my friends, 15 years ago this February.

Now, as a kid from Michigan, to be in a room in the United States Government and to hear the words “GM in bankruptcy” in a sentence was almost inconceivable. It was unfathomable. It was nerve-racking. It was hair-spiking. It was stressful.

Because of the good faith efforts to ensure the ethical standards of the administration, President Obama had put into place some rules of the road. You couldn’t hire people directly out of the auto industry to help run the auto rescue because it is a conflict of interest. We were talking to various candidates, various individuals of talent, and then a name popped up, Ron Bloom. Ron Bloom had been working alongside the national leadership of the United Steelworkers and had a Harvard MBA, a laborer’s heart, and a laborer’s mindset. He joined as Steve Rattner’s deputy.

We also brought on board a man from New York named Harry Wilson, who had a deep background in restructuring and financials. He was so talented, he retired by the age of 40. Matt Feldman was a bankruptcy lawyer. So much of this is captured in a book that Mr. Rattner wrote called “Overhaul.”

□ 1815

So much is still to be remembered from this time period that books and photos couldn’t capture.

I have been a part of a lot of incredible history since arriving in Congress in 2019. I have worked on things that I couldn’t even imagine I would have the ability not only to work on but to get done: a renegotiated trade deal, USMCA, and a Chips and Science bill.

My first bill signed into law was the Building Blocks of STEM Act within my first year in Congress in 2019. I formed the first Women in STEM Caucus. I was running the Democratic Manufacturing Working Group alongside our assistant leader, JIM CLYBURN. Although he is a longtime Representative from South Carolina, he has an appreciation and an affiliation with his colleagues from Michigan and shares in the spirit of what doing good manufacturing policy means for this Nation.

You see, Mr. Speaker, at the time we were doing the auto rescue, none of this was assured. None of this was guaranteed. This was new policy. It was taxpayer money that came from TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program. It was a temporary ownership structure in General Motors and Chrysler. Ford had made some very good decisions 1 year and change prior, 1½ years prior. They weren’t in need of a rescue.

At the time when we were putting together these series of recommendations which ended up becoming a managed industrial bankruptcy and an ownership structure of General Motors and Chrysler without controlling the day-to-day management of the companies, we were hearing from stakeholders, we were hearing from interested parties, and we were hearing from constituents.

Much of this is documented. It was not new information that we had interested buyers in General Motors from the Middle East. We looked at some of Chrysler’s ownership structure and their previous Federal investment that they had received. We were hearing from very concerned mayors and municipal leaders primarily across the Midwest, mayors from automotive communities who knew that these factories were the lifeblood of the economic existence of that very town.

What was going to happen?

Suppliers were wondering if they were going to get paid for work that they had done on the front end, expecting it as the system goes and the supply chain, the automotive supply chain, with receivables and payment structures.

We had the Canadians at the table equally concerned, again, about a potential liquidation of General Motors and Chrysler and the jobs that would come with it.

So, of course, not only did our United Auto Workers come to the table, but also the Canadian counterpart of their autoworkers’ union came to the table alongside the Canadian Government. The Australians were calling: General Motors might go bankrupt.

Now we were in a unique moment because we had allocated dollars through TARP to say: We can make this investment.

The President was able to do this alongside his Cabinet and alongside our Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner. GM stock price went to zero. Chrysler became co-owned by Fiat and the UAW.

The United States Government didn’t want to control the day-to-day management of these companies. Car sales were in the gutter.

How do you incentivize people to buy cars when our economy is spinning out of control and people are losing their lifetime retirement in a stock market that was crashing?

So we also made a series of decisions to say that we are not going to leave behind the small businesses. We are not going to leave behind the supply chain that is being challenged and squeezed and that is also experiencing bankruptcies, liquidations, and mergers. We created a supplier support program that just provided assurance similar to what we did in a bipartisan way during another economically and more recent time with COVID-19, just providing assurances through allocated dollars. In the case of COVID-19, the Fed had stepped in largely not drawn down on but money that came from the CARES Act to stabilize our industrial sector.

During some of these interesting and stressful times 15 years ago while working as a staff member of the auto rescue team during very long days and oftentimes sleepless nights, overnights at the Department of the Treasury, I had instructed those who controlled the switchboards at the White House and at the Treasury Department to take the calls from concerned

Michiganders and from concerned Midwesterners and just wire them through to my office because these people were scared. They were worried, and they saw themselves losing everything that they had ever worked for.

So in these long, trying, and stressful days we would walk into the office, and every day The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Times, and I think the Financial Times was also there, were laid out on the front desk for all to see, and every single day, the work that we were doing was on the front fold of these newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, do not forget that because this was unprecedented economic action.

I also want to mention that this wasn’t just done in a partisan vacuum. You see, Mr. Speaker, when we walked into the halls of the Treasury, weeks—weeks—after President Obama in a very momentous and celebratory way was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America while his Cabinet appointees were just getting confirmed, we didn’t have as much partisan discord around confirmations.

There were individuals like Neel Kashkari, Jim Lambricht, and several others who had had appointments and posts in the Bush administration at the Department of the Treasury. The financial crisis with Hank Paulson as the Treasury Secretary under Bush was very well-documented. Nonetheless, there were individuals who were working under Bush who stayed on for continuity purposes to explain why things were written a certain way or procedures were happening as TARP was being administered to work alongside us.

Members of the team that we put together under Steve Rattner and Ron Bloom weren’t partisan. They weren’t political appointments. Steve, Ron, and I were the only White House appointees on that initial auto rescue.

This was the best of our country who stepped forward through long, sleepless, and tireless nights working in Excel, managing a host of stakeholders, and sending memos and recommendations to the White House and the President of the United States himself. There were deadlines that had been put into place by the previous administration.

Interestingly, foreign automakers have a presence here in the United States of America. I am personally a Big Three girl coming from Detroit, and I encourage all to look at the benefits and prospects of what the UAW brings with their best-in-class workforce. I am so proud of our UAW workers, particularly my Region 1 workers back home in Michigan.

The foreign automakers came to us and said: You cannot let these companies go bankrupt. You cannot let them fail.

Why would competitors say that in such a moment?

It is because of the supply chain, it is because of the disruption, and it is because of the ricochets. Car sales were eight, nine million. Now they are back up to 17, 18, and 19 million. We never thought we would see million. We never thought we would see those numbers.

All along the way, as these phone calls were coming into our office and as I would carve out the time on Friday nights to return those calls, grown men were breaking down in tears frustrated by what was happening to our country and what was happening to what they had spent their lives working towards. These were amazing small businesses that contributed so much to our auto industry.

One in particular was an individual who owned a small tool and die shop, a third-tier supplier. He made a point of calling me a couple of times. He was one of the ones who wanted the assurance that he was going to get paid on his receivable, his 36-month life cycle. I talked to this individual a couple of times.

Then one time he said: Do you think I could come visit you in the Treasury Department? Could I come meet with you?

The perspective I have always taken into public service is absolutely inclusive and open government. Plus, we were meeting with everybody at that time because everyone was wondering what was going to happen.

Again, this wasn't guaranteed. It wasn't going to be a guaranteed success, and there were tough things that were happening like dealerships closing.

Why?

It was because GM had seven times the dealerships of Toyota. They were winding down two nameplates which, by the way, when they wound down Oldsmobile years prior to this auto rescue period, it was a \$2-billion endeavor.

So my supplier asked to come visit.

I said: Absolutely. We have some talented young people on this team, and we would be happy to meet with you. I will take your meeting.

Of course, the Treasury Department, being part of the White House campus, is a Secret Service monitored building, Mr. Speaker, so you have to make sure that you get all the proper information and then get into the system. Then the Secret Service has to call you the day of the meeting, as they did the day my supplier was there, and say: Hey, your appointment is here, please come get him and escort him.

I walked up those hallways with those marble checkered floors and the beautiful, framed dollar bills and \$2 bills and some of the moneys that are in the Treasury Department.

And who am I?

I am just a humble Michigander trying to do right by my State, do right by the people I love, the people I didn't even know who were relying on this industry to succeed to keep going. They are the industrial heartbeat of America.

I get up to the Secret Service desk, and they are chuckling a little bit. They are laughing a little bit.

They said: Haley, your appointment is here.

There was the supplier. He was this wonderful man standing there holding 12 pounds of metal because he drove from Michigan to show us what he made and to show us what he was doing and how he was contributing.

Of course, I believe it was Clay Calhoun or Brian Osias or Sadiq Malik, one of these individuals, when I said: Come on, we are coming in for the meeting, they said: Haley, what meeting are you bringing us to?

I said: This is someone who wants to know if his government has his back.

That is the type of work that we bring into Congress now at all the meetings we take, all the constituent requests, all this and that that we are working on here that is impacting and shaping the everyday lives of so many.

□ 1830

We don't need to focus today, 15 years on, exclusively on the hardship of the Great Recession and the economic tailspin that came about at the beginning of this century. In fact, today, I think we can look back and feel very proud that bipartisan action, non-partisan action, and a commitment and willingness to government and to govern successfully did succeed for the American people.

I think we can look out and see that this century has been full of unique, unprecedented, and defined-by-the-moment challenges.

There is a small business in Birmingham, Michigan, that sells linens. I was talking to the shopowner. I said: How are you doing? He said: It has been exhausting. I opened my business in 2000. We had 9/11. We had the Great Recession. We have had COVID-19.

Yet, he sees through every single one of these global curve balls that get thrown at us, particularly those of us as Michiganders. We have known how to rise to the challenge. We have known how to be resilient.

Mr. Speaker, I believe you remember these headlines: Who is going to shut out the lights in Detroit?

They were singing our swan song. We had a city on the brink. We had a city that felt like it was ripping at the seams. Then we doubled down. We collectively reinvested, and we said we have a new story to tell. Hence, the story of the American worker.

Today, nearly 15 years on, the UAW negotiated a historic contract, and I believe there is more to come. Plants that had closed, and tiered structure for payment—we can see an industry that is ushering in the moonshot of this century, the new mobility technologies being innovated in southeastern Michigan through so many suppliers and larger manufacturers, even down to the smaller businesses.

The innovation, the manufacturing, the technology just seethes through

the place I call home, Auburn Hills. It is a community in Oakland County, Michigan. Look around, we have the largest robot in the world headquartered in Auburn Hills. It is absolutely remarkable.

You look out at the new product line-ups that the men and women who are making these cars are rolling off the line. You better not look while they are driving because you might swerve a bit because they capture your eyes and your attention. There is so much R&D going into every vehicle, some say it is a billion dollars into every car, a billion dollars of R&D: the quality, the testing, the safety, and the emissions.

Michigan is home to the place that put the world on wheels. Here we still stand as an envy for the world.

I am so proud of what was accomplished in the Obama administration and carried forward into the Biden administration. It was accomplished in the Obama administration during this unique and trying time, the Main Street effort of the economic agenda: the manufacturers, the communities that were relying on it, and a government that made money on that investment. They were repaid in full.

GM reentered the stock market. We were a part of that. We called that Auto Team 2.0. Ron Bloom was the President's senior counselor for manufacturing policy. People like Alan Fu, Kelly Morrell, and Greg Keilin were making recommendations that actually have carried forward throughout all of the administrations since—the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, research efforts from upstate New York to Youngstown, Ohio, all the way out to California. We have one in Michigan. It is called LIFT. They are doing lightweight metals and workforce development, new standards, chemicals, and testing for the DOD.

We are competing because we made a commitment to our industrial base. We are not over here in the United States of America saying we are going to have state-owned enterprises. That was not the goal in the auto rescue. The goal was public-private partnership.

I meet with these manufacturers every week. It is the effort of sanity in this job, real people doing real work. They don't care what your ideology is or what your affiliation is politically. They are producing product off the line and getting it somewhere on time, whether it is in Michigan, Canada, or over to Europe. They are meeting every roadblock that gets thrown at them. It is absolutely remarkable. It happens in the place that I call home.

Mr. Speaker, we can say bipartisan in this Chamber. We can absolutely say bipartisan. Let's talk about the things that bring us together. Let's talk about a manufacturing economy. Let's talk about real industrial strategies. What we did with Chips and Science—\$52 billion.

By the way, in those very auto rescue meetings with Steve Rattner, Ron Bloom, Larry Summers, and President

Obama, we talked about these very weaknesses with semiconductors. We knew then we needed to do something. COVID hit, and there was a chips shortage, a chips crisis. Of course, I slammed my fist down on the table so hard I nearly bruised it when we didn't have a CARES Act, when we didn't have a rescue act, when we didn't have a plan for the industrial sector of this country, which we as lawmakers then came up with.

It is not just about being a First World nation but being an innovative nation. Public-private partnerships work. We don't will for another Great Recession and another action like what we had to take with the auto rescue. We can look back and say that the government acted alongside the workers of this country.

We can look even now, a year and change on since the passage of the CHIPS Act, a large-scale investment saying that we are actually going to make chips in this country again. We are going to do it with union work, by the way. We are going to do it in places like Michigan and Ohio.

We innovated the chip, and then it was shipped overseas. Incentive structures, beating us at our own game, low labor costs, and then what?

We are over-reliant on unfriendly markets, high shopping costs, and energy demands. The government with the CHIPS Act, \$52 billion allocated, not all of it has been nearly spent or begun to be spent. We are so proud of the chips team's hard work at the Department of Commerce, resembling, I believe, what took place in the auto rescue because these are very hard-working individuals doing big things with long hours and long days.

That \$52 billion beget \$200 billion of private-sector contribution without it being required. That legislation paid for itself within a quarter.

Fifteen years on from the auto rescue and as lawmakers, we ask ourselves: What is next?

It wasn't just chips. It is not just semiconductors that we need to bring back here to the United States of America, critical minerals and critical materials. Our environmentalists are talking about permitting reform to achieve the energy revolution of the quarter 21st century that the Inflation Reduction Act is helping to usher in.

Yes, we will beat the game at this. We will renovate. We will do big things. We will succeed. We will lower carbon emissions as a result. The auto industry stepped up. We saw that day arrive. Environmental groups and the auto industry said: We want this bill. We want the Inflation Reduction Act.

The next phase must turn to the industrial policy model that had been adopted under the CHIPS Act for minerals, materials, quantum, and AI, all these exciting and great things. It is a strategic vision for this Nation.

President Biden will be in this very Chamber in less than a month's time, delivering his State of the Union Ad-

dress, delivering that strategic vision built and building off the successes that we have achieved in many bipartisan ways: infrastructure, chips, and veterans' assistance and benefits.

Where are we going, and how will we continue to be a beacon for this world?

I believe it exists in the place that I humbly and dutifully call home in southeastern Michigan, Oakland County, Michigan. It is home to Automation Alley. It is home to Chrysler's now namesake, Stellantis. It is home to countless men and women of the UAW and the building trades unions, those who are putting the pipes in the ground for hydrogen to succeed. We are looking at battery-electric vehicles.

Be optimistic, my friends. Be proud.

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

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Following my reappointment to the Committee on Ways and Means, I hereby resign from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, effective immediately.

It has been an honor to serve on the Oversight Committee since I joined the House in 2017, and I am grateful to the Democratic Caucus and the House for the privilege of being nominated and elected to the Committee.

Sincerely,

JIMMY GOMEZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS THIS WEEK

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Members will cover a variety of topics, as will I. We will cover particularly the Biden administration's war on American energy.

I am going to make a very, very clear point on what is going on with the Biden administration's foreign policy. While he limits and restricts what American exports can do with respect to liquefied natural gas, it makes it harder for our allies to have their energy needs met. It forces them to turn to Russia, where Russia can make revenue to wage war in Ukraine.

If every American could actually understand what is going on, the U.S. is not allowed to export LNG to our allies overseas, at which point Russia can then continue to sell to desperate nations with these energy needs. They take that revenue and wage war on Ukraine. We are now constantly pushing to be able to spend more U.S. tax dollars to go to Ukraine.

Wouldn't it be more productive to make strong energy policy to limit what Russia can do overseas? We would be in a better position to help Ukraine, which I am very supportive of. We are going to make this point.

We will talk about the impeachment of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, China's poor treatment of the Uyghurs, and President Biden being unfit for office.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about these important topics and House Republicans' legislative efforts this week, I want to take a moment to share this story and honor the memory of Tamir Adar.

Tamir was a 38-year-old father of two who was killed defending his home and loved ones from Hamas on the morning of October 7. His body was mercilessly abducted to Gaza by terrorists and remains there today.

□ 1845

Tamir was part of the kibbutz's emergency response squad on the morning of October 7. He bravely left his home at 6:30 in the morning, while warning his wife and two children to shelter in place. He died protecting a neighborhood where he had lived his entire life, ensuring that his family would survive.

I stand here today to demand that Hamas return Tamir's body to Israel immediately, along with every single one of the 133 remaining hostages. Hamas continues to violate every norm and international humanitarian law, subjecting its hostages to horrific conditions without access to medical care from the International Red Cross.

This cannot continue. Israel has proven its willingness to pause the fighting for hostages to be returned home. Unsurprisingly, it was Hamas who broke the first hostage deal just as it broke a cease-fire that was in place before October 7.

Now it is time for the United States to stand with Israel as it seeks to destroy Hamas, free its citizens, and return the bodies of the fallen back to where they belong.

The U.S. must also put pressure on Qatar and other regional partners with

ties to Hamas to increase their own leverage on this terrorist group to immediately free all those it is holding captive. It is time to bring Tamir's body home. My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with his family as they mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for the first remarks of the evening.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas followed a year-long investigation into his failure to enforce the law and keep Americans safe.

Even as the border crisis has grown worse each month, with more than 300,000 illegal immigrants entering our Nation in December alone, Secretary Mayorkas has done nothing to secure our points of entry.

These crossings represent a failure of President Biden's catch and release program that has allowed illegal immigrants to live in the United States for up to a year before even receiving an immigration hearing.

Instead of utilizing the remain in Mexico policies that have proven effective, the Biden administration has opened our doors and opened our border, effectively making every State a border State and every city a border city.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. It is time to resume construction of a border wall. It is time to give Border Patrol agents the tools they need. It is time to, once again, secure our southern border. This impeachment was a vote for law and order in our communities and a vote to restore the rule of law at our southern border.

This vote was the constitutional duty of every Member of Congress to impeach a member of the cabinet who has failed to uphold his constitutional obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order tonight.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and I appreciate his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my brother for allowing me to speak tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not as blind and they are not as stupid as this administration and the mainstream media makes them out to be.

Everyone in this world can see that this President is not well. The Justice Department recently released the report by Special Counsel Robert Hur, and in that report was some very damning notes that were made, facts, I guess I should say, that were stated. The President wasn't charged in the

case of mishandled documents, but they couldn't rush to judgment fast enough against President Trump in a similar situation, but the report said: "It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him—by then a former President well into his 80s—of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness."

That was the quote. Let me read that again: "It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him—by then a former President well into his 80s—of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness."

This wasn't my friends on Newsmax or OAN or FOX; this was the prosecutor, the Special Counsel Robert Hur.

President Biden's own Justice Department knows that he is not in any condition to run this country as do our enemies and our friends abroad. The whole world knows that he is not in a condition to run this country. I have said for a long time that this would happen.

I said when everything goes down the drain for him and he is having to take the stand, they will use his mental condition as an excuse and they will kick this can not down the road, but off a cliff. If he is not fit to be prosecuted, Mr. Speaker, he definitely is not fit to be the Commander in Chief.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from that same wonderful State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 279 days since House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023. Since then, there have been more than 1.4 million additional illegal immigrant encounters at our southern border. That number doesn't include encounters from January 1 through today, but we have every reason to believe those numbers will be more of the same, more of what we have come to expect month after month.

In fact, December marked 33 straight months in which the total number of illegal immigrant encounters surpassed even the highest month under President Trump.

And just a few days ago, we learned encounters for fiscal year 2024 have already surpassed 1 million which, as everyone in this Chamber knows, began on October 1 of last year. That is about 100,000 more than Border Patrol experienced during the same period last year.

House Republicans continue to believe that the White House could act today to curb the unprecedented flow of illegal immigrants crossing our Nation's borders. President Biden knows there are multiple executive actions at his disposal to tackle this issue. He knows because he signed more than 90 executive orders in his first 100 days in office just on immigration.

President Biden created the crisis intentionally at the southern border. It

is the policy of his administration to allow these illegals to come into our country.

We have laws on the books right now that the administration continues to usurp or refuse to enforce. The House-passed Secure the Border Act of 2023 would put a stop to that. It would force the administration to end its unconstitutional, large-scale, catch and release operation. It would require construction of the border wall to restart and increase the number of Border Patrol agents, and also provide bonus pay.

H.R. 2 would also strengthen and streamline our existing asylum process. And—this one is critical—it would finally put a stop to the flagrant abuse of executive immigration authority taking place under the Biden administration.

There have been more than 8.3 million illegal crossings nationwide and more than 7 million crossings of our southern border alone since President Biden took office. We know also of at least 1.7 million got-aways, and we know there are tens of thousands of people we don't know who are on parole. We don't know where they are, and we have no way of tracking their locations.

The Secure the Border Act of 2023, the House-passed, commonsense measure is the strongest border security bill we have seen in a long while, and yet it has been sitting on Leader SCHUMER's desk in the Senate for almost 9 months. It deserves serious consideration so that we may begin to slow the flow of illegal immigration by forcing President Biden and his administration to follow the law and gain control of our southern border.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) to hopefully talk about what is going on at the border. I think that part of the confusion—and I get a lot of this from constituents—is the difference between immigration reform and border security. It is something that is being lost right now in the dialogue in our country about the acute nature of the issue. We have absolute immigration reform that both parties need to come together on and figure out a path forward. There are many things associated with that. However, addressing border security is the acute issue that is allowing fentanyl to become ubiquitous in every one of our communities.

So if you are not talking about the border, I apologize for leading you in that direction, but you have been an incredibly sound voice on that. I appreciate the guidance that I have had as a Member from Utah not dealing with it as closely as you, but that is affecting all of us.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Utah for yielding. I appreciate it.

Tonight, I am going to talk about the fitness of our President.

Mr. Speaker, “a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory,” these were the words used by Special Counsel Robert Hur to describe Joe Biden, the President of the world’s greatest and most powerful Nation.

They are also the justification for why no criminal charges are being pursued for Joe Biden’s willful mishandling of classified documents.

Just so that we are clear: The Justice Department is going to let Biden off the hook because he is old and now has a bad memory, and yet continue its aggressive persecution of Donald J. Trump because he is, what, 2 years younger and still mentally with it?

Most of those in this country will agree with me when I say, as we say in Texas: that dog won’t hunt. The left screams that no one is above the law. I guess they mean no one but Democrat families like the Bidens and the Clintons.

Americans are fed up with the double standard of justice repeatedly displayed by our Nation’s top law enforcement authority at the Department of Justice. We are witnessing blatant, government weaponization. It is despicable and must not be tolerated.

If Joe Biden’s mental capacity is too diminished to stand before a jury as the opposition has made Donald Trump do numerous times, then he is clearly unfit to serve as our Commander in Chief.

America is a global superpower—the strongest, most capable country in world history. Nearly 250 years’ worth of blood, sweat, and tears were the cost of this historic status, but today, our adversaries are watching our leader fail miserably at home and abroad.

While our enemies are hard at work exploiting this President’s numerous weaknesses, the entire world is taking note as Biden turns the United States into an international laughingstock.

Mr. Speaker, leadership is everything. As Alexander the Great once said: It is not an army of lions led by a sheep that I fear; it is an army of sheep led by a lion.

The American people deserve better from our highest office, and for the sake of our Nation’s survival, we need a mentally sound President that we can rely on.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his remarks. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my good friend and colleague.

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Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the vice chair of our Conference, for his leadership on these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said: Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it is deserved.

From Joe Biden’s self-induced crisis at our southern border to the repeated

assault on American energy to foreign policy blunders, this administration’s policies have been a disaster for our country.

It seems every decision coming from this White House from a national security standpoint and an economic standpoint makes the United States weaker and more vulnerable both here and abroad.

Even the latest LNG export pause is of great concern to our European Union allies, who stopped purchasing natural gas from Russia because they invaded Ukraine and are now counting on the United States. They are rattled by this White House’s so-called pause.

The whole country now knows that we, the United States of America, are allowing a record number of potential threats into our country at our southern border, including deadly drugs, terrorists, human trafficking, and crime.

On top of the nearly 10 million persons here illegally who have crossed the border under Joe Biden’s watch, 361 individuals were on the terrorist watch list. How many were there under the previous administration, under the Trump administration, over a 4-year period? Just 11.

Why has there been a 3,000 percent increase in terrorists crossing our border? Is it because our enemies know that this is a good time to take advantage of the United States of America? The threats aren’t just coming from Central or South America or the Middle East for that matter. The threats are coming from all over the world.

Customs and Border Protection says they have encountered illegal immigrants from 120 different countries, which is deeply troubling given the geopolitical conflicts created around the world in the last 3 years. Even “60 Minutes” expressed concern that 37,000 Chinese nationals crossed our border illegally last year, 50 times more than the previous 2 years.

What does the Biden White House propose to solve the crisis? Symbolism of a policy, well over substance, really a do-nothing, politically motivated bill that fails to include reimplementation of the Trump administration’s remain in Mexico policy. Per Customs and Border Patrol, this is the most crucial piece to solving the border catastrophe.

If we don’t require illegal migrants to claim asylum in the first safe country they enter, we will simply never solve this crisis. This is why we are not favorable to the Senate bill, because they will just keep on coming illegally.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say, the Biden administration really doesn’t seem to care about protecting the interests of the United States. They made that clear by failing to enforce the laws that exist, which the Trump White House used to secure the border.

From an economic standpoint, the Biden White House made a surprising and inexplicable decision to pause American LNG exports. This misguided policy failure will only drive our allies, as stated, into the arms of our adversaries, supporting Russia’s economy.

This White House can be counted on for one thing, and that is to blame others for the crises they create. Harry Truman was known for his saying, which sat atop his desk: The buck stops here. The name placard sitting in this Oval Office should be: Pass the buck. That is why Republicans have taken decisive action to hold the Biden administration accountable.

We impeached Secretary Mayorkas just yesterday for his failure to enforce our border laws and for the blatant dereliction of duty and violation of his oath of office that has created grave dangers for our country. Tomorrow, we will pass the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act to repeal the ill-conceived, ideologically guided restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans will continue to fight for American energy, American national security, the American economy, and the American people because this administration simply will not.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for his remarks. I saw an interview this weekend with Secretary Mayorkas. He basically made an admission that the remain in Mexico policy is effective.

Many on the left will say it is an effective way to control our border. It doesn’t feel like there is debate on that. What Secretary Mayorkas said was, well, it could be challenged in the courts. However, every single executive action can be challenged in the courts. That is, unfortunately, where we are in our Nation right now, in this ping-ponging situation from one administration to the other.

Yes, the remain in Mexico policy may be challenged in a court situation. Somebody could run a lawsuit against this. It could find its way to various levels within our judicial system. The policy works, though. We saw that. We have evidence of that from the Trump and Pence administration on working with Mexico in a partnership to limit the amount of cartel activity that exists, that is killing people, trafficking people, and creating a fentanyl crisis in every single community in this country. Yes, it might actually be challenged in the courts, but implement it. We know that it works, and we will work through it.

If there were leadership, Democrats would admit that it has been effective. Well, take the leadership to tell Congress we should pass this into law. If you don’t like every aspect of H.R. 2, there is one really important aspect of H.R. 2 that, if we could agree on, we could pass legislatively, which you keep calling for.

Even Secretary Mayorkas says Congress needs to fix the problem. Well, encourage Democrats to vote in favor of the remain in Mexico policy. We have data to show that it works.

This is what is the frustration. What we can do to fix most of the acute

issues at our border is right in front of us. It is beyond me that we can't look at a good policy, take data, and be able to reimplement it.

We will continue to sound the alarm on this and call out the nature of why the Biden administration is so inept at doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend. I assume that he will highlight some of this as he gives his remarks.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is the first President in history to flat-out refuse to take a cognitive health test. Given all of his memory issues frequently and clearly displayed in his public remarks, the least that he could do is prove to the American people that he is fit to serve as the leader of the free world and take a cognitive health and acuity test as part of his annual physical.

Let me give you a few examples of the President's recent memory issues.

On February 8, President Biden publicly confused the President of Egypt with the President of Mexico when he was discussing Israel aid in a press conference in a very embarrassing moment.

At a recent public event, he recalled talking to the President of France, Francois Mitterrand, at a G7 meeting in 2021. The only problem, Mitterrand died in 1996.

A week ago, as President Biden was urging Congress to pass foreign aid, he appeared to forget the name of the terror group Hamas. They were responsible for the egregious murders and terrorist rampage of the October 7 attack on one of our greatest allies in the world, Israel.

Similarly, in June 2023, President Biden said that President Putin was "clearly losing the war in Iraq" instead of Ukraine. Clearly, the President was stuck in his time in the Senate.

These are scary mixed signals that you send around the world when those clips go viral.

In one of the most painful examples, while giving remarks at the White House, he publicly asked if the late Congresswoman Jackie Walorski was in attendance only a month after she was tragically killed in a car wreck.

The DOJ has issued a damning report based on their interview with President Biden, saying that he presented a "sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory," who did not remember when he was Vice President or when his son Beau died.

I could sit here all night and list example after example of the President's mental decline that has been on display for the American people, but I am not going to do that to my colleagues.

It is simple. The President of the United States must be able to portray strength on the world stage. He must be able to lead our Nation through whatever challenges the future holds.

I am discouraged by what I have seen from the President recently and, hon-

estly, sad that his handlers have convinced him that he should run for another 4-year term. We know that President Biden is not the one steering the ship in the White House right now.

This is not about personal attacks or political agendas. It is about the integrity of our democracy and the stability and strength of our Nation. We owe it to the American people to ensure that their leader is capable of fulfilling the duties of the office with competence and the utmost clarity.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from New York. I have seen the passion he has demonstrated for his constituents in numerous ways.

I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF). I appreciate his willingness to share his remarks.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a very heavy subject. I have images of a very disturbing and graphic nature here with me showing the violent, horrific reality of abortion. This should shock every American.

What would you do if you found the dead bodies of five babies inside a cardboard box? Would you call the police? Would you throw the box out? Would you let it be taken away to a medical waste incinerator and forget you ever found it?

This is not a hypothetical. This is exactly what happened right here in this city just 3 miles from this House Chamber. On March 25, 2022, Laurel Handy and Terrisa Bukovinac found these children in a box labeled "medical waste" outside the Washington Surgi-Clinic abortion facility.

They suspected it contained human remains, and the medical waste services truck driver agreed to give it to them for a proper burial. What they found inside scared them: the bodies of five late-term aborted children. Experts attest that these babies were between 26 and 32 weeks of development when they were aborted. They had lungs, beating hearts, fully formed fingers and toes, eyelids that would open and close. These children could feel pain.

As these images show, their bodies were disfigured, crushed, chemically burned. One baby girl bore wounds, a deep laceration to the back of her neck that likely indicates an illegal partial birth abortion.

Another baby girl had the marks of a D&E abortion, dilation and evacuation in which the abortionist dismembers the baby limb by limb and crushes its skull to remove it from the womb.

This occurred nearly 2 years ago. Yet, shamefully, neither the Department of Justice nor the D.C. Metropolitan Police nor the D.C. Medical Examiner did anything. No autopsies were done. No investigations were opened. The entire case of the D.C. five was swept under the rug.

Something is very sick in our society. When a baby at 30 weeks in utero is wanted, a doctor will do anything to save its life. However, when a baby is

unwanted, the abortionist takes its life.

When a mother miscarries, we mourn with her for the loss of her unborn child, but when she gets an abortion, we are told there is nothing to mourn, nothing to see. These aren't human beings. These aren't real babies. They are only medical waste. Move along. Don't be bothered. Don't open the cardboard box.

Lauren and Terrisa opened the box. They recognized the dignity and inherent value of all human life, even babies still in the womb.

Five days after discovering the box, Lauren was arrested on charges of protesting outside an abortion clinic. Today, she is still detained and could face 11 years in prison.

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What has gone wrong in our country, that a woman who found these babies is imprisoned while the man who killed them, the notorious late-term abortionist, Dr. Santangelo, goes free?

The District of Columbia allows abortion up to and including the moment of birth. In other words, in this city, a baby's right to life depends on which side of the birth canal it is on.

Location, mere geography, is the difference between legal abortion and murder. One pro-abortion surgeon became pro-life the instant he witnessed the abortion of a 19-week-old baby. He wrote: "And it has happened that you cannot reason with me now. For what can language do against the truth of what I saw?"

These are second- and third-trimester babies. What can any pro-abortion argument say against these images?

The D.C. 5 were children, human beings with distinct DNA, weeks from birth, before their lives were brutally and barbarically snuffed out.

The DOJ must immediately investigate the likely violation of the partial birth abortion ban. I demand the D.C. medical examiner allow an autopsy, and I stand with my House colleagues in calling for Congress to investigate. Justice for the D.C. 5 demands no less.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN). I thank him for his willingness to share his thoughts. I appreciate it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address something that happened in this Chamber earlier this week, something that we haven't done or seen in over a century in this country, and that is the impeachment of a Cabinet member.

Impeached was Secretary Mayorkas, Homeland Security, for ignoring his duties, and by ignoring his duties, creating a situation which I think is the biggest crisis in this country in my lifetime.

That, of course, concerns his inability to address the huge problems at the

border. I will remind the American public that only 4 years ago during the final year of the prior administration, the number of people being let in this country at the southern border bounced back and forth between about 6,000 and 25,000.

A good estimate of the number of people who came here in the last month is 37,000, so it has gone up by a factor of about 18 to 1.

Not only have this many people crossed the border—think about that. I guessed 37,000. In addition to this many people crossing the border—because around the world, it is known the United States is not enforcing our border—we have people dying in the Pacific Ocean trying to get around the wall over there. We have people dehydrating in the Arizona desert. We have people drowning in the Rio Grande, all horrific instances in and of themselves, because of the inability to address people coming across our border.

I have been told by law enforcement that the price of fentanyl in this country is as low as it has ever been—it is a matter of the law of supply and demand.

We have 108,000 Americans dying of illegal drug overdoses every year, twice as many people as died in 12 years in Vietnam.

We have, through our negligence, created wildly wealthy drug cartels, wealthier than ever. I have been at the border at least eight times, and every time I hear the Border Patrol is under the impression that the Mexican cartels—which are currently corrupting the Mexican Government—are making more money allowing people across the border than they even are selling drugs. A complete disaster.

Along with this 300,000-plus people who are let in every month are 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors. There was a time when people in this body used to care a little bit about breaking up families, but that is 8,000 to 10,000 unaccompanied minors.

There was a time where we checked DNA tests to see whether these minors were related in any way to perhaps aunts or uncles who claim they were related. We stopped that policy.

The New York Times said that at one time—I think this number is a little bit high, but they had lost 83,000 unaccompanied minors in this country.

I personally think it is more like 50,000 or 60,000, but in any event, can you imagine losing track of 50,000 or 60,000 unaccompanied minors?

As a result of the negligence taking place at the border, we have all of these disasters, and I would argue it is creating a situation in which I think in the final year, well over 2 million new people were let in the United States, some of which are suspected terrorists from all over the world.

It will take the United States perhaps decades to recover. Again, there are so many of them, we are incapable of doing a background check.

We are capable of doing a background check on crimes committed in the

United States and crimes committed in Canada, but that is about it.

You hear anecdotal evidence of crimes, including sexual assault being committed by people, when you talk to local district attorneys.

Again, the Biden administration doesn't care. I think the reason the Biden administration doesn't care and the reason Secretary Mayorkas doesn't care—when they could so easily go back to a stay in Mexico policy or wait in Mexico policy pending an asylum hearing—is because they want to change America.

President Obama said he wanted to fundamentally change America, and that is what you are going to get when you have people from all around the globe coming here.

We want to point out that this is hardly the time in which it is necessary or cruel to turn people around. In the last 4 years, we have had more people sworn in as legal new citizens than any 4-year period in the last 100 years, at least, so it is not like we are being mean or overly strident.

People are coming here all the time and finding ways to become citizens completely legally. The only reason for allowing this deluge of people in here is if you do want to fundamentally change America, invite people who do not understand the background of freedom and of limited government that is necessary of our new citizens to keep the Republic which our forefathers gave us.

In any event, I thank this body for impeaching Secretary Mayorkas. I urge the Senate to take up that impeachment because it is mandatory that the people of this body—and by this body, I mean both the House and Senate—do whatever we can to send the message that ignoring the crisis at our border can no longer be tolerated.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his comments. I appreciate his focus on this very, very important issue.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE of Utah for leading us once again at this important time to get the message out in front of the American people that wish to pay attention.

Just following up a little bit on what Mr. GROTHMAN was talking about on the border and the horrific illegal immigration and how many are coming into this country is just overwhelming.

I had an experience last week in Tucson, myself and Mr. TOM TIFFANY from Wisconsin. We both, after a border tour, attempted to stop in at an illegal—well, they call them migrants. That is a euphemism. They say we are migrants. It drives me crazy listening to that—an intake area that had been a Ramada Hotel there run under the guise of a group called Casa Alitas.

It is run not with a whole lot of daylight on how they operate there. Again,

we have many NGOs, nongovernment organizations, that are making a lot of money that are incentivized to move a lot of illegal immigrants into this country and place them where have you.

They have busloads going here and there and everywhere and plane rides. My understanding is there have been approximately 5,000 plane rides, with planes full, since the start of the Biden administration, moving people around the country.

We attempted to meet with people there and see. It was quiet. They weren't intaking anybody at the time, and they would not see us. They would not see us, even though we had our IDs.

Two Members of the U.S. House of Representatives wanted to sit down with somebody and see what they are doing and have them at least give us a few minutes, an overview.

They refused to do that. They basically kept us outside in the parking lot and called the sheriff's office in case we decided to try and go knock on the door and talk to somebody in charge.

It was amazing that the people that are in charge of the U.S. House, those that are elected to make taxpayer expenditures, taxpayer appropriations, were shut out of being able to ask questions about how the tax dollars are being used on the intake of these illegal immigrants in Tucson. Folks, obviously we have a giant problem. The numbers are horrendous.

Mr. GROTHMAN was talking about the fentanyl. What is interesting about that, there is so much fentanyl coming into this country and it is so negatively affecting and taking lives so much is coming in.

He talked about the market price; the price is so low. The price of actually buying it is really low now because there is so much of it.

Price and demand. When a high volume comes in, they have to cut their prices. It is such a high volume now, the price of it is getting dirt cheap, they are saying.

It is just another example of the Biden administration working against the people and working against American values.

There is no reason it needs to be this way. They say: Oh, you guys, the Republicans, aren't passing a law in Congress. No bills.

Biden has the tools. He could do eight executive orders that are perfectly legal, perfectly constitutional.

There is the remain in Mexico policy and several others he could do without us even passing a bill. There are plenty of laws to already enforce that that they are not doing.

Yes, we added H.R. 2 to that to help define better asylum because asylum is being abused and other good aspects, beefing up the personnel at the border, finishing the fence.

They don't want to do any of that. That is all double talk. That is a bit of my experience at the border just the other day.

Another thing that President Biden has done that has caused unnecessary harm to our country is our energy policy or lack of.

The core of so many of our problems with the cost of inflation and hiked prices of everything starts with the cost of energy.

Whether it is electricity that is generated—and they are tearing out hydroelectric dams in my district—as green renewable power, electricity generated by nuclear power. We need to do a lot more on that.

For years and years, that has been held down by permitting and the inability for government to move on that.

Also, natural gas is a very important component for heating homes as well as operating electricity generation.

Biden has stepped forward to make it almost impossible to explore for oil and gas in this country, and there was also a recent decision to slash all pending and future liquefied natural gas export permits.

This is important because we were exporting this to Europe, for example, to Germany or others. Instead of them relying on Russian gas coming in in that big pipeline, we could be helping because we have such an abundance.

The Biden administration has another wrongheaded approach on energy, harming Americans and harming our allies around the world.

He systematically destroyed key energy initiatives, canceling the Keystone pipeline, shutting down already authorized oil and gas programs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a really tiny part of a 1.3 million acre refuge in Alaska. It has been approved. They are shutting it down.

The high prices of everything start with the cost of energy. Americans suffer from the high price of food, transportation, and everything else because energy costs way more than it needs to.

We lay that at President Biden's feet. We have the ability to be energy independent like we were under President Trump, an energy exporter helping our allies. Yet, what we have is a ban on being an exporter and a ban on new exploration to make us energy independent.

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The Biden administration is way out of whack on this, and we need to do something. The American people need to let them hear about it. The American people need to make themselves heard on that as we try here in this time here in Congress with speeches like this tonight to do so.

I appreciate the time, and I appreciate Mr. MOORE leading us on this Special Order to talk about these important topics of energy independence and controlling our border—two of the most important components to a more orderly society in this country.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Cali-

fornia. Horrible energy policy, horrible immigration and border policy, mental incompetency—these are all great Valentine's messages today.

Thank you to many of my colleagues for their willingness to come and share their thoughts and talk about these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a distinguished gentleman and very good friend and colleague. It is hard to pick your favorite member of the Arkansas delegation, so I won't do that now, but he would be in my top four.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding. Just for those two people that are listening at home, there are only four members of the Arkansas delegation, so that was an easy comment from my good friend.

I thank my friend from Utah, who is doing an outstanding job helping lead our Conference and lead our Conference's messaging on this House floor and in our home districts as we draw a distinction between what House Republicans would be doing if we were able to be guiding the executive branch or have both Houses here in Congress, and the failures of the Biden administration.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address a couple of issues I think that are key that are confronting the American people and that we are touching on this week in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the United States went from importing liquefied natural gas just 15 years ago to now being the world's largest exporter. That is a powerful testament to America's technological advances and our ability to harness this clean, abundant, affordable source of baseload power for our own use and for the ability to export it.

President Biden's recent decision to halt the export of American liquefied natural gas is not in the interest of the American worker, the American economy, our allies' national security, or the globe's goal of a clean energy transition.

This is just another one of President Joe Biden's poor decisions in a long line of other failed energy policies since he took office in January 2021: As noted by my good friend from California shutting down on day one the Keystone XL pipeline, denying new permits, discouraging new drilling, discouraging new pipelines, and coercing banks and securities firms across this country to discourage badly needed loans and capital investments in the energy industry by way of environmental social governance, so-called ESG policies.

These reckless decisions have weakened our global leadership and weakened America's energy independence. While President Biden's nanny state regulators consider going full California on the whole Nation by banning your gas stove, Republicans support an all-of-the-above approach to our energy needs and our long-term energy transition.

Republicans believe that we need to tap into American's abundance of natural resources that are crucial to enhancing our own energy security and our own energy independence.

The United States stands ready to export more LNG to Europe, but pipelines and other needed infrastructure are not adequate in this country in order to advance more assistance in the short term. In my view, Mr. Speaker, upstream and downstream infrastructure investments in natural gas are not stranded assets, which is typically the argument made by the opposition.

According to a recent U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Outlook, by 2050, global energy use will increase nearly 50 percent compared to today. Now, let that sink in—50 percent greater than today in just 25 years.

Although the primary energy consumption sources for renewables is expected to grow from 15 percent today to 27 percent by 2050, still 83 percent of consumption will need to come from coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear.

Clearly, based on global power demands and despite new renewable sources, this globe, this Nation, needs decades of liquefied natural gas access and natural gas in our reserves.

We need to invest and create that infrastructure leading to our own development and crucial export development, which will, if we export, add \$73 billion it is estimated to our U.S. economy over the next 15 years, bolstering energy trade, stimulating domestic production while assisting friends and allies abroad.

Increasing U.S. liquefied natural gas exports will benefit our allies, as I note, in Europe and in Asia by adding the U.S. as a reliable source of energy on the global market and offsetting the risk that is being dominated by one supplier—like in the case of Germany being completely dependent on natural gas from Russia at the time of Russia's invasion to Ukraine—or countries being caught in a supply crisis due to war in the Persian Gulf or a war or shipping challenges in the Red Sea.

Just last year, Mr. Speaker, about 13 percent of Europe's natural gas went through the Red Sea. That has now been impacted by the Houthis in Yemen attacking shipping of all flag vessels trying to go up the Red Sea through the Suez Canal to service Europe.

We have natural gas fields across our Nation in Pennsylvania and New York that rival and may even be more abundant than those in the Middle East.

Yet, we will never see, in my view, Mr. Speaker, a pipeline—a new pipeline—built from Pennsylvania over to the East Coast ports under this administration or under future Democratic leadership. I don't think we will see new jobs or development of New York's massive, abundant natural gas in the Marcellus shale under Democratic Governors.

Again, these kinds of policy officials and Biden officials have doubled down, tripled down, on policies that not only raise costs for everyday American families but do nothing in the long run to impact the climate.

Likewise, to aid American technology exports, the Biden administration should work to ensure that international financial institutions like the World Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will finance natural gas projects and nuclear power as a part of the energy transition.

Right now they are very reluctant to do that. In the case of the EBRD, they will not finance nuclear.

Now, think about that. They certainly won't finance natural gas.

The EBRD has been insisting on financing renewable green energy projects only to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, yet ignores an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

International financial institutions like the EBRD should finance beyond nuclear and include sources of energy like liquefied natural gas to improve access and diversification, particularly in Europe, their energy backbone, their energy sources. It is in their best interest to do that.

Energy policy is a long-term investment in the needs of the globe's future both at home and abroad, and as more and more countries grow and develop and their people become wealthier and their incomes rise, their energy consumption will increase, as well.

We cannot wait and have nothing to offer and certainly cannot impose the Biden administration's energy policies on the world and expect a good outcome or rising wages or incomes.

We should be investing in all of our energy options like oil, nuclear, renewables, and natural gas—not hurting our ability to export and remain energy dominant worldwide but to benefit the entire economy of the globe.

President Biden's mistakes and failed policies today will lead us to not having the energy capacity that we need for tomorrow, and he will be making the transition to a clean energy future even harder and more costly for our families.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate completed work on funding for military assistance for Ukraine, Taiwan, and Israel, all critical partner countries to the United States, each a Nation where we have a national security interest in seeing their security needs met, benefiting our economy, benefiting our jobs, benefiting our global reach across the globe. As Americans, it should feel very natural to us that we partner with other nations to help a nation fight for freedom.

Why? Well, Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we are all versed in our own founding, our own struggles with the American Revolution. We recall the lack of food, the lack of pay, the lack of socks and shoes, the misery of the winter at Valley Forge. Every school

child in this Nation knows about Washington on his knees at Valley Forge.

What we must remember is that we did not win our independence alone.

From 1775 to 1781, the United States would not have seen victory at Yorktown ending the American Revolution in victory were it not for allied nations making a bet on the grit and the tenacity of colonial Americans taking on the world's largest Navy and the world's largest Army.

France, the bankers in Amsterdam, the Spanish, all opposed Great Britain's empire and backed General Washington's struggling rag-tag Army.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of the muskets and uniforms worn by the colonial Army were supplied by France. The French and the Dutch supplied loans and cash, the Spanish supplied gunpowder, and the French Navy were critical to our victory.

Without this help of the other nations, we would not have had the resources to win the American Revolution or become an independent, democratic, dynamic country 250 years later.

As Americans, we understand that sense of partnership that it takes when you are fighting for freedom. This week, once again, I traveled across the Atlantic to meet with President Zelenskyy in Ukraine joining a codel led by MIKE TURNER, the chairman of our Intelligence Committee, to assess what is Europe doing? What is Ukraine's strategy? How are American investments audited and protected and transparent? What are our options there to make sure that Putin is not successful in Ukraine?

Instead of reading something on the internet, Mr. Speaker, let's go investigate it for ourselves. Let's look Zelenskyy and his generals in the eye. Let's look at American advisers in Germany and in Poland in the eye and ask them: Should Putin be allowed to win in Ukraine? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is clearly no.

Along with dozens of allied nations, the United States should continue to back the freedom fighting, freedom loving Ukrainians to ensure that Vladimir Putin knows he is not going to stay in Ukraine. Let me be clear, he will be denied that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, in polling, the American people are clear. They do not want Putin victorious in Ukraine. It is bad for Europe, the sovereignty of Ukraine, and for the world.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: We need to complete our work effectively on this House and find that sense of partnership that we find the right funding, the right balance of au-

ditioning and talent necessary to back the Ukrainians' success in defeating Putin.

Mr. Speaker, the innocent people of Ukraine have been under unprovoked attack for over two years, their lives upended by the vengeance of a megalomaniac illegally invading and attempting to overthrow a sovereign neighbor.

This war commenced in 2014 in the Donbas and Crimea and exploded into a full invasion on February 24, 2022.

American military aid to Ukraine is running out and Ukrainians battling on the frontlines to defend their homeland are running out of ammunition and other crucial military supplies.

They are losing the ability to defend themselves and win this war that they have so valiantly fought for 24 months—and politically and emotionally for a painful decade.

To my colleagues in Congress, it is essential that we pass further aid to Ukraine.

Time is running out.

And when the war ends, and Ukraine hails victory, Putin must bear the responsibility for the death and destruction he has caused in their sovereign nation.

He must bear responsibility of paying for Ukraine's reconstruction.

Alongside my friend and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL, we passed our REPO bill out of committee, which would seize Russian sovereign assets for the sole purpose of Ukraine's eventual reconstruction.

Similar legislation has successfully been passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Considering most Russian sovereign assets are located outside of the United States, it is critical that our allies around the world draft and pass companion legislation.

In January, European Union (EU) members unanimously agreed to set aside frozen Russian central bank assets in Europe, taking the first step to benefit Ukraine and its reconstruction from Russia's destruction.

This is a strong signal from our European allies that we are one step closer to seeing crucial draft legislation.

Although the EU has taken a step in the right direction, their action needs to go further. In my view, the ideal proposed draft legislation needs to encompass all Russian assets, not just liquid central bank accounts.

In the meantime, the United States and our allies need to continue to press Putin with further sanctions to deter his aggression.

We also need to ensure Ukraine remains an open economy.

Despite the damages caused by the war, over the past two years, Ukraine's economy is hanging in there.

Ukraine's battlefield victories in 2023 include pushing the Russian Navy to rear, freeing the western Black Sea, reopening it to Ukrainian exports of grain, iron, and fertilizer.

Although Russia's invasion drove Ukraine's GDP down in 2022, their economy is reported to have grown by roughly 3 to 4 percent, in 2023.

More economic recovery and more exports mean Ukraine is generating revenue to support itself and its needs.

Given the nation's current state in the face of devastation and in the wake of Putin's madness, this is remarkable.

As Ukraine is one of the world's largest grain producers, it's key that they continue to maintain an open, thriving economy.

In sum, it's simple: the U.S., Europe and global partners need to continue to support Ukraine with financial, military, and humanitarian assistance; hold Putin responsible for paying for the damages he has caused in this sovereign nation; and discourage him with further and more aggressive sanctions, including secondary sanctions on all nations that help fuel his terror.

For if Russia wins, it opens the door for other foreign adversaries like China to follow in their pursuit of taking over Taiwan, jumpstarting a global war.

If Russia wins, it threatens the 75 years of peace and prosperity in Europe, and risks dragging the United States into a war like we have never witnessed.

We can defeat Russia in Ukraine, if we see their struggle for freedom in the same way we fought for ours nearly 250 years ago.

Failure in Ukraine is not an option.

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

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of Black History Month and to honor the profound contributions of Black Americans in my hometown of Pacoima, California, and the broader San Fernando Valley.

Following World War II, as redlining policies segregated communities of color in Los Angeles and across the country, Pacoima became the center of African-American life in the valley as African Americans led a cultural resurgence through the creation of dozens and dozens of churches, schools, and successful small businesses.

Today, we take a moment to recount that rich and extensive history as we honor men of faith, women who always lend a helping hand, a group of young trailblazing ballplayers, and a historian who has chronicled these incredible stories.

By celebrating Black History Month in the northeast San Fernando Valley, we honor not only the struggles but also the triumphs that have made our community the diverse and resilient tapestry it is today.

HONORING THE GREATER COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church for Black History Month, a beacon of faith and community service located in Pacoima.

Established in 1942, Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church holds the distinction of being the first African-American church founded in the San Fernando Valley.

In the face of racial adversity, the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church has flourished, growing

from its humble beginnings with 6 families in 1942 to a congregation of around 500 African-American members in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is my privilege to honor the indomitable spirit of Reverend T.G. Pledger, whose visionary leadership paved the way for an extraordinary legacy beyond the walls of Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church. He was the founder and the first pastor of Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church.

Born in Alabama, Reverend Pledger later moved to Los Angeles and was instrumental in the church's early days. In 1942, Reverend Pledger and his wife came to the San Fernando Valley from Torrance, California. Pledger got a job at the Polsom Packing Company and bought a house next to the plant.

After moving to the San Fernando Valley, Reverend Pledger had an encounter that inspired him to establish a church there. A young man relayed to him the struggles to find a place of worship in the area. Many of the African-American residents had to travel to Pasadena or other communities to find a church.

In 1942, Reverend Pledger began Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church on the corner of Ralston Avenue and Pinney Street at a former dance hall known as Laurel Hall.

By 1945, Reverend Pledger and the original congregation finished construction of the first African-American church in the San Fernando Valley on the corner of Norris Avenue and Pinney Street.

As the population increased and the need of a larger facility was evident, Reverend Pledger rebuilt Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church in 1958.

Reverend Pledger was an influential voice during the fair housing movement, which led to the establishment of the Pledgerville Senior Citizens Villa, a testament to his enduring dedication to uplifting the lives of our seniors and families in Pacoima.

The successful realization of this housing project stands as a shining example of Reverend Pledger and his congregation's commitment to compassion, service, and the betterment of our community.

Pledgerville Senior Center sits adjacent to Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church along Van Nuys Boulevard.

After Reverend Pledger, there came Reverend D.D. Chatman, who served as pastor for 31 years, emphasizing the church's evolving role in a changing community.

Reverend Chatman began his service to Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church in 1987 and played a crucial role in obtaining government funding for the Pledgerville Senior Citizens Villa.

Under Reverend Chatman's leadership, a 16,000-square-foot community room was completed called the Great Room. The Great Room was host to

various after-school programming, job training classes, and food and clothing distributions.

His tireless efforts in revitalizing the Baptist Ministers Association, founding numerous churches, and advocating for the community on various platforms reflects a profound commitment to the holistic well-being of those he served.

Although Reverend Chatman passed away in 2019, his impact continues to resonate in the hearts of the people and the enduring mission of the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church.

The Reverend Jeffrey Martin continues the church's legacy of service and inclusivity to this day. During the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Reverend Martin was on the forefront in ensuring families had the resources they needed. They opened the door of the Great Room and hosted unhoused residents in their winter shelter, which holds a capacity of 138 individuals each night.

We applaud the "mother church of the San Fernando Valley," the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church, and its congregation for its 82 years of service, resilience, and dedication to fostering unity in our community. The impact of their outreach programs, particularly in addressing homelessness, is a testament to the church's commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

May the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church continue to be a shining example of faith, compassion, and community service for many years to come.

HONORING DEACON ROBERT WINN

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished individual whose life has been defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Deacon Robert Winn, known affectionately as Bob, is a beacon of inspiration, a founder of the African American Leadership Organization, the AALO, and a lifelong advocate for racial, economic, and social justice in southern California and the San Fernando Valley.

Bob Winn was born in Birmingham, Alabama, a city steeped in the tumultuous history of the civil rights movement. Inspired by the indomitable spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bob's journey of activism began with a profound commitment to equality. His dedication was not merely words; it was action.

A distinguished veteran, Bob served in the United States Army with honor and distinction. His sacrifice and service laid the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to uplifting and empowering his community.

After his military service, Bob pursued higher education, earning a degree in business administration from the University of Maryland.

In the pivotal year of 1965, Bob walked alongside Congressman John

Lewis across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday. This historic march for voting rights left an indelible mark on Bob's soul, shaping his commitment to justice and equality. His participation in the civil rights movement is a testament to his courage and dedication.

For over five decades, Bob Winn has served as a church deacon in the San Fernando Valley. His spiritual leadership has been a source of guidance and support for countless individuals. His commitment to faith has translated into action as he actively serves on numerous committees and commissions, leaving an enduring impact on the communities he has touched.

Bob's vision for a more just society extends beyond the walls of the church. As the president and CEO of the African American Leadership Organization, he has been instrumental in fostering leadership, advocacy, and empowerment within the African-American community.

His tireless efforts have paved the way for progress in the San Fernando Valley, Antelope Valley, and the greater Los Angeles area.

Bob's community involvement spans a multitude of organizations, each reflective of his dedication to justice.

As chair of the board of directors of El Proyecto del Barrio, Bob has played a crucial role in addressing community health and social services.

His leadership on the San Fernando Valley NAACP Executive Board and as chair of the political action committee showcases his commitment to shaping policy for the betterment of all.

He has also contributed to creating safe spaces and opportunities for young children and families to thrive through his role on the San Fernando Boys & Girls Club resources board and the Mission City Community Network—Black Infant Health Program.

Bob's service has also extended to the labor movement, as the former director of community services for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Local 770.

Bob's influence reaches statewide in California, having served on the State's Commission on the Department of Corrections, where he contributed to shaping the policies that impact our criminal justice system.

One of Deacon Bob Winn's most important titles included being a husband and father. He and his wife, Minnie, have been married for more than 40 years and are the parents of six wonderful children.

I honor Deacon Robert Winn, a living legend whose life has been a testament to service and empowerment. His journey from Birmingham to the San Fernando Valley has left an unforgettable mark on the fabric of our Nation, and his legacy will inspire for generations to come.

HONORING JANET LAVENDER

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary individual whose dedication to community

empowerment and career development for youth of color has left a memorable mark on countless lives.

Janet Lavender, a resident of North Hollywood and the founder of the not-for-profit organization Well-Suited, embodies the spirit of service, resilience, and compassion.

In 1997, Ms. Lavender took a bold step by founding Well-Suited, an organization dedicated to providing college and career readiness support to young adults and teens. Her journey reflects a commitment to lifting others, inspired by her own experiences. A veteran, a business administration graduate of the University of Maryland, and a lifelong advocate for justice, Ms. Lavender's story is one of triumph over adversity.

In 2013, she created "Youth with a Passion," a remote curriculum powered by the world's leading learning management system, Canvas. This innovative program enables students to participate in an intensive course that helps them identify careers that are right for them. It provides essential information on educational paths, scholarships, internships, and extra-curricular activities required to pursue their inspirations. Hundreds of students have since enrolled, customizing their college and career paths under Ms. Lavender's guidance.

Janet Lavender's commitment to equity extends beyond education. In 2021, when the enactment of AB 101 made ethnic studies a required course for high school students in California, Ms. Lavender integrated ethnic studies into the Well-Suited curriculum. This reflects her dedication to a holistic approach to education that embraces diversity and inclusion.

Beyond education, Ms. Lavender recognizes the importance of presentation and confidence in professional life. She experienced homelessness in the 1990s and understands the significance of proper attire during job interviews. Her organization not only provides clothing to those transitioning from welfare to work but also offers an opportunity for the public to shop at their store, supporting the organization's mission.

Well-Suited's impact is exemplified by stories like that of Katy Fagen, a Weingart Center resident who found not only clothing but confidence and empowerment through the services provided to her.

I salute Janet Lavender for her exceptional leadership, vision, and unwavering dedication to the well-being and success of the youth in our communities. Her legacy, embodied in the work of Well-Suited, stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, mentorship, community support, and love.

HONORING PATRICIA AUSTIN

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with immense respect and gratitude to honor an outstanding individual whose lifetime of service and activism has been ingrained on the community.

Patricia "Pat" Austin, executive director of the InterCommunity Coun-

cil's Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Center in Pacoima, stands as a testament to the transformative power of dedication, compassion, and community leadership for our seniors.

Pat Austin's journey of service and activism began in the 1960s and 1970s when she emerged as a formidable civil rights and community activist. A trailblazer in the fight against segregation, Pat led a movement to desegregate lunch counters. Her unwavering commitment to justice laid the foundation for a lifetime dedicated to uplifting those around her.

A distinguished scholar, Pat earned her bachelor's degree from Marshall University and pursued additional coursework at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. Armed with education and a profound sense of justice, she dedicated her life to creating positive change.

Currently serving as the executive director of the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Center, Pat Austin has become a beacon of hope for older adults in the northeast San Fernando Valley. Her work at the senior center goes beyond the conventional understanding of a director's role. She provides not only essential services but also a warm and caring environment that fosters a sense of community and belonging.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, when isolation became a formidable challenge for seniors, Pat took extraordinary measures to ensure that no one felt alone. She kept her line open, inviting individuals to call and share their stories, providing a lifeline for emotional support during those trying times. From updates on their lives to stories about monthly observances like Women's History Month, Pat made a difference by being a compassionate ear for all.

At the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Center, Pat Austin's leadership extends far beyond the administrative realm. She is deeply involved in providing emergency food and services for older adults, addressing their immediate needs, and ensuring their well-being.

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Daily meals, transportation, activities, social interaction, and day trips are just a few aspects of the comprehensive support that seniors receive under Pat's compassionate guidance.

Each year the Broadous Senior Center hosts the Annual Intergenerational Cotillion to raise funds for continued programming and activities taking place at the Pacoima center for seniors, in addition to nutritional meal services to emergency support services.

Under Pat's leadership, the cotillion brings in thousands of dollars for vital programs that seniors need and is a night full of dancing, music, and great food.

Pat also plays a crucial role in connecting seniors to local and State resources. She has become a lifeline for

those who may face challenges in accessing essential services, bridging the gap between the community and the resources that can enhance their quality of life.

Pat's legacy is a testament to the impact that one individual can have on a community. Her dedication to the principles of justice, equality, and community service will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

As we honor Pat today, let us recognize not only her achievements but the enduring spirit of compassion that defines her character.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Patricia "Pat" Austin for her decades of selfless service, activism, and leadership. Her contributions to the well-being of our community are immeasurable, and her legacy will continue to inspire us all for many, many years to come.

HONORING MS. CRYSTAL JACKSON

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize a remarkable individual who has made significant contributions to preserving African-American history and enriching our understanding of our shared past.

Crystal Jackson, born and raised in Pacoima, California, has dedicated her life to the telling of stories that often go unheard.

Crystal Jackson is not only an author, filmmaker, and historian, but a trailblazer whose unique stories about an often overlooked but rich cultural African-American history have captivated audiences in the San Fernando Valley and beyond. Her impressive body of work reflects her unwavering commitment to shedding light on the untold stories that have shaped our Nation.

In 2019 Crystal released her critically acclaimed history book, "The Entrance: Pacoima's Story." In over 676 pages, she meticulously traces the 1,500-year history of Pacoima, one of Los Angeles' oldest towns.

Through 5 years of research and countless interviews with current and former residents, Crystal has brought to life the rich tapestry of Pacoima's history, ensuring that the stories of its people are preserved for generations to come.

Beyond her work as an author, Crystal has made significant contributions as a filmmaker. She has written several motion picture screenplays and directed the award-winning film "PacoimaStories: Land of Dreams," which was nominated for best feature documentary at the Pan African Film Festival.

Through her films, Crystal has brought attention to the dreams, struggles, and triumphs of the community she calls home.

In 2022 Crystal released her first biographical fiction book, "Not Colored," a historical novel based on the life of the first woman to work in the LAPD's detective unit who happened to be Black. This work not only explores historical milestones but also challenges

prevailing narratives, offering a fresh perspective on the experiences of underrepresented individuals.

In addition to her creative endeavors, Crystal is a dedicated community leader. She serves on the advisory council for the Getty Conservation Institute and the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Preservation.

Crystal is also a special consultant for the UCLA History and Geography Project, working to incorporate local history into the LAUSD curriculum. She also serves on the board of directors at both the Center for Advanced Learning Charter School and The Museum of the San Fernando Valley.

As the president of the Pacoima Historical Society, Crystal has become a driving force within her community utilizing her extensive social media following to amplify the importance of preserving and celebrating African-American history.

I commend Crystal Jackson for her outstanding contributions to African-American history, her dedication to preserving untold stories, and her unwavering commitment to community service.

Through her words and films, Crystal continues to inspire us all to appreciate the diverse and complex history that shapes our Nation.

NORTH VALLEY BRONCOS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate a momentous achievement in the history of American sports, the remarkable journey of the North Valley Broncos.

The North Valley Broncos were the first all-Black baseball team from the San Fernando Valley to play in the Little League World Series.

In the 1950s, faced with the refusal of the Pacoima Little League to accept their Black boys, four determined fathers took matters into their own hands. They leased a vacant plot of land near Hansen Dam for \$1 a month and formed the North Valley Broncos.

In the early years, they faced many hardships, including old baseball equipment and playing on an uneven field that was infested with gophers. On their away games, the team found themselves sleeping on gymnasium floors while other teams enjoyed more comfortable accommodations. Despite facing incredible circumstances, the boys forged lasting memories as they bonded through late-night pillow fights and midnight kitchen raids.

In 1965, the North Valley Broncos' hard work and determination finally paid off. Led by little sluggers, Rickie Chapron and future USC legend Anthony Davis, they traveled to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where they won two games in the Little League World Series.

The Broncos' success paved the way for future generations, ensuring the door would remain open for those seeking lasting progress and inclusivity.

In 2023, the city of Los Angeles dedicated the intersection of Dronfield Avenue and Osborne Street in Pacoima as

North Valley Little League Team Square. The intersection is across from Hansen Dam Park where the team once practiced.

I thank the North Valley Broncos for their courage, resilience, and groundbreaking achievements. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of those they inspired and across the sports fields of America.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 15, 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-3133. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Joint Safety Council's interim response before submission of annual report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 184(c)(1)(B)(v); Added by Public Law 117-81, div. A, title III, Sec. 372(a); (135 Stat. 1664); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3134. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2023 annual report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5322(a)(2)(N); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 112(a)(2)(N); (124 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3135. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Institutions [Docket No.: OP-1793] 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-3136. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's joint final rule; technical amendment — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds (RIN: 3064-AF98) 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-3137. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program and Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program (RIN: 1840-AD90) 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-3138. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's guidance — FAQs about Affordable Care Act Implementation Part 64 received

January 24, 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-3139. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report titled "National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247b-23(e)(2); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072; FRL-8635-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV52) 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-3141. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — New Source Performance Standards Review for Steel Plants: Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon-Oxygen Decarburization Vessels; Corrections [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0049; FRL-8150.1-03-OAR] 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-3142. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fees for the Administration of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0493; FRL-7911-05-OCSPP] (RIN: 2070-AK64) 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-3143. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval and Operating Permit Program Approval; Connecticut; Revision to Definitions [EPA-R01-OAR-2023-0353; FRL-11161-02-R1] 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-3144. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; California Air Resources Board; Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0479; FRL-11425-03-R9] 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-3145. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — U1-AGTX-Ta1b-QA protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0781; FRL-11563-01-OCSPP] 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-3146. A letter from the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund: A National Broadband Plan for our Future High-Cost Universal Service Support [WC Docket No.: 10-90] 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-3147. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear

Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final safety evaluation — Reactor Internals Aging Management Evaluation For Extended Operations, 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-3148. A letter from the Assistant Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Data Breach Reporting Requirements [WC Docket No.: 22-21] 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-3149. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, 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-3150. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, 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-3151. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 23-9861, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3152. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for Investigative Records [DOI-2023-0008; 234D0104IG; DG10100000, DIG000000.000000] (RIN: 1090-AB27) 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 Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3153. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, 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-3154. A letter from the Director, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employee's Retirement System; Present Value Conversion Factors for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees [Docket ID: OPM-2023-0008] (RIN: 3206-AO55) 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 Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3155. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting a notice of vacancy, designation of acting officer, and 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-3156. A letter from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, OPR, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Inci-

dental to the U.S. Coast Guard's Alaska Facility Maintenance and Repair Activities [Docket No.: 231213-0302] (RIN: 0648-BK57) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3157. A letter from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, OPR, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project Offshore of Virginia [Docket No.: 240104-0001] (RIN: 0648-BL74) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3158. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's guidelines — Merger Guidelines received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3159. A letter from the Chief of Staff and Deputy Bureau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules, Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation 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-3160. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FMC-2024-0002] (RIN: 3072-AC98) 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-3161. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Electronic Filing Administrative Exemptions, Waivers, and Rejections; Obsolete Notice 2010-13 and Modifying Notice 2023-60 [Notice 2024-18] 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3162. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Certain Maryland Prepaid College Trust Distributions Excluded from Gross Income [Notice 2024-23] 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3163. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Guidance on Anti-Abuse Rules Under Section 127 of the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 and Certain Other Issues with Respect to Pension-Linked Emergency Savings Accounts [Notice 2024-22] 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3164. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Corrections to Revenue Procedure 2024-5, Schedule of User Fees in Appendix A [Announcement 2024-7] 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3165. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Update to Minimum Present Value Requirements for Defined Benefit Plan Distributions [TD 9987] (RIN: 1545-BK95) 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3166. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Corporate Bond Yield Curve for Determining Present Value [TD 9986] (RIN: 1545-BQ57) 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3167. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension and Amendment of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Materials of Bulgaria (RIN: 1515-AE88) 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3168. A letter from the Branch Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological Material from China (RIN: 1515-AE87) 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 Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 3162. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Commissioner of Social Security to provide information to States upon request which will enable States to verify the citizenship status of applicants for voter registration in elections for Federal office in the State and remove individuals who are not citizens of the United States from the list of individuals registered to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-389). 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. 1796. A bill to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-390, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committees on Financial Services and Small Business discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1796 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 7345. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to modify the rules with respect to the consideration in the House of Representatives of any resolution providing for an adjournment period of more than three calendar days during the month of July or August until the House of Representatives has approved annual appropriation bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 7346. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7347. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on whether the Secretary will include certain psychedelic drugs in the formulary of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASAR (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 7348. A bill to interconnect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to its neighbors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 7349. A bill to criminalize the intentional obstruction of roadways on the Interstate System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 7350. A bill to support local governments for jurisdictions that elect or appoint a person with a disability in providing the accommodations needed for the elected or appointed official to carry out their official work duties, and to build the capacity of local governments to have consistent and adequate funding for accommodations; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 7351. A bill to allow individuals with disabilities to campaign for elected office without losing access to federally supported benefits; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FROST (for himself, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 7352. A bill to prohibit States from prohibiting or otherwise deterring the usage of any merchant category code established by the International Organization for Standardization, including codes that identify fire-

arm merchants and ammunition merchants; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 7353. A bill to provide temporary war risk insurance for certain commercial vessels operating importing goods to, or exporting goods from, Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 7354. A bill to establish an Interagency Task Force to examine the conditions and experiences of Black women and girls in education, economic development, healthcare, labor and employment, housing, justice and civil rights, to promote community-based methods for mitigating and addressing harm and ensuring accountability, and to study societal effects on Black women and girls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 7355. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to eligible partnerships to establish, expand, or support career and technical education programs of study in early childhood education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LUNA (for herself and Ms. GRENE of Georgia):

H.R. 7356. A bill to require Members of Congress who advocate for providing military support for Ukraine to enlist in the armed forces and to serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 7357. A bill to allow certain funds provided in response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 to be made available for school security measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7358. A bill to provide for a limitation on funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain general licenses issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SARBANES, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 7359. A bill to provide a framework for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Department of Education to coordinate in providing assistance to and serving borrowers seeking to resolve complaints related to their private education or Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 7360. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make fully refundable the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, to increase the maximum amount excludable from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. BICE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BACON, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. MACE, Mr. EZELL, Mr. SELF, Mr. MILLS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 7361. A bill to establish a flower ordering program for gravesites under the purview of the American Battle Monuments Commission; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H. Res. 1011. A resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Federal job guarantee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. ALLRED):

H. Res. 1012. A resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TRONE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. SALINAS):

H. Res. 1013. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of February 2024 as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 7345.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation makes it out of order for the House to adjourn for more than three calendar days during July or August unless all appropriations bills are complete.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 7346.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of congress to make rules for the common defense and general welfare of the United States as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7347.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To Amend Title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on whether the Secretary will include certain psychedelic drugs in the formulary of the Department of Veterans Affairs

By Mr. CASAR:

H.R. 7348.

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

Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To interconnect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to its neighbors, and for other purposes.

By Mr. COLLINS:

H.R. 7349.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Interstate Commerce

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 7350.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reasonable accommodations

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 7351.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disability benefits

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 7352.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit States from prohibiting or otherwise deterring the usage of any merchant category code established by the Inter-

national Organization for Standardization, including codes that identify firearm merchants and ammunition merchants.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 7353.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Legislation to provide temporary war risk insurance for certain commercial vessels operating importing goods to, or exporting goods from, Ukraine.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 7354.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Interagency Task Force to examine the conditions and experiences of Black women and girls

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 7355.

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

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Early Childhood Education/Career and Technical Education

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 7356.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Would require Members of Congress who advocate for sending American troops to Ukraine be required to fight on the front lines with our service members for six months.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 7357.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Allows States to use State and Local Recovery Funds for the purpose of school security measures

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7358.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that the five generous general licenses issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control pursuant to the Houthis' SDGT designation are removed, and that general licenses related to the Houthis issued on or after January 17 must be approved by an Act of Congress.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 7359.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide a framework for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Department of Education to coordinate in providing assistance to and serving borrowers seeking to resolve complaints related to their private education or Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 7360.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts to make both policies more generous and index them to inflation.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 7361.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a flower ordering program for gravesites under the purview of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 148: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 307: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 311: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 336: Mr. ESTES.
H.R. 537: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BURGESS, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 552: Mr. SELF and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 618: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 653: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 654: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 655: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 669: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 713: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 743: Mr. COSTA and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 766: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 770: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 802: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 807: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 841: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 871: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 884: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 903: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 906: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 930: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 977: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 987: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BANKS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1008: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 1078: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1102: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 1190: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 1255: Mrs. DINGELL and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1279: Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 1399: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 1526: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1565: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 1729: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1762: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEMERER.
H.R. 1797: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1815: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 1818: Mr. STEIL and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1831: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2370: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 2532: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 2560: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2620: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 2690: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2706: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2708: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2742: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2743: Mr. HERN.
H.R. 2748: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2803: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2864: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 2871: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 2955: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 3000: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 3037: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3086: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3106: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3127: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3197: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3396: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3413: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3432: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3433: Mr. SORENSSEN and Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 3497: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 3599: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 3611: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 3730: Mr. ZINKE and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 3876: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 3902: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 3916: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3933: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 4010: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 4024: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4148: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 4175: Mr. BUCK and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4217: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 4263: Mr. PETERS and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 4335: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 4342: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 4389: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4613: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4721: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 4756: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4844: Mr. SORENSSEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 4845: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4848: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4858: Ms. BALINT and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4878: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4968: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 5012: Ms. BALINT and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 5030: Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 5140: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 5182: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 5196: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 5256: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 5299: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 5399: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5403: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. LUETKE-MEYER, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 5443: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 5530: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 5623: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 5685: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 5717: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 5903: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 5940: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5995: Mr. NEAL, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 6013: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 6049: Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 6053: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 6094: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 6127: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 6128: Ms. MALOY and Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 6131: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 6173: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6247: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6300: Mr. BURLISON, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 6352: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 6361: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 6371: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6374: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6377: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. PEREZ, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 6415: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6433: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6451: Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 6455: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6470: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6487: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6492: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 6542: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 6579: Mr. SORENSSEN.
H.R. 6592: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 6600: Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 6640: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 6683: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6734: Mr. FITZGERALD and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 6744: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 6745: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 6795: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 6887: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 6951: Mr. MORAN, Mr. JAMES, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEMERER, and Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 7042: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 7049: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 7109: Mrs. BICE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. MANN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FALLON, and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 7127: Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7130: Mrs. BICE and Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 7138: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7158: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 7159: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 7174: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 7185: Mr. YAKYM, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 7198: Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 7209: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 7218: Mr. BACON and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 7227: Mr. EDWARDS and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 7231: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 7232: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 7243: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 7248: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 7251: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 7257: Mr. MRVAN, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 7271: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 7288: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 7296: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 7314: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 7322: Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 7325: Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. TRONE.

H.J. Res. 107: Mrs. BICE.

H.J. Res. 114: Mr. ROY, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. CALVERT.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Con. Res. 90: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H. Res. 561: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H. Res. 901: Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 946: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H. Res. 989: Mr. CASE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 990: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 1003: Mr. BOWMAN and Ms. TOKUDA.

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 MR. JORDAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 7320, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, do not contain any congress-

sional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-10. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Legislature of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 29-37, requesting for the U.S. Congress to appropriate monies for Guam non-military residents who were exposed to Agent Orange and who are suffering from ailments caused by exposure to Agent Orange; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3202, THE ASSAD REGIME ANTI-NORMALIZATION ACT OF 2023

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make clear why I voted in opposition to H.R. 3202—The Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023. By way of background, I have in my district the family of journalist Austin Tice, a former Marine Corps Captain who was captured in Syria in 2012. Since that time this family has been working with me, other members of Congress, multiple presidential administrations, and the Assad regime to secure the release of their son from captivity. Mr. Tice was abducted in Syria by an unknown group while reporting on the conflict as a freelance journalist. While the Assad regime has not claimed responsibility, the State Department has indicated that they believe Tice is being held by the regime or its allies.

My opposition to this legislation stems from the appeal of Austin's family. It is their understanding that saving the life of their son requires engagement with the Assad regime, exactly the kind of engagement that this legislation would prohibit. Let me be absolutely clear, Bashar al-Assad is an illegitimate war criminal who has brutalized the citizens of Syria and caused immeasurable harm. I believe our Nation should take all reasonable steps to stymie the goals of this regime, saving steps that will harm captives like Marine Corps Captain Austin Tice and other U.S. nationals held in Syria.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN MORROW DERBY, PRESIDENT OF MID-VALLEY PUBLICATIONS

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Morrow Derby, a legend of Central Valley journalism who spent 60 years in the newspaper business.

Mr. Derby was the publisher of five local weekly newspapers, including the Merced County Times, the Atwater-Winton Times, the Hilmar Times, the Hughson Chronicle, and the Waterford News. He also served as president of the parent company Mid-Valley Publications.

Mr. Derby was known for coining the local slogan and business mantra, "The Power of Positive Press." He was an avid sailor, a member of the Lake Yosemite Sailing Association, and a longtime member of the Merced Sunrise Rotary Club.

John Derby first came to the Central Valley in the 1950s, studying at Fresno State and serving in the military toward the end of the

Korean conflict. In Korea, he picked up the journalism bug when he pursued an assignment to write about the operations of nine battalions from Seoul to Panmunjom where the peace talks were held.

Mr. Derby would eventually end up in Merced in 1961 after landing a reporting job at the Sun-Star. Over the course of six decades, he started multiple newspapers across the Central Valley. Mr. Derby once wrote, "Life without being a newspaper man is about the most boring thing in the world. The ink really is in my blood . . . I am here to stay and do what I have loved to do all my life—and that is to cover the lives of people in our community in a positive way."

Last Christmas, he wrote a deeply personal message to some of his top staffers: "You are full grown, and capable newspaper people. You have learned all the lessons it took me 60 years to learn and more. Now it is your duty to teach others the art of good honest journalism . . . May your ship of life sail true. May the ocean be wide and the currents be strong. May the winds blow hard. May you sail on, through the fury of those winds, and come out whole."

Throughout his six-decade career in journalism, John Morrow Derby exemplified "The Power of Positive Press" with his devotion to his community and his steadfast dedication to fairness, decency, and truth.

It was an honor to have known him, and upon his passing, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his family and express my deepest sympathies to his beloved Mid-Valley Publications team.

HONORING NATHANIEL PALAIA

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor a bright young man from Ohio's 15th Congressional District.

Nathaniel Palaia, who attends South-Western Career Academy, was recently named a 2024 nominee for the U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholars Program.

This is one of the highest honors in the nation for a high school student. Nathaniel is a dedicated student in the Career Technical Education field and serves as a member of Ohio State University's Eco-Car Electric Vehicle Challenge Team.

He also serves as student council president, president of the Engineering and Robotics Program, team captain of the Autonomous Vehicle Challenge, and has founded a peer mentoring program.

Nathaniel is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and has played varsity football for Grove City High School. He spends his summers volunteering with children with special needs.

He manages to excel at all of these things while earning above a 4.0 GPA and challenging himself in new ways academically.

Nathaniel represents the true Buckeye spirit of Ohio. Among his many accomplishments, it has been made clear that he is also a caring, compassionate, and intelligent individual.

He works hard for what he wants, and I have no doubt this will carry him far in his future career and in life.

I am proud to represent a congressional district where students like Nathaniel give their time and abilities to make it a better place for everyone. It is with great pride that I honor Nathaniel in this great recognition.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY ARNADE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Timothy Arnade for his distinguished career and significant contributions and accomplishments at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

After 41 years of federal service, including 29 years with FHWA, Mr. Arnade retired from FHWA on December 31, 2023. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Arnade began his career serving in the Peace Corps. Throughout his time with FHWA, Mr. Arnade served with distinction and operated at a consistently exceptional level. From July 7, 2008, through his retirement, Mr. Arnade served as Team Leader for Congressional Affairs in FHWA's Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs.

In this capacity, Mr. Arnade led a team that responded to all Congressional requests that came to FHWA. This included thousands of requests for technical assistance on individual pieces of legislation, spanning numerous committees and both authorization and appropriations law. Mr. Arnade also played a pivotal role in numerous Federal-aid Highway Program reauthorizations, including the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21); the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act); and most recently, the transformational Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

Mr. Arnade is a national expert in the areas of transportation safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability. All those who interacted with Mr. Arnade—Congressional and Committee staff, state and local governmental officials, FHWA and U.S. Department of Transportation leadership, and his peers in other modal administrations—readily acknowledge his dedication to the safety and improvement of our nation's infrastructure and the American people who use it. He brought a remarkable ability to communicate in a clear, effective, and timely manner with Member offices and Congressional Committees on complex transportation issues. This ability served him particularly well in times of infrastructure emergencies when responsiveness and communication are most critical.

• 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.

Providing quality customer service is an inherent part of the responsibilities of any congressional and intergovernmental affairs specialist. Mr. Arnade's superior work ethic and professional drive to deliver high-quality, on-time service to Congress and others was exemplary among his peers. Mr. Arnade is well known among his colleagues for his availability, responsiveness and dedication, routinely working beyond traditional work hours to respond to Congressional inquiries. These efforts contributed to the development of high-quality legislative solutions and reinforced FHWA's reputation for providing exceptional technical assistance to Capitol Hill.

Mr. Arnade exemplifies the highest standards of public service and embodies FHWA's spirit of professionalism and customer service. Over the years, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, other congressional committees, Members of Congress, and their staff have relied on Mr. Arnade's legislative and highway policy expertise, quick and helpful responses, and cheerful demeanor. Mr. Arnade's colleagues at USDOT and FHWA depended on his tireless efforts and his never-wilted spirit. Mr. Arnade will be missed at FHWA. However, his legacy will live on in the customers he served, the staff he mentored and trained, and the colleagues he influenced.

On behalf of the Committee, my colleagues, and our staff, I thank Mr. Arnade for his steadfast public service and his support for Congress and extend our well wishes to Mr. Arnade on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BOB WORTH

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate outgoing Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) President Bob Worth.

Bob has served more than two decades with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association in various roles: beginning as a volunteer, treasurer, secretary and lastly as president. MSGA is our nation's longest-running state soybean association, and Bob is the only Minnesota farmer to have served multiple, two-year terms as president. Bob also has worked on his father's corn and soybean farm in southwest Minnesota for more than 50 years with his wife Gail, their son Jon and Jon's family.

I'm thankful for our strong working relationship during his time with MSGA. During his tenure, Bob has become a national spokesperson for rural mental health awareness; in this role, he's bravely shared his story and encouraged his fellow rural residents to rally around each other. Bob is also a strong advocate and leader in expanding and protecting renewable biofuels. Thanks to the hard work from leaders like Bob, Minnesota became the first state to require biodiesel in our diesel fuel blends when Bob first served as MSGA president.

In Congress, I am proud to be a co-chair of the bipartisan House Biofuels Caucus and a strong advocate for renewable biofuels. In par-

ticular, I have urged the FDA to consider how biofuels can address climate change and improve emissions factors. Homegrown biofuels are tools we have at our fingertips right now to help address climate change, thanks to leaders like Bob.

I'm grateful for our partnership, and I wish Bob and his family the best in his next chapter.

COMMEMORATING THE SWEARING-IN OF JILL DUTTON

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the swearing-in of Jill Dutton as State Representative for Texas' 2nd House District. Mrs. Dutton is a strong conservative, entrepreneur, and devoted to the people of Van Zandt County. I am confident she will be a determined and effective representative for her constituents.

Mrs. Dutton embodies Texas' highest values. She is a former school board member with Van ISD where she fought for parents and students. When a tornado struck her town, she worked to rebuild the schools and develop a new Career & Technology Center that now prepares students for careers after graduation. She has dedicated herself to serving the people of Van Zandt County and I look forward to what she will accomplish for the people of Texas.

I am proud to represent Van Zandt County and am confident that she will diligently serve them in the Texas Legislature. I wish her and her family the very best as she begins her term.

HONORING DR. SANDRA ORTEGA

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service and incredible accomplishments of Dr. Sandra Ortega, a United States Air Force Veteran and retired Chief Master Sergeant. She was the first African-American woman to join the Air Force in 1958.

Under the direct commission of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Dr. Ortega dedicated her military career and life after serving to improving the lives of countless military families and communities. It was in the Air Force where she challenged and broke down racial and gender stereotypes and barriers. During her service, Dr. Ortega worked as the Chief of Social Actions where she implemented programs to help servicemembers and their families remain as constructive members of their military community and educate them on drug and alcohol addiction prevention. Her service has had ripple effects across New Jersey and the Nation.

Not only did Dr. Ortega dedicate her life to serving our country, she has worked to improve the lives of communities around the world. She worked to improve education and

health infrastructures across Africa, rebuild and stabilize communities in the former Soviet Union after its dissolution, and other emergency management and relief efforts in disaster-stricken communities.

Dr. Ortega earned a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Morgan State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from La Salle University. Today, she spreads her love for, and the importance of, education through her role as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The scope of Dr. Ortega's work has touched so many lives, including some in my home of Burlington County. A resident of Marlton, she has been elected three times as the Democratic Committeewoman representing Evesham Township, New Jersey in the Burlington County Democratic Committee.

Dr. Ortega not only excelled at serving her country and community, but she is a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was married to her late husband, Julio Ortega, for over 60 years and has four daughters and nine grandchildren.

While many community members locally know Dr. Sandra Ortega and her positive impact in our community, today I'm proud to honor her tenure as a public servant and veteran of the United States Air Force. We are lucky to have her inspiration in our community.

BOYLE COUNTY FOOTBALL—STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and recognize the Boyle County Rebels, a football powerhouse, in the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky upon their recent winning of the state championship.

I am honored to recognize the Boyle County Rebels on their fourth consecutive state championship. The hours of hard work that this team puts in both on and off the field does not go unnoticed as they ended their undefeated season as champions.

I want to congratulate all the players, staff, faculty, and the entire community of Boyle County on this great achievement. This football program has had historic success, and I have no doubt they will continue their winning traditions in the future.

I join with the community of Boyle County in celebrating the Rebels football team in their fourth consecutive 4A state championship.

HONORING MSU MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH TOM IZZO FOR HIS 700 WINS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a legendary member of the Michigan State University community: head coach of the men's basketball team, Tom Izzo. Now in his

29th year as head coach and his 41st overall year with the team, Coach Izzo recently added another accomplishment to his already impressive resume with his 700th career win, all of them with the Spartans. It was quite a present for Izzo to reach this milestone on his 69th birthday, however his dedication to the Spartans, to the MSU community, and to his home state of Michigan is the gift he continues to offer to us all.

Growing up in Iron Mountain in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, young Tom Izzo dominated his high school football, track, and basketball teams. He didn't know it at the time, but his decision to focus on basketball at Northern Michigan University not only changed his life, but changed the course of the history of the sport. A tireless worker from the very beginning, it's no surprise that Tom Izzo went on to be named an All-American and established the Wildcat record for most minutes played in a season.

Northern Michigan University is also where Izzo began his collegiate coaching journey, serving as an assistant until a position opened up at Michigan State University. There, he worked under legendary coach Jud Heathcote until his retirement, and in 1994 was officially named head coach of the Spartans.

His incredible statistics could fill volumes: Izzo led his team to the 2000 NCAA National Championship, 10 regular-season Big Ten Championships, six Big Ten Tournament titles, eight Final Four appearances, eight National Coach of the Year awards and a Big Ten-record 25 straight NCAA Tournament appearances. When the Spartans were selected for the 2023 NCAA Tournament, Izzo became the first men's basketball head coach in history to lead his team to 25 consecutive appearances. He is MSU's all-time winningest coach, with his accomplishments enshrined in both the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. And now, he joins an elite group of fewer than 40 Division 1 coaches to achieve 700 career wins.

So beloved by students is Tom Izzo that students must camp out to join the highly coveted "Izzzone" section of the Breslin Center, resulting in a sea of green and white tents and a 24-hour revival-style demonstration of sup-

port and love for the section's namesake. And when tragedy struck campus one year ago and a gunman claimed the lives of three students and injured several others, it was Izzo's voice the community turned to in the hours and days after the shooting. At a campus-wide vigil, he encouraged each and every Spartan to confront fear and to stand together. "We need each other," he told us. "For 40 years I've always believed that at Michigan State, we are at our own strongest when we are together."

That night, Tom Izzo described himself as "just a basketball coach." But he is so much more. A true leader and teacher, Coach Tom Izzo has brought so much more than hundreds of basketball wins to Michigan State University; he has brought stability, unity, and healing. Tom Izzo personifies the characteristics of the ancient Spartans, who were known for being prepared, methodical, jovial, loyal, and courageous. His heart beats to the tune of "Victory for MSU" and his blood runs pure Green and White. With abiding gratitude, it is my honor to recognize his service here, in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE INCREDIBLE
SERVICE OF RAYMOND TREMBLAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible milestone reached by Raymond Tremblay of Vernon, Connecticut, who turns 100 years old on February 14, 2024. Raymond is the epitome of a patriotic, service-oriented American and continues to live a full life.

Born on February 14, 1924, to Yvonne and Emile Tremblay in Berlin, New Hampshire, Raymond has been a devoted American, dedicating his life and work to bettering our country.

Raymond's life trajectory changed with our Nation's entry into the Second World War following the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1943, he heeded the call of his Nation to serve the United States in World War II. Raymond was

drafted into the Infantry and sent to train in North Carolina. There he spent time honing his skills, preparing to be deployed at a moment's notice. The Army Air Force, during a visit to the base for recruitment of new airmen and engineers, recognized Raymond's talent and commitment to the war effort and immediately approved his transfer to that branch of the service.

Now newly baptized as an airman, Raymond traveled to Texas to train as a flight engineer on a B-17 aircraft. His attention to detail and devotion to his obligations led to a promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Although never sent to fight in the European or Pacific theaters, Raymond was always ready to go wherever he was needed, a symbol of his devotion to his country.

After his service in the Air Force, Raymond used his newly acquired aviation knowledge to contribute to a leading company in the aerospace industry. After the war concluded and he was discharged, Raymond returned home to Connecticut and found employment within the experimental and testing division at Pratt and Whitney where he could continue to support its mission with his skills and passion for working with aircraft. Pratt and Whitney Aircraft was instrumental in developing jet engines in the Cold War era that made a decisive difference in protecting our allies and the U.S. homeland. Until his retirement in 1982, Raymond was a part of that effort which our Nation should never forget.

During this time at Pratt and Whitney, Raymond also married his hometown sweetheart and the love of his life, Lillian. Together they moved to Vernon, Connecticut in 1957. In Vernon, Raymond fulfilled his life-long dream of settling down and owning his own home, a place he and his wife raised their family in and lived for over 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in wishing Raymond a happy 100th birthday and recognizing him as the outstanding citizen he has distinguished himself as. I consider myself fortunate to represent constituents of such quality as Raymond. It is my honor to cement the incredible and continuing story of Raymond Tremblay. We wish Raymond a joyous birthday and many more years of happiness.

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: 17 public bills, H.R. 7345–7361; and 3 H. Res. 1011–1013, were introduced. **Pages H637–38**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H639**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 3162, (H. Rept. 118–389); and H.R. 1796, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–390, Part 1). **Page H637**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Greene (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H585**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H594**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m. **Page H610**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel: H. Res. 966, condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 418 yeas with none voting “nay” and one answering “present”, Roll No. 44. **Pages H612–16**

Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 1009, providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, by a recorded vote of 212 yeas

to 208 noes, Roll No. 46, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 212 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 45. **Pages H603–10, H616–17**

SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act and Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration—Rule for Consideration: The House failed to agree to H. Res. 994, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, by a recorded vote of 195 yeas to 225 noes, Roll No. 48, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 213 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 47. **Pages H595–H603, H617–18**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, February 13th.

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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 389 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 49. **Pages H618–19**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Strengthening the Quad Act: H.R. 5375, amended, to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

Pages H610–12

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Gomez wherein he resigned from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

Page H626

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H615, H616, H616–17, H617–18, H618, and H618–19.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY FROM THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. VILSACK, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE’S BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Congressional Budget Office’s Budget and Economic Outlook”. Testimony was heard from Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Wage and Hour Division”. Testimony was heard from Jessica Looman, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POWERED UP: STATE UTILITY REGULATORS ON CHALLENGES TO RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “Powered Up: State Utility Regulators on Challenges to Reliable, Affordable Electricity”. Testimony was heard from Keith Hay, Senior Director of Policy, Colorado Energy Office; Jim Huston, Chairman, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Nick Myers, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission; and Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK AND THE OFFICE OF TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)”. Testimony was heard from Brian E. Nelson, Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of the Treasury; and Andrea Gacki, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury.

AUKUS IMPLEMENTATION AND CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “AUKUS Implementation and Challenges to International Security and Arms Control in the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from Bonnie D. Jenkins, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State.

IRAN’S PROXY IN YEMEN: THE HOUTHI THREAT TO MIDDLE EAST STABILITY, GLOBAL SHIPPING, AND U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a hearing entitled “Iran’s Proxy in Yemen: The Houthi Threat to Middle East Stability, Global Shipping, and U.S. Servicemembers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM IN NIGERIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa held a hearing entitled “The Future of Freedom in Nigeria”. Testimony was heard from Frank Wolf, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4486, the “Hiring Preference for Veterans and Americans with Disabilities Act”; H.R. 7319, the “End Zuckerbucks Act of 2024”; and H.R. 7321, the “Electronic Filing of Electioneering Communication Reports Act”. H.R. 4486 and H.R. 7319 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 7321 was ordered reported, without amendment.

OVERSIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States Marshals Service”. Testimony was heard from Ronald L. Davis, Director, U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Justice.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a 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”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duarte, Stauber, Soto, and Fischbach; Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

REFORMING INTELLIGENCE AND SECURING AMERICA ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee began a hearing on H.R. 7320, the “Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Jordan and Representative Nadler.

ISS AND BEYOND: THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN LOW-EARTH ORBIT ACTIVITIES

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”. Testimony was heard from Kenneth Bowersox, Associate Administrator, Space Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Robert J. Ferl, Co-Chair, Committee on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025. The Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025 passed.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EPA REGULATIONS ON MAIN STREET

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Impact of EPA Regulations on Main Street”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VA’S HR OFFICE: DID LEADERS IGNORE AND PERPETRATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “VA’s HR Office: Did Leaders Ignore and Perpetrate Sexual Harassment?”. Testimony was heard from Denis McDonough, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; Cassandra Law, Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses. Part of this hearing was closed.

IS VA ILLEGALLY SPENDING TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN ITS COMPENSATION AND PENSION PROGRAMS?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “Is VA Illegally Spending Taxpayer Dollars in its Compensation and Pension Programs?”. Testimony was heard from Ronald S. Burke, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lasheeco Graham, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Financial Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Brent E. Arronte, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Outpacing China: Expediting the Fielding of Innovation”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Protecting American Savers and Retirees from DOL’s Regulatory Overreach”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Securing Communications Networks from Foreign Adversaries”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Safeguarding American Prosperity and People’s Livelihoods: Legislation to Modernize Air Quality Standards”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Lender of Last Resort: Issues with the Fed Discount Window and Emergency Lending”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Crypto Crime in Context Part II: Examining Approaches to Combat Illicit Activity”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Behind the Scenes: How the Biden Administration Failed to Enforce the Doha Agreement”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Examining Fire Hazards: Lithium-Ion Batteries and Other Threats to Fire Safety”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee markup on H.R. 4848, the “Censorship Accountability Act”; H.R. 2595, the “Forfeiture Funds Expenditure Transparency Act”; H.R. 6824, the “NICS Data Reporting Act”; H.R. 7335, the “Transparency in National Security Threats Act”; H.R. 7322, the “Standing Up to the Executive branch for Immigration Enforcement Act”; H.R. 7343, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act”; H.R. 7334, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Commit Robbery Act”; H.R. 7326, 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; H.R. 7324, to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; H.R. 7341, to make technical amendments to title 49, United States

Code, as necessary to improve the Code; H.R. 7339, 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; and H.R. 7316, to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Economic Diversification to Create Prosperous Tribal Economies”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Bidenomics and Land Management: The Misguided National Strategy to Develop Environmental Economic Decisions”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 1”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “The Consequences of Catch and Release at the Border”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Federal Science Agency Actions to Secure the U.S. Science and Technology Enterprise”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, hearing entitled “Leveling the Playing Field: Challenges Facing Small Business Contracting”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Implementation of Buy America Provisions: Stakeholder Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “Electronic Health Record Modernization Deep Dive: Can the Oracle Pharmacy Software Be Made Safe and Effective?”, 8 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence at VA: Exploring its Current State and Future Possibilities”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Sink or Swim? A Deep Dive into the Current State of VA’s Home Loan Program in a Competitive Market”, 1:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Daniel Werfel”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
3:30 p.m., Friday, February 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Thursday, February 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 7176—Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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