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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 6, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL 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.

CELEBRATING CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK WOMEN

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and specifically in celebration of the Black women who have shaped the fabric of our Nation, often without much acknowledgment or praise.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, I am deeply committed to correcting these

historical injustices and ensuring that Black women and girls are given the recognition and the resources that they deserve. Black women and girls deserve every possible chance to thrive in school, at work, and in all phases of life.

For centuries, Black women have been the hidden figures, the unsung heroes who have steered our Nation through social revolutions, critical periods of growth, and eras of innovation. From the civil rights movement to the labor movement, Black women have time and time again pushed the needle of progress forward.

I acknowledge two exemplary trailblazers who I often credit as inspiration for my own work to build a better world.

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress and the first woman to run for the Presidency, embodied the spirit of courage and resilience.

She was truly "unbought and unbossed." She fought back against racism and sexism and never listened when someone told her that she couldn't achieve her dreams. She was a beacon of hope for those of us with an unwavering commitment to justice.

Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first southern Black woman elected to the United States House of Representatives, made history in countless ways.

She brought the issues of her communities to the forefront and ensured that Congress invested in Black women. She rose above partisanship and spoke truth in the Halls of power.

Today as I speak in this Chamber, I stand on their shoulders, but let us not forget, whether in the Halls of Congress, academia, the corporate world, or, in my case, my entrepreneurial grandmother and my activist mother, there are many shoulders that we can stand on.

Women's History Month serves as a poignant reminder that the contributions of Black women must be amplified and celebrated, ensuring their rightful place in the annals of our Nation's history.

CONSEQUENCES OF OPEN BORDER POLICIES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, a British container ship was sunk by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in the Gulf of Aden.

This attack is yet another example of how, under President Biden's weak and ineffective leadership, our adversaries have been emboldened and our allies left vulnerable.

Last year, President Biden agreed to release more than \$6 billion to Iran, effectively providing more funds and resources to the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. This is unacceptable. It shows that, yet again, President Biden is unwilling and unable to provide the leadership that Americans want and that Americans need.

When U.S. ships were threatened with sustained rocket attacks, the Biden administration waited weeks to respond, only further emboldening these terrorist groups to continue their aggression.

It is time to return to leadership that embodies President Ronald Reagan's call of peace through strength. The American people simply cannot afford a President that fails to keep America safe.

CONFRONTING A GROWING BORDER THREAT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union speech tomorrow night, President Biden will be forced to confront the growing threat posed by an open and porous southern border.

□ 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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In the month of January, more than 176,000 illegal immigrants attempted to enter the United States. That was on the heels of the month of December when more than 300,000 illegal immigrants again crossed the southern border.

Because of the open border policies championed by President Biden and enacted by Secretary Mayorkas, these illegal immigrants were bused to our major cities. The consequences of this decision have been felt in nearly every community in the United States.

Schools have been converted into shelters for illegal immigrants. In places like New York City and Denver, government services have been scaled back, and city employees, like librarians, have seen their hours cut in order to provide handouts to people who are in the United States illegally.

At a time when more than 300 suspected terrorists have attempted to enter the U.S., President Biden has thrown open our gates and encouraged this crisis to continue.

Ending catch and release, giving our Border Patrol agents the tools and resources that they need, and resuming construction of the border wall are vital to keeping our Nation safe.

It is time for President Biden to reverse his disastrous border policies and put a stop to this crisis.

CELEBRATING VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this week heralds Virgin Islands History Month. It is the beginning of a monthlong celebration in the Virgin Islands of our history.

My being on the House floor as a representative, representing my people of the Virgin Islands, is the culmination of generations of people's work. My presence here is built upon the indomitable spirit of Virgin Islanders whose legacies are woven into the very fabric of our culture—marked by their bravery, visionary leadership, and profound sacrifice.

Our homeland is a mosaic of rich cultures and a history as diverse as its people, a history that is not just defined by the actions of a select few but a legacy that elevates the collective greatness of all Virgin Islanders. Above all, we are about self-determination that has been a chronicle of epic feats.

As early as 2200 B.C., the Virgin Islands was originally settled by pre-Columbian indigenous groups. In 1493, we had the first instance of self-determination on our island as Columbus' expedition encountered strong resistance from a Carib war party at Salt River Bay on the island of St. Croix, preventing his men from establishing a foothold.

Over the next 200 years, control of the islands shifted among various Eu-

ropean nations. The Caribs fought colonization, launching relentless raids until they were completely eradicated by 1590.

This enduring resistance is a hallmark of our ancestral legacy. During 1733, the enslaved also uprose on the island of St. John.

The Akwamu kings and Queen Breffu of present-day Ghana galvanized enslaved people on St. John to seize control of the island for over 6 months in their pursuit of self-liberation. This valiant act of defiance forced Danish authorities to call the Spanish Armada and the French fleet to quell the rebellion and reassert control.

This weekend, we celebrated their decision to commit collective suicide rather than go back into slavery. The burning desire for freedom and the belief that such should be a birthright, no matter the fabricated classification of their oppressors, was not lost in the passing of time.

On the island of St. Croix in 1848, enslaved individuals initiated an armed insurrection that ultimately led to their emancipation. This act of strategic ingenuity positioned the Virgin Islands as one of only two instances in the Western Hemisphere where enslaved people successfully fought for and gained their freedom through an organized revolt.

Although Virgin Islanders obtained liberation, they soon discovered that their emancipation and equality were not synonymous.

In 1878, in a revolt over labor laws, which left them pretty much as enslaved peoples living on plantations, a rebellion was led by what we call Queens Mary, Matilda, Agnes, and Susannah.

Even though the movement resulted in bloodshed, their deaths were not in vain. Their struggles and sacrifices for improved working conditions served as a foundational influence on the 1892 Coal Workers' Strike spearheaded by Queen Coziah. This was a pivotal source of inspiration to stand against oppression and fight for greater opportunities.

We continue to fight in the Virgin Islands, and although we still face hardships such as our continued battle to attain the fundamental and constitutional rights denied by the Insular Cases, rights that are given to all Americans except those who live in territories, we are in an era that will be a catalyst to spur on the next revolution.

To stop now, even for a moment, would be sacrilege to the countless sacrifices and bloodshed of our ancestors. We must not take for granted the gifts that they have given us through their bloodshed. We must fight on for full equality, self-determination, and our own liberation.

BORDER CRISIS IS TOP ISSUE

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, this Chamber will host President Biden as he delivers his third State of the Union Address.

He will likely tout his anti-energy agenda and out-of-control government spending that has resulted in crippling inflation not seen in decades, not seen since I was a senior in high school.

He will also attempt to blame congressional Republicans for his own failure to secure our borders, which, as most Americans know, is a crisis caused by this President.

In a rare recent visit to the border in Brownsville, Texas, President Biden expressed a dire need for Republicans to "show a little spine" and pass legislation.

Some of the folks living in that border town saw straight through the visit. One resident put it best. "By a stroke of the pen," he said, "you could stop this. You don't need Congress." Others called the visit too little, too late. I couldn't agree more.

This isn't just an important issue for the folks living along the border. In fact, this issue is the number one issue facing the country.

It is an issue in my home State, where 50 Tennessee National Guard soldiers volunteered recently to deploy to the southern border to help Border Patrol officials combat drug, crime, and human trafficking.

Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State because of its deep tradition of volunteer military service, a nickname that comes with a lot of pride. It is just unfortunate that 50 men and women are having to do what the President could do—but won't—and work to secure the border.

This is a self-inflicted crisis that has turned every State, including my own State of Tennessee, into a border State.

The President halted border wall construction and ended the successful remain in Mexico program. Since taking office, he has also admitted more than 1 million illegal immigrants into the country in a blatant abuse of the executive parole authority that Congress had granted to the executive branch.

Despite having no way of tracking many of these people, the Biden administration continues this historic catch and release scheme.

□ 1015

It sends a message to the rest of the world that our borders are open. None of these disastrous policies require an act of Congress, just as reversing them won't require new legislation.

There have been more than 8.7 million illegal border crossings nationwide under President Biden, more than 7.2 million crossings at the southern border alone. That is greater than the population of 36 States in our Nation.

More than 20,000 Communist Chinese nationals have illegally crossed the southern border just since October 1 of last year. They make up the fastest growing demographic entering our

country illegally. You don't need a spy balloon if you can just walk right into the country.

For 35 months in a row under this administration, the number of illegal immigrants encountered at our southern border was higher than the worst month under the previous President, President Trump. We are on track to break more records this fiscal year, as CBP has already reported more than 1 million encounters.

I would argue we no longer have a border crisis in this country, Mr. Speaker, we have a border catastrophe.

OPPENHEIMER'S UNTOLD STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Oppenheimer is expected to win multiple Oscars.

In the film, we watched the pain and guilt in J.R. Oppenheimer's face when he heard what the atomic bomb did to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

What the film didn't show—and the story that remains untold—is how thousands of New Mexican families were exposed to harmful amounts of radiation.

We didn't see how radioactive ash rained down on children, families, and farms from that first atomic bomb tested in New Mexico.

We didn't see the tears and pain as those families saw their loved ones die of cancers and rare diseases tied to radiation exposure.

So I present this film one more award: the award for the most incomplete story—for the missing, the countless American lives lost as a result of the Trinity test.

Congress can write a better ending to this story. A bipartisan coalition of Senators and Representatives have amendments to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which would finally compensate New Mexico downwinders and uranium workers, as well as workers in Missouri, Alaska, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and downwinders in other States who were left out of that original Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

Earlier this year, these amendments were included in the NDAA as passed by the Senate. Sadly, Republican leadership for some inexplicable reason stripped these amendments from the final NDAA.

But today, soon, Congress can write a happier ending. We can now include it in our future funding bills.

Let's write an ending that honors those who sacrificed everything for our national security. Congress can do it. I call on my colleagues to join this bipartisan effort for justice.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we begin Women's History Month, we must remember something historic that has happened to women and to women's freedoms.

For 50 years, women enjoyed limited but certain reproductive freedoms. A Trump-packed Supreme Court overturned that history, overturned Roe v. Wade, and all of a sudden history, a sad history was made when for the first time in history women lost an essential right.

We are going back to a very sad time when women cannot make decisions about how and when and if to have a family without governmental interference.

We are going back to a sad time in history when women who were suffering complications from pregnancy, who were suffering miscarriages, cannot get healthcare, but instead, get handcuffs.

We are suffering a sad time in history when IVF is now prohibited in places like Alabama; and let us remind everybody, almost 200 Republicans in this very Chamber have voted for, have co-sponsored legislation which mirrors the Alabama law, which prohibits IVF.

As we begin Women's History Month, let's not turn back the clock on women's progress.

CONGRATULATING BRUCE REDMOND

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bruce Redmond on becoming the 2024 Georgia Farmer of the Year.

Bruce owns Shiloh Farms, which is a 2,800-acre farm located in Effingham County consisting of wet and drylands.

Larry Redmond passed down the art of farming to his son, instilling in him the essential skills and values needed to cultivate the land.

Bruce is a very successful farmer, having been named the Young Farmer of the Year for Effingham County, Georgia Outstanding Young Farmer, and Effingham County Friend of 4-H.

Shiloh Farms is one of the three certified TifQuik growers in the world and the largest producer of Bahia grass seed in the southeast.

The University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension named Bruce as Farmer of the Year because of his cooperation with conservation research initiatives and dedication to sustainable farming.

He will represent Georgia in competing for Southeastern Farmer of the Year in October.

I wish Bruce luck, and I thank Bruce for his dedication to Georgia agriculture.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOY POVEC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Joy Povec.

Joy grew up in Savannah, Georgia, where she graduated from Robert W. Groves High School and went on to earn a degree from Draughon Business College.

Joy and her husband, Michael, lived in many different States during which Joy held a variety of positions.

After working in real estate, Joy went on to work for Lockheed Martin as a technical writer during the Space Shuttle program.

Joy was also an active member of her community. She was a dedicated member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Chatham County Republican Party, and the Froebel Circle.

In 2009, Joy was honored with the J.C. Lewis Outstanding Republican of the Year Award by Chatham County.

Joy also served as a delegate to many local and State Republican conventions, and she was proud to attend the second inauguration of George W. Bush.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her husband of 55 years, her children, grandchildren, and all else who loved her.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FORBES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Forbes for being designated as the grand marshal for the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah.

For his service and community involvement, the Savannah community is proud to extend Forbes the opportunity to serve as the face of this St. Patrick's Day Parade on its 200th anniversary.

Forbes is continuing a family legacy by serving in the St. Patrick's Day ceremony. His father, John J. Forbes, Jr., was the St. Patrick's Day committee chairman in the early 1990s and was selected as grand marshal for the 1998 celebration.

Following the example set by his father, Forbes became involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in the 1980s and was subsequently named the general chairman for the committee in 2007.

Though filled with fun activities, the parade has a deeper meaning for Forbes. The holiday is one of remembrance and fellowship as locals and visitors gather to reflect on the area's Irish ancestry.

Forbes is a true community man, embodying the current celebration and preserving the meaning and purpose of its history.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John.

CONGRATULATING MARK HENDRIX

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Hendrix for recently being named Superior Court Judge for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

Established by the Georgia General Assembly, the six-county circuit covers Liberty, Long, Bryan, Evans, McIntosh, and Tattnall Counties.

Hendrix received a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1995. In the years prior, he earned his juris doctor from Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law in 1999.

His past work and experience illustrate that he is a valuable addition to the judicial system. Along with starting his private practice, Hendrix has served as solicitor general for Liberty County, Long County, and Richmond Hill.

He also served for nearly a decade as an assistant district attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

Hendrix's acceptance for the nomination demonstrates his commitment to the legal field where he has already amassed an impressive 23 years of experience.

I thank Mr. Hendrix for working to serve his community, and I look forward to witnessing his future success.

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inclusion of Community Project Funding in the bipartisan appropriations package that Congress will vote on this week.

The appropriations process known as Community Project Funding is what I consider to be good government working for the people. It is a process that takes our Federal tax dollars and puts them directly back into our communities.

Since serving in Congress, it has been my mission to bring Federal dollars home to my constituency. The Community Project Funding process has allowed me to do that successfully.

Over the past 2 years, I secured a total of \$44 million for 25 projects in the Sixth District of North Carolina.

That funding supported projects like one-on-one tutoring in public schools, first responder system upgrades, the building of greenways, childcare expansion, small business incubators, and much more.

For this fiscal year, I submitted 15 projects for consideration. I am very excited to announce that I secured funding for all 15 projects—a total of \$15 million for the Sixth District.

I am proud to say that every corner of the Sixth District is included with initiatives in Guilford, Forsyth, Caswell, and Rockingham Counties.

These investments will boost economic development, improve public safety, create workforce training programs, support local farmers, complete infrastructure programs, and improve affordable housing options.

I will take a moment to highlight just a few of the initiatives that will be receiving funding once this package is signed into law.

Guilford County schools will receive \$850,000 for a workforce development program to prepare workers for advanced manufacturing jobs related to electric vehicles.

Advanced manufacturing training is particularly important in my community where we have a Toyota electric vehicle battery plant and other electric vehicle manufacturers bringing good-paying jobs to the area.

This program will help local students build the necessary skills to take on these jobs after high school graduation.

Rockingham Community College will receive Federal funding to create an

advanced manufacturing training facility on campus.

In Gibsonville, the fire department will receive funding to purchase a new ladder fire truck.

The city of Winston-Salem will be able to expand their Behavioral Evaluation and Response Team, a rapid response program for mental health and substance abuse 911 calls.

These projects are prime examples of how government can work directly for the American people.

I thank our Democratic leaders HAKEEM JEFFRIES and ranking member ROSA DELAURO for fighting to make sure these Community Funding Projects are included in the appropriations package.

I am looking forward to voting for the appropriations package this week, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in the House and the Senate, to join me in voting for this package to get it quickly to President Biden's desk.

□ 1030

HONORING HENRY SIENKIEWICZ

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor World War II veteran Mr. Henry Sienkiewicz of Syracuse, New York. Mr. Sienkiewicz is the son of Polish immigrants and has lived his entire life in his hometown of Syracuse.

Mr. Sienkiewicz served his country as a bombardier on a B-17, named "The Saint," in Europe during World War II. He completed 35 brave missions with the 384th Bombardment Group of the 545th Squadron.

On one such mission, on July 19, 1944, the crew was targeting a hydrogen peroxide and chemical works plant in Munich, Germany. Mr. Sienkiewicz recalls shells hitting the B-17 from every which way. He recalls how several of his fellow crew members were wounded, including the navigator, and how he helped save the lives of everyone on the plane when he stepped in and navigated them all back to safety. When faced with danger, Mr. Sienkiewicz did not cower in fear but rather did what needed to be done to keep fighting.

Upon his return from the war, Mr. Sienkiewicz still felt the call to serve and did so for 30 years as a captain of the Syracuse Fire Department. During his time at the fire department, Mr. Sienkiewicz was known for his bravery and leadership and was even awarded a medal for saving a man from the second story of a burning home. While it wasn't easy work, Mr. Sienkiewicz felt rewarded by the opportunity to help his fellow neighbors and ensure the safety of his community.

Even with all this, Mr. Sienkiewicz still wanted to do more. For over 50 years, he sold poppy flowers outside of

supermarkets to raise money to help support his fellow veterans and their families with medical and financial needs, remembering that:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row . . .
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high . . .
We shall not sleep though poppies grow in
Flanders fields.

That poem really touches on his acts of service. Mr. Sienkiewicz dedicated his life in an inspiring way, and we can all learn something from his story. I commend him for his brave and selfless service to our great Nation, his community, and to his fellow veterans. It is a privilege to recognize him today, and I wish him many more joyful years.

HONORING COLLEEN POBUR

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine a spotlight on a truly extraordinary woman, my good friend and amazing district chief of staff, Colleen Pobur. Today is Colleen's birthday, and I am delighted to recognize her on this special occasion. Colleen is not only a leader in my office, but she is a leader in Oakland County, Michigan, and throughout the metro Detroit region.

As a lifelong Michiganiaan, Colleen is a proud, if not the proudest, graduate of the University of Michigan. She graduated with a degree in French and obtained the ability to speak the language fluently.

Of course, she has an undying passion for Michigan football. Whether in the stadium or in her living room, she can be found avidly cheering on the Wolverines during every single game and, of course, adorning her U of M paraphernalia. Suffice to say, last fall was a pretty good one for Colleen when the U of M Wolverines were the undefeated champions.

Since graduating, in reality, if not in spirit, Colleen has spent her extraordinary career making life better for the people of Michigan. Colleen's contributions as a businesswoman and a public servant are truly too numerous to count, but here are just a few.

If you have ever flown through the Detroit airport and gotten something to eat, that is thanks to Colleen, who developed the award-winning buffet of concession options at DTW.

If you have ever had a beer in Michigan, that is thanks to Colleen. She kept bars open and legally serving after being appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Of course, if you are a constituent in Michigan's 11th District and have ever had a Federal Government case solved, well, that is thanks to Colleen, who oversees our exceptional casework program and has helped the team return thousands of dollars to Michiganders'

pockets. Yes, she even regularly picks up the phone in our office to engage and talk with constituents directly. No task is too big or too small for Colleen.

Colleen has also worked in the private sector where she served as vice president of strategic public affairs and as director of the new product launch strategies for the Compuware Corporation, as well as the director of external relations and economic development for Ameritech Michigan.

Colleen has also worked tirelessly to represent her community as a member of the Plymouth City Commission for over a decade, in addition to chairing the Plymouth's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, serving on the Plymouth Economic Development Corp, and overseeing the fire department that serves the communities of Northville and Plymouth. If there is an arcane or overly complicated municipal precedent, Colleen has the ability to explain it and already knows all about it.

When she is not making Oakland County run, Colleen is also a mom to college-age twins, Caroline and Will. Whether visiting Caroline in England or cheering on Will at a game, Colleen is a woman on the move. She is a dedicated friend, sister, and public servant. She is whip smart and has a one-liner for every situation. She makes us all laugh regularly and makes sure we are up to date on Michigan sports stats. She is truly a renaissance woman, a role model, and a leader.

Colleen's drive and dedication to Oakland County are unmatched. She is clearly not someone to rest on her laurels. She has a heart for Michigan and a head for business, and I couldn't be luckier that she is on my team. I truly could not imagine these terms in Congress without her counsel, advice, and willingness to talk to me on the phone or in person, no matter the hour.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Colleen on her special day, from all of us in Oakland County and here in the Congress, happy birthday. As *The Washington Post* or *The Wall Street Journal* has recognized people born in her birth year, she continues to redefine norms and transform society. Here's to many more years of making life just a little bit better for the people of Michigan.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAT O'TOOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my friend, Mr. Pat O'Toole, a Wyoming cattle and sheep rancher and hay grower whose deeply rooted passion for agriculture and love for his community and State will never be forgotten.

I first met Pat when he served with my father in the Wyoming House of Representatives. He championed numerous agriculture issues during his time in the State legislature and with

the many organizations that he was a part of. He worked with several Governors' administrations to advocate for agriculture on the State level and testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on multiple occasions.

Pat was one of the first individuals to ever call my Congressional office. He did so seeking help for farmers and ranchers in southwestern Wyoming who were experiencing record amounts of snow and winter kill. Because of his efforts working with State and Federal leaders, a state of emergency was declared for the impacted area.

Pat, along with his wife, Sharon, and their family, operated Ladder Ranch in the Little Snake River Valley and were the recipients of the 2014 Wyoming Leopold Environmental Stewardship Award. Ladder Ranch has been in Sharon's family since 1881, 9 years before Wyoming even became a State, and is an excellent tribute to the O'Tooles' devotion to agriculture and conservation.

Pat loved his neighbors, cared for his community and State, and sacrificed his time to bless the lives of others. He passed away peacefully on February 25, leaving behind a legacy of selfless service that will be forever cherished by those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Mr. Pat O'Toole.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NEVADA KRINKEE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Sergeant Nevada Krinke, a Wyomingite who courageously defended our country and whose selfless service to his community will be remembered for generations.

Sergeant Krinke dedicated his life to serving others and was a proud member of the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army during the global war on terrorism. During his 8 years in the Army, Sergeant Krinke earned the rank of staff sergeant and was awarded numerous accolades, including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and his Jump Master Wings.

Following his time in the Army, Sergeant Krinke joined the Sheridan Police Department as a patrol officer, where he quickly rose in the ranks to patrol sergeant.

Sergeant Krinke cared deeply for his community, our great State, his wife, Karla, and daughter, Bella. Although Bella may not remember her father, she will grow up knowing that his heroic actions protected the lives of all of those around her. Sergeant Krinke's integrity, selflessness, and leadership will always be remembered by his colleagues and community.

On February 13, Sergeant Krinke tragically lost his life while serving and protecting his community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Sergeant Nevada Krinke.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KELLY KRAUSE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Kelly Krause, a Wyomingite whose love for his neighbors and the culinary arts will continue to live on through all who knew him, just as Wyoming will continue to cherish him for many years to come.

Kelly was a remarkable individual whose presence graced the lives of everyone he came across. Kelly, along with his wife, Lynette, owned a local Jackson eatery called the Virginian Restaurant, where his passion for his community was evident by all who visited. He always greeted guests with a smile and made them feel as if they were right at home.

On March 1, Kelly tragically lost his life in a skiing accident. As his family, friends, and the Jackson community mourn his passing, please know that my sincere prayers and thoughts are with you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in remembering the wonderful life of Kelly Krause and standing with his loved ones during these difficult times.

RECOGNIZING THE GOSHEN COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Goshen County Irrigation District's 100 years of dedicated service to Wyoming water users.

The district covers hundreds of miles of laterals, drains, and canals and delivers water to over 52,000 acres of farmland in my State. It maintains and operates a portion of the Fort Laramie Canal in partnership with the Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District, improving the lives of farmers, ranchers, and everyone who lives in the region. Its work is absolutely vital to the prosperity of these local communities.

Unfortunately, in July of 2019, tunnel number 2 on the Fort Laramie Canal collapsed, impacting more than 100,000 production acres in Wyoming and Nebraska and causing \$89 million in economic impact. Updating and repairing this collapsed tunnel has been an incredibly arduous process, and there is still so much more work to be done. However, Goshen Irrigation District was both resourceful and quick to respond.

Its efforts have helped Wyoming to optimize water usage, balancing the needs of agriculture, industry, and the environment more effectively. It has been instrumental in mitigating the challenges of water in the West.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Goshen Irrigation District's 100 years of development and prosperity.

□ 1045

WHAT CALIFORNIA WATER MEANS TO WHOLE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, let me talk a little bit more about California water and what it means to the whole country.

Now, we see here President Biden enjoying some ice cream there, as he is known to do. Mr. Speaker, ice cream comes from where? It comes from dairy products.

So, we need cows in order to make the dairy products to make cream, milk, butter, and things like that, part of which you would use to produce ice cream, which almost everybody enjoys. Our dairies in this country need to be supported, and they need not be exported to some other place to make basic things like milk and cream.

California is home to very happy cows, it has been said. Nonetheless, they are less happy having to move to Arizona and places like that due to our own State's horrific regulations.

Still, there are many strong dairies in the upper Midwest, Northeast, and all over the country, really. So we need cows for ice cream and milk. It is pretty basic. We have to remind people of that sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, what do cows need? They need feed. We need to grow the feed in our agricultural places, in our fields in every State and all around the country. Without feed and forage, we can't feed the cows, and we don't get ice cream.

Where do we get the feed, Mr. Speaker? We have to have land, and we have to have a water supply like this lake here. This depicts San Luis Reservoir in central California, which right now is about 68 or 70 percent full.

It should be taking advantage of all this massive rainfall and snowpack that might be melting already in some areas, flowing downhill out through the delta. They have a couple of sets of pumps there that could be running and filling this lake and topping it off.

It is not easy to top this reservoir off every single year. We were fortunate that we got it done last year, despite the water management that we have in government. There was so much water available that they were actually able to run the pumps long enough to fill the reservoir up to about its 2 million acre-feet capacity.

We have a ways to go to fill this reservoir in order to have the strongest possible position for agriculture going into this year so we have dairy, grain, and many other ag products that California is famous for growing.

Let's top off San Luis Reservoir. Let's get these pumps turned on to full blast while we have all this rain and runoff coming down the hill.

Instead, we have millions of acre-feet of water escaping into the oceans—millions. We don't have a water shortage in California. We have a management intelligence shortage. That is the problem.

I have Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta in my district, and they are both

about 600 to 700 acre-feet short of being full, as we watch them run the spillways pretty strongly and let water out.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I know they have to keep a gap at the top for flood control, but they are not using modern thinking on doing that. They need to be able to bring that.

Every day between now and April 1 is one less day of possible rain and possible inflow. They are looking at it as if we are going to overtop, perhaps, but if they don't get these lakes full by June 1 or so, then we are going to leave water on the table, so to speak, and leave agriculture out to dry.

Mr. Speaker, what do we do in order to increase water supply in California?

A couple of things are going on. Thankfully, this appropriations package coming up has \$200 million of Federal money for Sites Reservoir in northern California, which would, once finally built, add 1.5 million acre-feet to the State's water supply.

We could have been filling it right now. With all the runoff, we would probably be 80 percent full if we had that facility there already. We could have been filling it out several times over the last few years.

We lose the opportunity because they are hemming and hawing in Sacramento, and lawsuits keep coming, and, oh, we have to talk about it and study it more.

When I took a tour of that 15 years ago, they said that if you can't build it here environmentally, then you can't build one anywhere.

This is Shasta Dam near Redding in northern California's Shasta County. This is part of the Federal CVP project that was built many years ago. This holds 4.5 million acre-feet when full. Right now, it is down about 700,000 to 800,000 acre-feet from capacity.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand that you have to leave some room for flood capacity before the end of the season. Nonetheless, they are actually letting the water go down until the last day or so.

Are they guaranteeing that this lake is going to be full with that last 700,000 acre-feet by the end of the rainy season? I am not sure.

We also have an opportunity on top of that. Including building Sites Reservoir, we can also raise Shasta Dam about 18½ feet and add 640,000 acre-feet or so of new space. If that space was there right now, even if it doesn't fill, would mean they are not having to dump the water right now because you would have that extra capacity, that gap, for flood control. We would not be dumping and wasting this water.

On top of that, there are people in the Central Valley watching this water being dumped who are going to get only 15 percent of the requested water right of what they asked for. We need to build these.

Please follow facebook.com/groups/CaliforniaWaterForFoodMovement if you want to follow up, Mr. Speaker, and learn in plain language on social

media how this works. It is a really good source that anybody can understand.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have dedicated my career to making the Federal Government a better partner for livable communities. These are places where families are safe, healthy, and more economically secure.

One of the most important tools in making a community livable is the promotion of historic preservation.

It is more than just preserving landmarks or putting up plaques. The historic preservation movement has resulted in preserving over 45,000 historic buildings that celebrate and inform our heritage and our past.

Historic preservation helps us understand who we are, where we went, and what we might be.

I fought to protect these historic treasures that enrich community by recycling buildings that preserve that heritage. Not only do they give definition and character to our communities, but they are also a powerful boost for the local economy.

A building that has been renovated creates many more jobs because it is labor intense and it is located in historically relevant space. Preserving these buildings makes communities stronger, more resilient, and more energy efficient than abandoning historic locations for new construction, which is often outside of the core area.

A green building is one that has been revitalized and rebuilt rather than new construction.

Historic preservation helps revitalize adjacent properties. The value radiates out from the historic property. Historic preservation is a tremendous attraction for tourism.

Because it is so labor intense, the historic tax credit has created nearly 3 million jobs since its creation 40 years ago and has attracted \$173 billion in private capital. That means each dollar for credit generates \$4 in private investment.

You don't need to be a billionaire developer.

Projects that employ historic preservation on a smaller scale make it possible for a broader range of owners to participate, sharing the advantages.

That is why the National Park Service found that in one study \$33 billion in tax credits generated over \$38 billion in Federal tax revenue.

This is a program that pays for itself even before consideration of the increased value of surrounding properties and the benefits of tourism and energy savings.

Because it is labor intense, the historic tax credit has created nearly 3,000,000 jobs since its creation barely 40 years ago and has attracted approximately \$173 billion in private capital.

This means that each dollar of the tax credit generated \$4 in private investment.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think of another Federal program that makes such a strong contribution to the sense of place, revitalizing of local economies, promoting tourism, and encouraging other investment.

We will continue fighting to preserve this important private incentive for rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings. It is changing the face of American communities, both rural and urban, by making such an investment protecting our heritage.

By celebrating our past, we promote our future in a way that is cost-effective and respectful of that heritage. I can't think of another program I have been involved with that has had such a profound effect on the livability of our communities.

Historic preservation doesn't just celebrate and strengthen physical community. It speaks to the life and the spirit that is so vital.

Preserving a community's past heritage is an important example across the country for projects large and small that inspire such pride celebrating the past while we invest in the future.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Hear the prayers, O Lord, of those who have seen affliction, the cries of those who find themselves in darkness without any light. For the people of Ukraine, who this very day endure the precariousness of their future, the peril threatening their livelihoods, the poverty of hope, the pain of death.

In all this time under siege, Ukrainian men and women have been a testimony of faith in the face of adversity, trusting in Your protection, certain of Your deliverance.

God, now their souls are bereft of peace. They have lost the memory of happiness.

We lift our prayers on behalf of those who have lost their voice. May our prayers of intercession reach Your ears.

Call again to their minds, that Your steadfast love, O Lord, never ceases. Your mercies will never come to an end. This day, Your mercies are new again, for great is Your faithfulness.

Loving God, be their portion that they would find their hope in You.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

(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, during a rare visit to the southern border last week, President Biden expressed a dire need for congressional Republicans "to show a little spine" and pass border legislation.

Let's be clear: House Republicans have passed legislation. The Secure the Border Act of 2023 would require construction of the border wall to restart, increase the number of Border Patrol agents, and strengthen and streamline our existing asylum process. Lastly—and this one is critical—it would finally put a stop to the Biden administration's massive catch and release operation.

More than 1 million illegal immigrants have been released into the United States on parole under President Biden—a blatant abuse of executive parole authority under the law.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, none of the President's open-border policies require an act of Congress, just as reversing them won't require new legislation.

HONORING GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a hero of our American Revolution, General Casimir Pulaski.

Born in Poland in 1745, Pulaski went on to serve as a central figure in the Bar Confederation, organizing his fellow Poles to fight for their liberty against political control by the brutal Russian empire.

Though the Bar Confederation ultimately failed, Pulaski never lost his dedication to the fight for liberty. Unable to return to Poland, he came to the aid of the Continental Army in the American Colonies. Benjamin Franklin wrote that General Pulaski was "famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of the liberties of his country. . . ."

Pulaski became the father of the American cavalry, bringing his equestrian skills to our fight for independence. Though he died heroically leading a charge during the siege of Savannah, he continues to inspire us to this day.

Each year, America honors the first Monday of the month of March as Casimir Pulaski Day. I join my fellow Polish Americans in celebrating the life of General Casimir Pulaski, a true champion of freedom and liberty for all.

CELEBRATING MAJOR FRANK T. BRANDON'S 104TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable American hero, Major Frank T. Brandon, on his 104th birthday yesterday. From New York to Virginia, Major Brandon's legacy is woven into the fabric of our Nation through his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II and his 54 years of serving our country.

During World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps, he showcased extraordinary heroism as a glider pilot in the treacherous skies of Operation Market Garden fought in German-occupied Netherlands.

After his aircraft was shot down and captured by enemy forces, Major Brandon endured captivity until the tide of liberation turned with General Patton's forces.

After the war, he continued to serve in the U.S. Air Force, which used to be the U.S. Army Air Corps until June 1966. He retired with the rank of major. His strength and inspiration did not go unrecognized. He has received many awards and accolades for his years of meritorious service, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, POW Award, Air Award, and personal recognition from President George Bush and President Bill Clinton, as well as a citation from Secretary Dick Cheney in commemoration of his 50 years of government service. He now resides in Bentonville, Virginia.

As we celebrate his remarkable century-plus 4, we salute Major Brandon not only for his wartime sacrifices but also for his lifelong service to our Commonwealth and country.

Madam Speaker, I wish Major Brandon a happy birthday. On behalf of Virginia's Sixth, I extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes.

BIDEN IMPORTS VOTERS

(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. During the State of the Union speech tomorrow, Biden will blame others for the border crisis, which Biden alone created.

Since Biden has taken office, nearly 10 million illegal aliens have crossed the border, including over 20,000 military-aged men from dictatorships in just the last 5 months.

Yesterday, Elon Musk shocked America by exposing Biden secretly flew 320,000 unvetted aliens into the U.S. Musk warned: "The groundwork is being laid for something far worse than 9/11."

He also said: "This administration is both importing voters and creating a national security threat. . . ."

"This is why groups . . . fight . . . to stop voter ID requirements. . . ."

When America is attacked, voter ID should be mandatory for fair elections. The safety of American families is endangered by Biden's quest for more voters.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new voter laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks in America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING ATHLETES

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 12 young athletes from across the Seventh District of Wisconsin who brought home individual State wrestling championship titles for 2024.

Liam Neitzel, Owen Wasley, Colton Hush, Gage Losiewicz, Wyatt Ingham, Ian Smith, Koy Hopke, Wyatt Unser, Dawson Johnson, Matthew Roach, Ava Gardner, and Madison Burns left it all on the mat to bring home State championship titles.

A special shout-out to Dawson Johnson of Cumberland High School and Koy Hopke of Amery High School on becoming four-time State champions—being only 2 of 29 ever to do this in Wisconsin.

Again, I congratulate all of these athletes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2799, EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7511, LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1052 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1052

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7511) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALOY). The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam 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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam 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 gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Madam Speaker, last night the Rules Committee met and produced a rule, House Resolution 1052, providing for the House's consideration of several pieces of legislation.

The rule provides for H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act, to be considered under a structured rule. It provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rules provide for H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act. H.R. 7511 would be considered under a closed rule, and it also provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

□ 1215

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying pieces of legislation.

I begin with H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Financial Services Committee, I am glad to see this important legislation before us today. I am also glad this rule makes in order a number of amendments, including all of the bipartisan amendments that were submitted.

In the last few years, we have seen fewer and fewer companies take advantage of opportunities to raise capital, largely due to burdensome compliance costs and regulatory obstacles.

It is crucial that American entrepreneurs have the tools they need to grow their businesses and that we create opportunities for individuals to invest and save for the future.

This bill aims to strengthen our public markets, expand options for companies to raise capital, and empower Americans, giving them more choices to invest and grow their wealth.

By cutting the red tape and creating new avenues for economic growth, we can create jobs and opportunities for American workers, businessowners, and investors. We can put America back on a path to prosperity and safeguard our future.

I am proud to have one of my own bills, the Regulation A+ Improvement

Act, included as part of this bill package. The bill would raise the cap for Regulation A and allow for more small- to mid-size companies to raise money from everyday investors.

At a time when many Americans are feeling the effects of inflation, this legislation could not be timelier. It can help create jobs and grow the economy. Our capital markets in these United States are the cornerstone of our economy and among our greatest strengths.

This bill ensures that entrepreneurs and investors can take full advantage of what our markets have to offer. Through this, we can give small businesses and investors alike all the tools necessary to achieve the American Dream.

Madam Speaker, unlike the previous bill I discussed, I am deeply saddened to be on the floor discussing the situation at hand and angry that we find ourselves here. It is unfortunate we must have this necessary conversation, driven by the tragic events such as the senseless murder of Laken Riley.

This legislation and the underlying rule are in response to the brutal murder of Laken Riley, a college student in Georgia, whose life was cut short by a suspect who was an illegal immigrant with prior arrests in both New York and Georgia before allegedly committing this crime.

This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to issue a detainer to any alien inadmissible to the United States who has been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting.

As ICE describes it themselves, detainees are "an effective tool in keeping criminals out of local communities by allowing ICE officers to take custody of criminal noncitizens within the confines of a jail."

If the alien is not in custody at the time of the detainer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is required to promptly take custody.

Additionally, H.R. 7511 allows States to bring civil action against the Federal Government for failing to enforce immigration laws, including parole, detention and removal, and visa sanctions that we know this administration is not enforcing. Simply put, this gives States standing in court and recourse for their constituents who are victims of the enforcement decisions, or lack thereof, by this administration; decisions that have consequences like the very ones we are talking about today.

The Biden administration's failure to secure our southern border has emboldened the criminal cartels, leading to increased drug trafficking and overdose deaths, human smuggling, and the influx of dangerous individuals into the country.

These threats extend far beyond border States, affecting every corner of our Nation. Every State is now a border State.

Unfortunately, Laken's story is not unique. Speaker Johnson recently documented over 100 similar situations

where American citizens have been victims of crimes committed by illegal aliens, underscoring the urgency of addressing our border security crisis.

The border is no longer a matter for debate. It is a pressing issue, and it demands immediate action. We cannot simply hold hearings and discussions in Washington. We need real solutions to protect the American people. The President must take decisive action to secure our border, starting with signing this critical bill into law.

I look forward to the House completing its consideration of both pieces of legislation, and I urge the passage of this rule.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we are here today to debate a rule to bring two more MAGA messaging bills to the floor.

H.R. 2799, which might as well be renamed the expanding access to fraud act, is yet another Republican attempt to help Wall Street and their friends at private equity firms, while undermining protections for retirees and other mom-and-pop investors. Republicans are just obsessed with helping their friends on Wall Street. It is pathological. They can't help themselves. They come to the floor and talk about helping regular people, but every single bill they pass is about helping the Big Oil companies, the Big Pharma companies, the hedge funds, and the lobbyists. Today is no exception.

Today, Republicans are also bringing to the floor H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act.

Let me be clear: What happened to Laken Riley is a terrible, terrible tragedy. A 22-year-old nursing student, who everyone says was a deeply compassionate person who spread joy everywhere she went, Laken had her whole life ahead of her. My own daughter is 22, and I can't even begin to imagine what this family is going through right now. My heart breaks for them, and they are in my prayers.

This should have never happened, and there is no question that the person responsible for her death should go to jail for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I have to say that I am appalled by my colleagues across the aisle who are using this horrible crime to score political points. It is really sick, to be honest. I think they ought to be ashamed of themselves, if they have any shame left.

The bill that we are dealing with here today was referred to the Judiciary Committee. There was no hearing, no markup. The bill wasn't even reported out of the committee of jurisdiction. I mean, my Republican friends used to say they cared about regular order. Obviously, that is no longer the case. I mean, the members of the Judiciary Committee did not even have an

opportunity to be able to refine this bill or amend this bill. They just rushed it to the floor because they wanted a quick press release.

Let's call this out for what it is. We are here with this bill because Donald Trump demanded that MAGA extremists make the border their top issue ahead of the election. He wants Republicans to politicize the border at every turn, including politicizing this awful tragedy. He is calling the shots here, and he wants to use this as an opportunity to say that Democrats somehow support killers.

What a nasty, rotten thing to do, especially after Republicans are the ones who killed a bipartisan border security deal. They killed the deal, the strongest, toughest border security bill that we have ever seen come before Congress, a bill that was negotiated by a very conservative Republican Senator from Oklahoma. Rather than try to find a solution and fix the problem, Donald Trump said to them: No, I just want the issue; do nothing.

Now they have the nerve to come down here and lecture us. Give me a break.

Meanwhile, Democrats are working to actually keep our country safe. Democrats want to fix our broken immigration system. Democrats want justice for victims, and we want real solutions that help make our communities safer from all criminals. We tried to work together with Republicans in a bipartisan way, and they have rejected our attempts every single time.

By the way, Madam Speaker, I really wish our friends across the aisle would show this same passion for the lives lost to gun violence in our country every single day. Sixty people died and over 400 people were injured in Las Vegas. They were all real people: mothers, fathers, children, friends. Where was the Republican outrage then? Silence.

Nineteen kids were shot dead in their classroom in Uvalde. Nothing from my Republican colleagues, nothing at all, no action at all.

Twelve children die every day from gun violence. Where is the Republican legislation to save their lives?

If you don't want to vote for that legislation, where is the Republican willingness to allow us to bring bills to the floor to deal with the epidemic of gun violence in this country? Nothing.

The beauty of our job is that we are in a position where we can actually do something about these tragedies, Laken's and others. We could have worked together here to address this tragedy, just like we should work together to address the tragedy of gun violence. Unfortunately, Republicans only talk about crime and violence when it suits them. That is all it is: talk.

To claim that this bill is being brought forward because Republicans care about securing the border, when they tanked one of the toughest bipartisan border bills ever, is a joke. It is a joke, Madam Speaker.

Let's make something abundantly clear. This bill will do nothing to solve any of the problems at the border, not a thing. You know what this bill does? It says let's put more people in immigration detention, including those in the U.S. under a lawful status, like Dreamers and TPS recipients, but let's not allocate any more money to actually detain these people.

You have got to love these people; they are unbelievable.

Our border security already does not have the resources they need to detain everyone the law says they should detain. Why don't they have the resources to do it? Because Republicans have voted time and time again, multiple times, against providing the funding that they need. Now, the other side brings a bill to the floor not to fix a problem but to detain even more people with no new funding to do it.

You can't make this stuff up. You really can't.

These bills they are bringing to the floor, these speeches they are making about border and immigration—look at how they vote. Look at how they vote. They don't want to secure the border. They don't want to fix this issue. They want a campaign slogan for Donald Trump. That is all this is about. It has been their playbook since they took the majority last January, and it is a real shame.

Again, we have the power to do something, to actually solve some of these problems. Rather than coming together in a bipartisan way—and that is what the Senate tried to do—my Republican friends in the House have rejected every single attempt to try to find common ground to bring something forward that can actually pass the House, the Senate, and be signed into law. They are not interested in solutions; they are interested in just complaining. How pathetic.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, you know what is a joke? The joke is that the bill that Democrats proposed in the Senate, with some Republican support, was the strongest border bill in history. That is the joke. That bill would do nothing more than codify Joe Biden's broken border policies.

Republicans in the House won't codify asylum seekers crossing multiple countries to get to the United States. Republicans in the House won't codify letting illegal aliens into our country in record numbers. We will not normalize the broken border policies that have led us here to this point today.

□ 1230

My colleague claims that this is just a political ploy and that we are doing whatever Donald Trump wants us to do. We are doing what the American people want us to do. Donald Trump didn't make this a top issue for American voters. Joe Biden did. By failing to secure the border and failing to protect Americans, he has failed on every measure on this front.

Given the Biden administration's reluctance to issue any detainer requests, this bill, H.R. 7511, mandates that ICE issue a detainer and take custody of aliens who commit crimes.

In Riley's case, the suspect was arrested in Georgia for theft and fingerprinted at a time when ICE was made aware of his crime through NICS. Had this bill been in effect, ICE would have been required to issue a detainer for the suspect and assumed custody. Or if the alien had already been released by State or local law enforcement, they could have apprehended him. The suspect in the Riley case was not detained and was paroled, violating provisions in the existing Immigration and Nationality Act.

H.R. 7511 would give States standing to sue the Biden administration on behalf of its citizens for the harm caused by their failure to enforce existing immigration law.

This is not a political ploy. This is a response to a tragedy and an attempt to prevent further tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle: What will it take? What will it take to get Democrats to care about actual border security? How many Americans have to die of fentanyl overdoses or become victims of violent crime? What will it take?

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of the new status quo at our Nation's borders.

The crisis that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have done nothing to stop is now affecting every State, every town, every village, and every city. It is endangering the lives of innocent American citizens.

A 22-year-old woman, Laken Riley, in Georgia was brutally murdered and taken from her family by an illegal immigrant who should have been locked up.

Jose Ibarra entered the United States illegally thanks to President Biden's refusal to uphold our laws and secure our border. He was given a one-way ticket on the taxpayer dime to New York City, a city that, thanks to Democrats in New York, has been declared a sanctuary city. Again, this is a self-made, self-imposed crisis on the American people.

After being arrested in New York City for child endangerment, Jose Ibarra was released back on the streets. Why, you might ask, Mr. Speaker? It is because of, once again, the policies of the left. New York State's disastrous bail reform laws have turned the State's justice system into a revolving door for violent offenders.

Democrats in New York City, New York State, and right here in Washington know damn well that this is the

result of their senseless policies. The Biden administration's border crisis and New York's bail reform have shattered lives not just in my home State of New York but also now in the State of Georgia.

How many more American lives will it take for us to close the border? How many violent crimes will it take for this administration and Democratic leaders in cities and States across this country to end their disastrous policies that are endangering the American people and threatening the sovereignty of this country?

I strongly support H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act, and I am a proud cosponsor because enough is enough, Mr. Speaker.

House Republicans have passed one measure after another this Congress to bring security—real security—back to our border and real change that ensures that the Federal Government upholds our immigration laws. Our solutions have been greeted with resounding opposition from the same Democrats whose policies have led to this crisis on our border, the crisis in New York City, and now this horrific tragedy and murder in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of the rule today, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to wake up to this crisis, see the suffering that citizens and noncitizens alike have endured, and support H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have news for the gentleman from New York: Republicans now own this issue. Your inaction is one of the reasons why we are not making more progress on our border.

The gentleman who just spoke was in the Rules Committee last night, bragging about the fact that Republicans increased border security funding in their homeland security bill last year. He was bragging about it. Congress 101 tells us that once you pass a bill in the House, you need to send it over to the Senate for them to consider it.

The bottom line is, and maybe the gentleman has an answer to this: Why is your Homeland Security appropriations bill from last year still sitting in this House? Why was it never sent to the Senate?

Again, I say to my friends who are watching here today: Look at their actions. Don't look at their words. Look at their actions.

The gentlewoman from Indiana was talking about the negotiated bipartisan compromise in the Senate as if it was somehow a reflection of President Biden's priorities. Let me remind her that MITCH MCCONNELL, the Senate minority leader, said it was one of the toughest immigration border security bills that he has ever seen.

Let me also remind her that the person who was the chief negotiator, Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma, is the second most conservative Member of the Senate. You can't get any more conservative than he is. By the way, the

man whom my friends are all so afraid of, Donald Trump, has said, when he endorsed Senator LANKFORD, that he is one of the toughest guys around on the border.

This is all about not coming up with a solution. They come to the floor and complain. They complain and point fingers, but they will not work with us on a solution. It is mind-boggling to me. It is cynical.

My friends are in charge of this place. They know that they are in charge of the House by only a small margin. They know that Democrats control the Senate by a small margin. They know we have a Democratic President in the White House.

The gentlewoman says that this is not a ploy. What else would you call it when you bring a bill to the floor that bypasses the committee of jurisdiction and no amendments can be made in order?

You bring it to the floor and know it is going nowhere in the Senate and know it will not become law. What do you call that? It is either a ploy or a total waste of time.

We spend an awful lot of time doing nothing around here, yelling and screaming, but when it comes to actually solving problems, my friends don't want to do it.

My friends, because of your inaction, because of the bills that you have blocked repeatedly, including a supplemental request by President Biden for an additional \$13 billion for border security, your actions have resulted in our not being able to make more progress.

So, my friends own this issue. You own the border security issue. You own the fentanyl issue. You own all of it.

I think the American people are seeing through all of this.

The idea that you would bring a bill like this to the floor to exploit a terrible tragedy, a bill that will do nothing and a bill that you know is going nowhere, is really, really sad.

I have news for my Republican friends: If you want to get stuff done, you have to work with us.

I get it. You are in charge. You will probably get more than I would like you to get, but the idea that somehow you are in control of everything and that this is a dictatorship—not yet. Not yet. I know that may be something we might have to deal with down the road, but not yet.

Right now, we are still a deliberative body. This is still a democracy. If you want to get stuff done, then you have to work with us in a bipartisan way.

Nonetheless, if this is all about show business and press releases, then fine. Have at it. Give more speeches, more complaints, but I am telling you, the American people are getting tired of it.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to comment on my colleague's comments about this not going through a regular process. That is just not really correct.

The House Judiciary Committee has held seven hearings on the state of our southern border. They also held a hearing specifically on criminal aliens and the Biden administration's lax immigration enforcement in the interior of the country. In addition, section 4 of H.R. 7511 was marked up in February.

We heard a lot from my colleague on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. HOUCHIN. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have to say facts are important things. There have been no hearings on this bill. There was no markup, and there was no vote to report the bill out of committee. That is a fact.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague on the other side of the aisle says that this is on us, on Republicans, because of our inaction, but we passed H.R. 2, the actual strongest border bill that we have ever seen. We passed H.R. 2 8 months ago, maybe more, and 211 House Democrats voted "no" on that bill. That bill has been sitting in the Senate unmoved ever since.

Senate Republicans even rejected the disastrous border bill ultimately that originated over there that codified all of Joe Biden's terrible border policies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why would this bill go nowhere? Why would we not want to hold illegal aliens accountable? Why would we not want to detain illegal aliens who commit crimes such as theft, larceny, and violent crimes? Why would we not want to move this bill forward in the Senate?

I hope that my colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle would support this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would note, as a point of clarification, the legislation on the floor, there are two main parts.

The first part that the gentleman from Massachusetts was referring to did not go through committee. He is correct regarding the part that dealt with the issue with respect to ICE detainees relative to theft, burglary, et cetera.

The second half of the bill that deals with standing for States to be able to get into court to challenge the administration's lawlessness with respect to parole and asylum, that part did go through committee and was, in fact, debated.

Again, I am trying to set the record straight. I am acknowledging that the first half didn't, but the first half, the part that deals with theft, burglary, and so forth, so that we can have an

ICE detainer placed on someone, is designed to deal with, in part, what we are dealing with in response to Laken Riley.

What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not want to talk about and what we will not hear the President of the United States tomorrow night in this room talk about is Laken Riley.

My colleagues doth protest too much about a bill that is named after someone who was harmed, given the extent of her injuries. There is a whole website dedicated to the bills that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle find a way to name after somebody in the wake of some emergency.

The fact here is we have a young woman who was 22 years old who was killed by someone who was released under mass parole by the policies of this administration, by this President, and by this Secretary of Homeland Security. He is only the second Secretary to be impeached in the history of our country because he has violated his oath to the Constitution, ignored the laws, and endangered the American people.

The simple fact is the President of the United States and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—the radical progressive Democrats who are trying to remake America with wide-open borders—do not want to talk about Laken Riley. They do not want to talk about Kayla Hamilton, who was a 20-year-old with autism in Aberdeen, Maryland. A 17-year-old illegal alien from El Salvador was released into the country as an unaccompanied alien minor and killed Kayla Hamilton. He raped and beat her to death in her home in July 2022.

I do not believe that the President of the United States or my Democratic colleagues want to talk about Kayla Hamilton.

I don't believe that my Democratic colleagues want to talk about Aiden Clark, an 11-year-old boy in Ohio who was killed by a 35-year-old illegal alien who struck a schoolbus full of kids.

I don't think they want to talk about the 2-year-old in Montgomery County, Maryland, who was killed by somebody from Venezuela who was similarly released under mass parole under the policies of this administration, under this President, and under this Secretary of Homeland Security. They don't want to talk about that 2-year-old.

They don't want to talk about the adolescent girl who was raped by a Honduran who was released into the United States, again, under these policies. The simple fact of the matter is that is not what my colleagues want to talk about.

They don't want to talk about the young Texas girl, a cheerleader, murdered in the bathtub. She was found dead by her mom when her mom was expecting to see her at a cheerleading event subsequent to that.

They don't want to talk about that, and the President of the United States,

most assuredly, will not talk about those Americans tomorrow night in this room.

He won't. He will try to hide behind a Senate bill. He will try to hide behind a Senate bill that would have had no chance of passage. They knew it wouldn't pass. He will hide behind a bill that would have codified the mass releases that are endangering the American people, a Senate bill that would not have fixed the parole policies that resulted in the death of Laken Riley.

These are all facts that we know to be true, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to hide behind the Senate bill because they know that their policies are indefensible.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is one step in order to honor the memory of Laken Riley, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1245

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

Mr. Speaker, this place is no longer a serious place. My friends are turning the House of Representatives into a debate club. None of this is serious.

The gentleman comes up and tries to claim there was regular order here, that the committee of jurisdiction actually did its job because half of the bill maybe was the subject of a hearing previously. Now my Republican friends are coming to the floor praising half regular order. I don't know. When I was in grade school, 50 percent was a failing grade. My friends are failing on regular order.

If the gentleman was serious about this and my friends on the other side of the aisle wanted to get something passed, my colleagues would conduct themselves in a different manner and actually have regular order and invite Democrats to be able to offer ideas and try to work things out to see whether the majority could have a bill that actually had a chance of going anywhere in the Senate or being signed into law, but that is not what is happening.

The gentleman comes here and starts reading the names of victims. I could sit here and read the names of the 21 victims in Uvalde who were murdered by a man with a gun. I could go right down the list and start naming all the children that were killed, all the mothers and fathers that were killed.

The real challenge for this institution is to actually try to come together in a bipartisan way and solve problems and do something. I don't know how my friends could go home and claim that they are doing anything and be able to point to anything that ever makes it past the finish line.

We are in a divided government. I wish we weren't. I wish Democrats were in control of the House, the Senate, and the White House, all at once. We would get a lot more done. When we were, we actually got some stuff done.

However, that is not the reality, and so we have to deal with the reality.

The reality is, if my colleagues want to get anything done, work has to be done in a bipartisan way, and my colleagues have to respect at least some semblance of regular order. That this bill had to be rushed to the floor with not a single hearing, with no markup, no amendments, no nothing, and the committee of jurisdiction never even had a chance to report it out, it is awful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would ensure every American has full access to essential reproductive healthcare, including abortion care.

Since the wrongly decided Dobbs decision, every State across America has taken action on abortion in some way. Unfortunately, many Republican-led States, cheered on by Republican Members in this Chamber, have passed laws to either ban some or all abortion care.

Republicans have made it crystal clear that banning abortion nationwide is their goal. Additionally, if trying to ban abortion care is not dangerous enough, extreme Republicans are now doubling down on their attacks on women's reproductive freedom by supporting a bill to ban IVF nationwide. That would criminalize reproductive healthcare.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, my guest for the State of the Union tomorrow will be Ms. Annette Watts of Warren, Ohio, the mother of Brittany Watts.

Last year, Brittany Watts dealt with a common medical problem. She had a miscarriage. Instead of receiving care, she was charged with a crime.

Mr. Speaker, this is because of the cynical, sinister, violent, vicious, blatant, barbaric, callous, and cruel agenda to deny women their rights—their right to IVF, to contraception, to miscarriage care, and, yes, the right to an abortion.

One in three women live in States that have passed abortion bans and now face health issues far more dangerous than the procedure itself, like maternal sepsis. In addition, Black women, like Brittany, are on the front line. We are more likely to miscarry, more likely to need an abortion, more likely to die during pregnancy, and, yes, more likely to be targeted.

It is time to restore rights rather than restrict them. We must pass the Women's Health Protection Act because everyone deserves access to reproductive care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so

we can bring up this important legislation.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article dated October 28, 2022, in Fortune magazine by the Associated Press entitled, "Fentanyl and related drugs are killing more people than guns and cars combined. Many victims don't realize they're even taking it."

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

There was no objection.

[From the Associated Press, Oct. 28, 2022]

FENTANYL AND RELATED DRUGS ARE KILLING MORE PEOPLE THAN GUNS AND CARS COMBINED. MANY VICTIMS DON'T REALIZE THEY'RE EVEN TAKING IT

(By Geoff Mulvihill)

Lillianna Alfaro was a recent high school graduate raising a toddler and considering joining the Army when she and a friend bought what they thought was the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in December 2020.

The pills were fake and contained fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times as powerful as the same amount of heroin. It killed them both.

"Two years ago, I knew nothing about this," said Holly Groelle, the mother of 19-year-old Alfaro, who lived in Appleton, Wisconsin. "I felt bad because it was something I could not have warned her about, because I didn't know."

The drug that killed her daughter was rare a decade ago, but fentanyl and other lab-produced synthetic opioids now are driving an overdose crisis deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen. Last year, overdoses from all drugs claimed more than 100,000 lives for the first time, and the deaths this year have remained at nearly the same level—more than gun and auto deaths combined.

The federal government counted more accidental overdose deaths in 2021 alone than it did in the 20-year period from 1979 through 1998. Overdoses in recent years have been many times more frequent than they were during the black tar heroin epidemic that led President Richard Nixon to launch his War on Drugs, or during the cocaine crisis in the 1980s.

As fentanyl gains attention, mistaken beliefs persist about the drug, how it is trafficked and why so many people are dying.

Experts believe deaths surged not only because the drugs are so powerful, but also because fentanyl is laced into so many other illicit drugs, and not because of changes in how many people are using. In the late 2010s—the most recent period for which federal data is available—deaths were skyrocketing even as the number of people using opioids was dropping.

Advocates warn that some of the alarms being sounded by politicians and officials are wrong and potentially dangerous. Among those ideas: that tightening control of the U.S.-Mexico border would stop the flow of the drugs, though experts say the key to reining in the crisis is reducing drug demand; that fentanyl might turn up in kids' trick-or-treat baskets this Halloween; and that merely touching the drug briefly can be fatal—something that researchers found untrue and that advocates worry can make first responders hesitate about giving life-saving treatment.

All three ideas were brought up this month in an online video billed as a pre-Halloween public service announcement from a dozen Republican U.S. senators.

A report this year from a bipartisan federal commission found that fentanyl and

similar drugs are being made mostly in labs in Mexico from chemicals shipped primarily from China.

In New England, fentanyl has largely replaced the supply of heroin. Across the country, it's being laced into drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, sometimes with deadly results. And in cases like Alfaro's, it's being mixed in Mexico or the U.S. with other substances and pressed into pills meant to look like other drugs.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has warned that fentanyl is being sold in multi-colored pills and powders—sometimes referred to as “rainbow fentanyl”—marketed on social media to teens and young adults.

Jon DeLena, the agency's associate special agent in charge, said at the National Crime Prevention Council summit on fentanyl in Washington this month that there's “no direct information that Halloween is specifically being targeted or young people are being targeted for Halloween,” but that hasn't kept that idea from spreading.

Joel Best, an emeritus sociology professor at the University of Delaware, said that idea falls in with a long line of Halloween-related scares. He has examined cases since 1958 and has not found a single instance of a child dying because of something foreign put into Halloween candy—and few instances of that being done at all.

“If you give a dose of fentanyl to kids in elementary school, you have an excellent chance of killing them,” he said. “If you do addict them, what are you going to do, try to take their lunch money? No one is trying to addict little kids to fentanyl.”

In midterm election campaigns, fentanyl is not getting as much attention as issues such as inflation and abortion. But Republicans running for offices including governor and U.S. Senate in Arkansas, New Mexico and Pennsylvania have framed the fentanyl crisis as a result of Democrats being lax about securing the Mexican border or soft on crime as part of a broader campaign assertion that Democrats foster lawlessness.

And when Democrats highlight the overdose crisis in campaigns this year, it has often been to tout their roles in forging settlements to hold drugmakers and distributors responsible.

Relying heavily on catching fentanyl at the border would be futile, experts say, because it's easy to move in small, hard-to-detect quantities.

“I don't think that reducing the supply is going to be the answer because it's so easy to mail,” said Adam Wandt, an assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Still, some more efforts are planned on the U.S.-Mexico border, including increasing funding to search more vehicles crossing ports of entry. The bipartisan commission found those crossings are where most fentanyl arrives in the country.

The commission is calling for many of the measures that other advocates want to see, including better coordination of the federal response, targeted enforcement, and measures to prevent overdoses for those who use drugs.

The federal government has been funding efforts along those lines. It also publicizes big fentanyl seizures by law enforcement, though it's believed that even the largest busts make small dents in the national drug supply.

The commission stopped short of calling for increased penalties for selling fentanyl. Bryce Pardo, associate director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center and a commission staff member, said such a measure would not likely deter the drug trade. But, he said, dealers who sell the products most likely to cause death—such as mixing

fentanyl into cocaine or pressing it into fake Xanax—could be targeted effectively.

One California father who lost his 20-year-old daughter is pushing for prosecutors to file murder charges against those who supply fatal doses.

Matt Capelouto's daughter Alexandra died from half a pill she bought from a dealer she found on social media in 2019, while home in Temecula, California, during a college break. She was told the pill was oxycodone, Capelouto said, but it contained fentanyl.

The dealer was charged with distributing fentanyl resulting in death, but he reached a plea deal on a lesser drug charge and will face up to 20 years in prison.

“It's not that arresting and convicting and putting these guys behind bars doesn't work,” Capelouto said. “The fact is we don't do it enough to make a difference.”

While some people killed by fentanyl have no idea they're taking it, others, particularly those with opioid use disorder, know it is or could be in the mix. But they may not know how much is in their drugs.

That was the case for Susan Ousterman's son Tyler Cordiero, who died at 24 in 2020 from a mixture that included fentanyl after years of using heroin and other opioids.

For nearly two years, Ousterman avoided going by the gas station near their home in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, where her son fatally overdosed. But in August, she went to leave two things there: naloxone, a drug used to reverse overdoses, and a poster advertising a hotline for people using drugs to call so the operator could call for help if they become unresponsive.

Ousterman is funneling her anger and sorrow into preventing other overdoses.

“Fentanyl is everywhere,” she said. “You don't know what's in an unregulated drug supply. You don't know what you're taking. You're always taking the chance of dying every time.”

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, even in 2021, there were double the amount of overdose deaths than firearm deaths in the United States, and the dramatic increase in overdose deaths, particularly due to fentanyl, are a direct result of Joe Biden's broken border policies.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2021, U.S. citizens made up 86 percent of convicted fentanyl drug traffickers, 10 times greater than convictions of illegal immigrants for the same offense. Also, over 90 percent of fentanyl seizures occur at legal crossing points or interior vehicle checkpoints, not on illegal migration routes, so U.S. citizens who are subject to less scrutiny when crossing legally are the best smugglers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from the Cato Institute entitled, “Fentanyl Is Smuggled for U.S. Citizens by U.S. Citizens, Not Asylum Seekers.”

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

There was no objection.

[From the Cato Institute, Sept. 14, 2022]

FENTANYL IS SMUGGLED FOR U.S. CITIZENS BY U.S. CITIZENS, NOT ASYLUM SEEKERS

(By David J. Bier)

Fentanyl overdoses tragically caused tens of thousands of preventable deaths last year.

Many politicians who want to end U.S. asylum law claim that immigrants crossing the border illegally are responsible. An NPR-Ipsos poll last week found that 39 percent of Americans and 60 percent of Republicans believe, “Most of the fentanyl entering the U.S. is smuggled in by unauthorized migrants crossing the border illegally.” A more accurate summary is that fentanyl is overwhelmingly smuggled by U.S. citizens almost entirely for U.S. citizen consumers.

Here are facts:

Fentanyl smuggling is ultimately funded by U.S. consumers who pay for illicit opioids: nearly 99 percent of whom are U.S. citizens.

In 2021, U.S. citizens were 86.3 percent of convicted fentanyl drug traffickers—ten times greater than convictions of illegal immigrants for the same offense.

Over 90 percent of fentanyl seizures occur at legal crossing points or interior vehicle checkpoints, not on illegal migration routes, so U.S. citizens (who are subject to less scrutiny) when crossing legally are the best smugglers.

The location of smuggling makes sense because hard drugs at ports of entry are about 97 percent less likely to be stopped than are people crossing illegally between them.

Just 0.02 percent of the people arrested by Border Patrol for crossing illegally possessed any fentanyl whatsoever.

The government exacerbated the problem by banning most legal cross border traffic in 2020 and 2021, accelerating a switch to fentanyl (the easiest-to-conceal drug).

During the travel restrictions, fentanyl seizures at ports quadrupled from fiscal year 2019 to 2021. Fentanyl went from a third of combined heroin and fentanyl seizures to over 90 percent.

Annual deaths from fentanyl nearly doubled from 2019 to 2021 after the government banned most travel (and asylum).

It is monstrous that tens of thousands of people are dying unnecessarily every year from fentanyl. But banning asylum and limiting travel backfired. Reducing deaths requires figuring out the cause, not jumping to blame a group that is not responsible. Instead of attacking immigrants, policymakers should focus on effective solutions that help people at risk of a fentanyl overdose.

U.S. CITIZEN CONSUMERS FUND FENTANYL SMUGGLING

U.S. consumer payments for illicit opioids ultimately fund fentanyl smuggling. Consumers pay retail dealers who pay wholesalers, and the cash is then transferred back in bulk cash form to Mexico. These funds are then used to pay smugglers to bring drugs back into the United States again. The best evidence indicates that about 99 percent of U.S. consumers of fentanyl (or products containing fentanyl) are U.S. citizens. Noncitizens appear to be about 80 percent less likely to be fentanyl consumers than their share of the population would predict. Fentanyl smuggling is almost entirely conducted on behalf of U.S. citizen consumers. Of course, consumers would prefer much safer and legal opioids over illicit fentanyl, but the government has unfortunately forced them into the black market with few safe options.

U.S. CITIZENS ARE FENTANYL TRAFFICKERS

Fentanyl is primarily trafficked by U.S. citizens. The U.S. Sentencing Commission publishes data on all federal convictions, which includes demographic information on individuals convicted of fentanyl trafficking. Figure 1 shows the citizenship status of fentanyl traffickers for 2018 to 2021. Every year, U.S. citizens receive the most convictions by far. In 2021, U.S. citizens accounted for 86.3 percent of fentanyl trafficking convictions compared to just 8.9 percent for illegal immigrants.

Note that since trafficking involves movement from Mexico to the United States, it is unclear how to measure the likelihood of conviction for a noncitizen without U.S. lawful immigration status or citizenship since the denominator would include most Mexicans in Mexico as well as anyone who crosses through Mexico. But regardless, the reality is that people with U.S. citizenship or residence traffic the vast majority of fentanyl, not illegal border crossers specifically or illegal immigrants generally.

Indeed, this appears to be the case even for the most high-profile cases. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council analyzed every Customs and Border Protection press release mentioning fentanyl over a 6-month period and found just 3 percent involved illegal immigrants. This means that the agency itself believes the most important smugglers are U.S. citizens. U.S. CITIZENS BRING FENTANYL THROUGH LEGAL CROSSING POINTS

That U.S. citizens account for most fentanyl trafficking convictions is not surprising given the location of fentanyl border seizures. Over 90 percent of fentanyl border seizures occur at legal border crossings and interior vehicle checkpoints (and 91 percent of drug seizures at checkpoints are from U.S. citizens—only 4 percent by “potentially removable” immigrants). In 2022, so far, Border Patrol agents who were not at vehicle checkpoints accounted for just 9 percent of the fentanyl seizures near the border (Figure 2). Since it is easier for U.S. citizens to cross legally than noncitizens, it makes sense for fentanyl producers to hire U.S. citizen smugglers.

The DEA reports that criminal organizations “exploit major highway routes for transportation, and the most common method employed involves smuggling illicit drugs through U.S. [ports of entry] in passenger vehicles with concealed compartments or commingled with legitimate goods on tractor-trailers.” Several agencies including CBP, ICE, and DHS intelligence told Congress in May 2022 the same thing: hard drugs come through ports of entry.

Some people posit that less fentanyl is interdicted between ports of entry because it is more difficult to detect there. But the opposite is true: fentanyl is smuggled through official crossing points specifically because it is easier to conceal it on a legal traveler or in legal goods than it is to conceal a person crossing the border illegally. Customs and Border Protection estimates that it caught 2 percent of cocaine at southwest land ports of entry in 2020 (the only drug it analyzed), while it estimated that its interdiction effectiveness rate for illegal crossers was about 83 percent in 2021 (Figure 3). This means that drugs coming at a port of entry are about 97 percent less likely to be interdicted than a person coming between ports of entry, and this massive incentive to smuggle through ports would remain even if Border Patrol was far less effective at stopping people crossing illegally than it now estimates that it is.

CLOSING PORTS INCREASED FENTANYL SMUGGLING

During the early days of the pandemic, the Trump administration drastically restricted legal travel to the United States, banning nonessential travel through land ports of entry from Mexico in particular in late-March 2020. Because there were fewer opportunities to traffic drugs at ports of entry, traffickers switched to trafficking more fentanyl. Because fentanyl is at least 50 times more potent per pound than heroin and other drugs, smugglers need fewer trips to supply the same market. The seizure data demonstrate the change in tactics. From Oc-

tober 2018 to February 2020, about a third of fentanyl and heroin seizures at southwest ports of entry were fentanyl with no clear upward trend. By the time the travel restrictions were ended (at least for vaccinated travelers) in January 2022, over 90 percent of heroin-fentanyl seizures were fentanyl. Unfortunately, the market shift has continued. The absolute amount of fentanyl being seized quadrupled (Figure 4).

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that in mid-2020, as a result of travel restrictions, “Many countries have reported drug shortages at the retail level, with reports of heroin shortages in Europe, South-West Asia and North America in particular” and that “heroin users may switch to substances such as fentanyl.” The DEA predicted in 2020 that “additional restrictions or limits on travel across the U.S.-Mexico border due to pandemic concerns will likely impact heroin DTOs [drug trafficking organizations], particularly those using couriers or personal vehicles to smuggle heroin into the United States,” leading to “mixing fentanyl into distributed heroin.”

Unsurprisingly, the increased reliance on fentanyl has increased fentanyl deaths. Indeed, it appears that the border closures rapidly accelerated the transition from heroin to fentanyl, leading to tens of thousands of additional deaths per year (Figure 5). Note that 2021 data undercount the true number of deaths because not all locations have reported. Nonetheless, the annual number of fentanyl deaths have nearly doubled between 2019 and 2021. Banning asylum under Title 42 of the U.S. code probably had no effect on these trends, but it certainly did not help reduce fentanyl deaths, as some have claimed.

ASYLUM SEEKERS DON'T AID FENTANYL SMUGGLING

Fentanyl smuggling is not a reason to end asylum. The people arrested by Border Patrol are not smuggling fentanyl. Just 279 of 1.8 million arrests by Border Patrol of illegal border crossers resulted in a fentanyl seizure—too small of a percentage (0.02 percent) to appear on a graph—and many of these seizures occurred at vehicle checkpoints of legal travelers in the interior of the United States.

Nonetheless, some officials have asserted that asylum seekers distract Border Patrol from drug interdiction efforts. If asylum seekers were indirectly aiding drug smuggling, however, we would expect the effect to show up in the seizure trends by changing the locations, times, or amounts of the seizures in some way. But drug seizure trends simply do not deviate measurably with greater arrests of asylum seekers. This is true on several different metrics: across time, between sectors, along mile-distance from the border, or the share of seizures at ports of entry versus between them. If the administration legalized asylum at ports of entry, even this hypothetical problem would disappear.

AGGRESSIVE DRUG INTERDICTION EXACERBATES FENTANYL SMUGGLING

The fentanyl problem is a direct consequence of drug prohibition and interdiction. As my colleague Dr. Jeff Singer has written:

“Fentanyl’s appearance in the underground drug trade is an excellent example of the ‘iron law of prohibition’: when alcohol or drugs are prohibited they will tend to get produced in more concentrated forms, because they take up less space and weight in transporting and reap more money when subdivided for sale.”

Fentanyl is at least 50 times more powerful per pound than heroin, which means you have to smuggle nearly 50 pounds of heroin to supply the market that a single pound of

fentanyl could. This is a massive incentive to smuggle fentanyl, and the more efforts are made to restrict the drug trade, the more fentanyl will be the drug that is smuggled. The DEA has even admitted, “The low cost, high potency, and ease of acquisition of fentanyl may encourage heroin users to switch to the drug should future heroin supplies be disrupted.” In other words, heroin interdiction makes the fentanyl problem worse.

CONCLUSION

Border enforcement will not stop fentanyl smuggling. Border Patrol’s experience with marijuana smuggling may provide even clearer evidence for this fact. Marijuana is the bulkiest and easiest-to-detect drug, which is why it was largely trafficked between ports of entry. Despite doubling the Border Patrol and building a border fence in the 2000s in part to combat the trade, the only thing that actually reduced marijuana smuggling was U.S. states legalizing marijuana. It is absurd to believe that interdiction will be more effective against a drug that is orders of magnitude more difficult to detect.

The DEA plainly stated in 2020 that fentanyl “will likely continue to contribute to high numbers of drug overdose deaths in the United States” even with the ban on asylum and travel restrictions. But ending asylum or banning travel has been worse than useless. These policies are both directly and indirectly counterproductive: first directly by incentivizing more fentanyl smuggling and then indirectly by distracting from the true causes of the crisis.

My colleagues have been warning for many years that doubling down on these failed prohibition policies will lead to even worse outcomes, and unfortunately, time has repeatedly proven them correct. The only appropriate response to the opioid epidemic is treatment of addiction. But for this to be possible, the government must adopt policies that facilitate treatment and reduce the harms from addiction—most importantly deaths. To develop these policies, policymakers need to ignore the calls to blame foreigners for our problems.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I will say to my friend from Indiana, my Republican friends now own this issue. The majority had a chance to do something, and my friends on the other side chose to not do anything. My colleagues chose to follow the orders of Donald Trump.

Let me read to you the quote from Oklahoma’s own senior Senator, JAMES LANKFORD, and he said this on FOX News. He said: “Are we, as Republicans, going to have press conferences and complain the border is bad and then intentionally leave it open?” That is exactly what House Republicans are doing, complain, complain, complain, and then say, no, no, no, we don’t actually want to do anything about the border. We just want to complain.

Again, let me read that one more time. This is Senator LANKFORD, the second most conservative Member of the United States Senate, who said: “Are we, as Republicans, going to have press conferences and complain that the border is bad and then intentionally leave it open?” That is exactly what House Republicans are doing, complain, complain, complain, and then they say, no, no, no, we don’t actually want to do anything about the border. They just want to complain.

Senator TILLIS, hardly a progressive, who had been working on this deal, called on House Republicans as well, and he said: "Don't pretend that the policy," meaning the policy they negotiated, "isn't strong. If you want to admit you're just afraid to tell President Trump the truth, that's fine." But for you to take a look at this framework and say it is a half measure, you are not paying attention, or you are not telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker, again, this issue now is wholly owned by my Republican friends, and every opportunity to try to do something, from rejecting President Biden's request for additional funding for border security to telling the Senate that any border security bill is dead on arrival, that is now with you, and so my friends on the other side own this.

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

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I just have two words to say. H.R. 2, we passed that 8 months ago. That was the Secure the Border Act. The Democrats own that. Mr. Speaker, 211 Democrats voted against that legislation.

I would also note that, since Joe Biden took office, we have had record numbers of crossings. There has been 7.5 million people who have crossed into the United States illegally and been paroled into the United States under Joe Biden's watch, and that has been going on for 3 years under the Biden administration. Therefore, it is not Republicans that own this issue, but it is Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues want to, as I said before, hide behind the Senate legislation to try to suggest that House Republicans are not addressing the issue. Well, everybody who has been paying attention to the issue knows that we did, in fact, pass legislation just under a year ago that directly addresses the issues that are plaguing American citizens on a daily basis. This is a real issue.

Again, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to gloss over the real impact, not just on Texans, but as the folks that I met with in San Diego last week, what is happening to them and what is happening to their schools, what is happening to their jails, what is happening to their communities; and the people in Texas who have spent \$12.5 billion to try to deal with border security—now having some success, by the way—doing our part to try to hold the line in Texas.

We are seeing the flow of the cartels moving into Arizona and California, which is no great thing for the country, but it is at least trying to relieve the pressure on Texas.

Also, the number of ranches, the number of people that I deal with all the time, but also the migrants. We just gloss over the little girls being sold into the sex trafficking trade. We gloss over the family in a stash house that my friend, who is a Federal judge, had to throw the book at somebody who was using this mom and her daughter to hold for a ransom of \$25,000 against somebody who was here illegally in Baltimore. This is happening every day in our country.

I-35 and I-10, the intersection in San Antonio, which I represent, is a main thoroughfare of this trafficking of human beings, and this is all happening on the watch of the executive.

My colleagues want to try to pin the failure of open borders on a Congress for failing to give, what, more legislation and tools to a President who has the tools to do what is necessary to secure the border?

President Biden could deal with the border right now—everybody knows that—by enforcing the law, by enforcing existing law, law that requires detention, law that requires that you detain people who come to the United States, who—because we are a people who want to give people some sort of chance if they are dealing with a claim for asylum because they fear political persecution or religious persecution—have to make that claim. However, most Americans believe that we detain, adjudicate the claim, determine if it is legitimate, and do not allow our government, our executive branch, our President, to make a mockery of the laws by using parole and asylum authority to flood the American people with millions of people. We know this to be true.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have literally no defense to the reality that millions have been released into the United States. Millions have been flooded into our communities, our schools, our hospitals.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle just kind of smugly smirk at what we have to deal with in Texas, what sheriffs have to deal with in Texas, what we have to deal with in our schools, in our communities, when we have to find the dead bodies of migrants on our ranches, because that is what happens.

Is the President of the United States going to sit up there tomorrow night and talk about the dead migrants that we find on ranches in Texas? Is he going to have the nerve to do that, or talk about the 53 migrants who died in a tractor-trailer in San Antonio last year in the Texas heat? Is he going to have the nerve to do that? No, because they are his policies, his choices to ignore the law.

My Democratic colleagues want to somehow say that it is on the majority when we passed legislation to try to force the President to do what his job is and his duty under the Constitution. They have the temerity to try to say it is on the majority when it is, in fact,

our Democratic colleagues who refuse to actually hold the executive branch accountable, as is required under the Constitution under separation of powers.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me say two things. First of all, yelling doesn't solve the problem; and, two, nobody on this side of the aisle is glossing over this issue.

I have just spent the last 30 minutes telling my colleagues how ridiculous the legislation my Republican friends are bringing to the floor is and complaining about the fact that, every chance my colleagues get to fix the problem, my friends on the other side choose not to.

By the way, it wasn't my words that I was quoting. It was Republican Members of the Senate, impeccably conservative Senator LANKFORD, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator TILLIS. It was my Republican colleagues.

I get it. My friend is now making it clear. It is either his way, or the highway. Well, that is not a good attitude to have when you are in a divided government, but if that is what it is, that is what it is.

I remind my Republican colleagues when they keep on bringing up their vaunted H.R. 2—by the way, I will say to the gentlewoman from Indiana, I think that is more than two words—last week, Senator CRUZ from Texas basically had an amendment to the CR to bring up H.R. 2, their bill, their solution. It got 32 votes—32 votes. That is less than a third of the Senate.

I don't know about my colleagues, but I think that is a pretty good indication that H.R. 2 isn't going anywhere. It is dead. Therefore, maybe we ought to come together and figure out what we can do together. For the life of me, I don't understand why Republicans are reluctant to do that.

This is not a debate club. It is not supposed to be a debate club. This is supposed to be a place where we solve problems and pass legislation to help protect and defend this country. Instead, all we get treated to are press release bills, MAGA bills, yelling and screaming and whatever, but never, never, never a solution.

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

□ 1300

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 8¾ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, despite the very real domestic and global challenges facing our Nation, House Republicans have chosen to waste time on sham impeachments, silly censures, and extreme policies that will never become law, and the two bills that this rule would bring to the floor, they fall into that category.

This is not serious legislating by any measure. Democrats have come to the

table with real solutions on the border, real solutions on immigration, and instead what we get is garbage like this.

I have said it before and I will say it again: Republicans own this issue. Their side owns this. They own the border. They own the fentanyl crisis. They own all of it because they repeatedly reject our attempts to work together. That is both on border security and nearly everything else that has been brought up in this Congress.

Because of that, because Republicans absolutely refuse to work with House Democrats, the Democratic majority in the Senate or the Democratic-held White House, because House Republican leadership continues to bow down to the most fringe, MAGA Members of their ultraslim majority, this body no longer functions under regular order.

In fact, we don't function. This is not functioning. The last bill to become law that came through the Rules Committee was 9 months ago.

Let me repeat that: The last bill to become law that came through the Rules Committee was 9 months ago. House Republican leadership has lost six rule votes since January 2023, and every week there is a legitimate question of whether Republicans even have the votes to pass their own rules and bills.

I have never seen such dysfunction. I have never seen such incompetence. House Democrats have rescued this failing House Republican majority at nearly every turn. Last year, House Democrats ensured that the U.S. didn't default on its debt. That was a big deal because if we didn't help, we would have defaulted on our debt.

House Democrats have kept the government running, despite GOP leadership wasting time pursuing unrealistic draconian spending cuts. It has been our votes that have kept the lights on since September.

We believe in governing. We believe that shutting the government down is a bad, terrible, awful idea. House Democrats have advocated time and time again for viable solutions that tackle the important issues the Americans most care about, but—and here is the sad thing—Republicans would rather play partisan politics like politicizing this horrific crime than do anything to actually keep our country safe.

There is an opportunity here. The stars are aligned. Conservative Republicans are working with moderate and progressive Democrats and working with the President of the United States to try to come to some sort of a compromise that will make a difference, and the response by the House Republicans is forget about it, my way or the highway. No. Donald Trump says we need the issue. Don't ever come up with a solution. Don't solve problems. Let's just keep the issue. Let's keep the press releases coming. Let's continue to exploit tragedy after tragedy after tragedy. Enough.

Again, this is not a debate club; this is the United States House of Rep-

resentatives, and all of us, Democrats and Republicans, have an obligation to do our job, to make sure we keep the government running, to make sure we are solving problems.

I plead with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join with us and with the conservative Republicans in the Senate. Let's do something, but instead we have got this. How pathetic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule, "no" on the previous question, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have before us the opportunity to move legislation that could unleash growth and increase prosperity for Americans across the country in the Expanding Access to Capital Act. This bill empowers Americans with the tools they need to grow their small businesses and secure their financial futures.

We need to focus on initiatives that strengthen our economy and combat inflation. However, time and time again, this administration's policies seem to hinder rather than facilitate business in America and it defies logic.

In contrast, this legislation streamlines regulations, expands opportunities for economic growth, and enables more Americans to invest in their future.

Turning to H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act, it aims to strengthen our immigration laws.

In H.R. 7511, we mourn the death and honor the life and memory of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open-border policies, and we denounce President Biden's open-border policies.

We are not politicizing. This is a response to a tragedy in the hope that we would prevent a similar tragedy moving forward. No family should have to endure what Laken's family has experienced. We owe it to Laken's parents and parents nationwide to ensure something like this never happens again.

This border crisis is real. It has devastating consequences. Laken's story is sadly not unique. As the Speaker has documented, there are over 100 stories across the country just like Laken's.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House can speak with one voice on this bill and together do what the American people have been asking us to do, which is secure the border and institute policies that will protect Americans and American families.

I look forward to moving these bills out of the House this week, and I ask my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1052 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the

consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. 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.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1061) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4366, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1061

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 4366, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.

Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.

Sec. 6. Availability of funds.

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

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Agricultural Programs

Title II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs

Title III—Rural Development Programs

Title IV—Domestic Food Programs

Title V—Foreign Assistance and Related Programs

Title VI—Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration

Title VII—General Provisions

DIVISION C—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of Commerce

Title II—Department of Justice

Title III—Science

Title IV—Related Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil

Title II—Department of the Interior

Title III—Department of Energy

Title IV—Independent Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of the Interior

Title II—Environmental Protection Agency

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

DIVISION F—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Title I—Department of Transportation

Title II—Department of Housing and Urban Development

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions—This Act

DIVISION G—OTHER MATTERS

Title I—Health and Human Services

Title II—Amending Compacts of Free Association

Title III—Extensions and Other Matters

Title IV—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about March 5, 2024, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through F of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pur-

suant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed, rescinded, or transferred, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

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

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$2,022,775,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$398,145,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$522,220,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Army” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$5,531,369,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$711,505,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$335,563,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$2,741,424,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$567,874,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer

services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$193,610,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Air Force” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$3,161,782,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$347,545,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$36,100,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Defense-Wide” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$620,647,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$79,221,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$270,461,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Army National Guard” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities

for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$295,526,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$68,454,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$123,804,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air National Guard" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$151,076,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$27,389,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$44,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army Reserve" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$51,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$6,495,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$331,572,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$14,646,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both

Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$40,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$293,434,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$489,174,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$304,895,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$395,485,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$277,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$373,854,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$237,097,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$324,386,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of

Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$50,785,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$6,611,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, \$496,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the De-

partment of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobli-

gated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of April 2021, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

"Military Construction, Army", \$8,214,000;
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$182,150,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$166,300,000;
 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$62,400,000;
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$66,815,000;
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$5,200,000; and
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$23,000,000;

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction and cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2024 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army", "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force", and "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide" accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2024 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2025 for fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2024 by a National Defense Authorization Act: *Provided*, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of

the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design and unspecified minor construction, for improving military installation resilience, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$15,000,000;
“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$7,500,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$7,500,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 129. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design and unspecified minor construction for construction improvements to Department of Defense laboratory facilities, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$10,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$10,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$10,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for expenses incurred as a result of natural disasters: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design for child development centers, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$15,000,000;
“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$15,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$15,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 132. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design, for barracks, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$15,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$15,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 133. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$16,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for cost increases identified subsequent to the fiscal year 2024 budget request for authorized major construction projects: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 134. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for unspecified minor construction for demolition, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$15,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$15,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 135. Of the proceeds credited to the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(D) of section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to a Department of Navy investment, the Secretary of Defense shall transfer \$19,000,000 to the Secretary of the Navy under paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of such section for use by the Secretary of the Navy as provided in paragraph (1) of such subsection until expended.

SEC. 136. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, \$37,100,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects specified in a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 137. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air National Guard”, \$83,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for planning and design and authorized major construction projects at future foreign military training sites: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 138. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as author-

ized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$15,072,388,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$182,310,515,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$22,109,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2025 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$374,852,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$13,399,805,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, \$12,701,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$135,119,422, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2024, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$316,742,419.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$78,337, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,026,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$460,698, which may be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$2,718,546.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS
BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$3,899,000,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
MEDICAL SERVICES

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$71,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until

September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That of the \$74,004,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2023, previously appropriated under this heading in division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), \$3,034,205,000 is hereby rescinded: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That nothing in section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$20,382,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That of the \$33,000,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2023, previously appropriated under this heading in division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), \$2,657,977,000 is hereby rescinded.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$11,800,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That of the \$12,300,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2023, previously appropriated under this heading in division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), \$1,550,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing

homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$149,485,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023; and, in addition, \$9,400,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$943,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemetery expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemetery operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$480,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$475,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$287,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said

acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$6,401,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,606,977,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That \$4,668,373,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which \$75,288,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, for the purpose of facility activations related to projects funded by the “Construction, Major Projects”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, “Medical Facilities”, “National Cemetery Administration”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “General Administration” accounts: *Provided further*, That \$125,650,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the “Information Technology Systems” account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, \$1,334,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided further*, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: *Provided further*, That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2024, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(1) providing the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act on the status of issues that caused the delayed deployment of the new electronic health record to additional sites that was announced on April 21, 2023;

(2) providing the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the reset process as of June 1, 2024, including an outline of the measurable operational

metrics that will be used to determine when it is appropriate to re-start deployments, progress on achieving those metrics, progress toward clinical and product standardization, and the current performance at all Department of Veterans Affairs facilities using the new electronic health record on or before September 2023 compared to pre-deployment baselines for metrics impacted by the deployment of the new electronic health record; and

(3) certifying in writing no later than 30 days prior to July 1, 2024, whether the system is stable, ready, and optimized for further deployment at VA sites, and if not, an estimate of the timeline required to begin further deployments.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$961,218,560, of which \$453,314,560 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$507,904,000 shall remain available until expended, of which \$110,000,000 shall be available for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities, including for projects that would otherwise be funded by the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities or National Cemetery Administration accounts: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds provided for the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall be only for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That such sums as

may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the “General Administration” account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2024, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2024; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$692,000,000, of which \$612,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$80,000,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous “Construction, Minor Projects” appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$171,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2024 for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities” accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the “Medical Facilities” account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for “Construction, Major Projects”, and “Construction, Minor Projects”) shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the “Medical Services” account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2023.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obli-

gations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from “Compensation and Pensions”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2024 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2024 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$145,408,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, \$6,960,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and \$7,772,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the “General Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for use by the office that provided the service: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion under this section may be used for implementation of section 402 of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) and the amendments made by such section 402.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects”.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under “Medical Services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Medical Services” and “Medical Community Care” accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term “rural Alaska” shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled “Quarterly reporting”, under the heading “General Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Board of Veterans Appeals”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2024 may be transferred to or from the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to \$430,532,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 220 of title II of division J of Public Law 117-328 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2024, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$456,547,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223: *Provided further*, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of

25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2024 in this title (except appropriations made to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2024, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 230. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 232. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from

appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “civil service” has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term “Executive action” includes—
(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 233. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2025, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the “Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance” published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 234. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in

part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

SEC. 235. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 236. Section 842 of Public Law 109-115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 237. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue collecting and using Social Security account numbers to authenticate individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all individuals not later than September 30, 2024.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collect and use a Social Security account number to identify an individual, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is necessary to:

(1) obtain or provide information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(2) comply with a law, regulation, or court order;

(3) perform anti-fraud activities; or

(4) identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 237 of division J of Public Law 117-328.

SEC. 238. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for “Medical Services”, section 239 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 239. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 240. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 for “Medical Services”, funds may be used in each year to

carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 242. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 243. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 244. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 245. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2024 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2023 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 246. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 247. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary certifies that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates and cannot be met using other animal models, in vitro models, computational models, human clinical studies, or other research alternatives;

(B) such scientific objectives are necessary to advance research benefiting veterans and are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1413(e);

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document; and

(D) ethical considerations regarding minimizing the harm experienced by canines, felines, or non-human primates are included in evaluating the scientific necessity of the research.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the USDA pain category on the approved use;

(4) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates, and methods used to make such determination;

(5) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(6) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research, and animal welfare.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research;

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research; and

(5) the development and adoption of alternatives to canines, felines, or non-human primate research.

(e) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Department of Veterans Affairs must submit to voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of canine, feline, and non-human primate research facilities.

(f) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing —

(1) any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or other Department of Veterans Affairs policies related to oversight of animal research found during that quarter in VA research facilities;

(2) immediate corrective actions taken; and

(3) specific actions taken to prevent their recurrence.

(g) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 248. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 249. Amounts made available for the “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care” account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 250. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the “Medical Services” account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the “Medical Community Care” account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 251. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities” accounts, \$990,446,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans.

SEC. 252. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2024 in the “Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund” established in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114–113, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, \$646,000,000 shall be available for constructing, altering, extending, and improving medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, including all supporting activities and required contingencies, during the period of availability of the Fund: *Provided*, That prior to obligation of any of the funds provided in this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appropriated in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the status of section 8006 of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117–2): *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include an update on obligations by program, project or activity and a plan for expending the remaining funds.

SEC. 254. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds made available through the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5) for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund for fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That the budget resource categories supporting the Veterans Health Administration shall be reported by the subcategories “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical and Prosthetic Research”: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary shall submit a quarterly report on the status of the funds, including, at a minimum, an update on obligations by program, project or activity.

SEC. 255. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 256. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Departmental Administration—Veterans Electronic Health Record” in division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), \$460,005,000 is hereby rescinded.

SEC. 257. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a Department medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care.

SEC. 258. Unobligated balances available under the headings “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: *Provided*, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114–294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 259. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Veterans Health Administration” from prior appropriations Acts, including any funds transferred from the Medical Care Collections Fund to accounts under such heading, \$1,951,750,000 is hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were provided under the heading “Medical and Prosthetic Research” or amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan for rescinding amounts required by this section no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 260. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs from prior appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

“General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, \$30,000,000;
 “General Administration”, \$5,000,000;
 “Board of Veterans Appeals”, \$15,000,000;
 “Information Technology Systems”, \$15,000,000; and
 “Construction, Major Projects”, \$80,218,560: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 261. Amounts provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under the heading “Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects” in title II of division F of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) that were transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) pursuant to an interagency agreement for the major construction project in Alameda, CA, and that remain unobligated at the Corps, shall be immediately transferred back to the Department of Veterans Affairs and permanently rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded shall be appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for the same purposes and under the same authorities for which such amounts were originally provided under such heading in such Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$158,630,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monu-

ments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
VETERANS CLAIMS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$47,200,000: *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL
CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$99,880,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for planning and design and construction at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, \$88,600,000, to remain available until expended, for planning and design and construction associated with the Southern Expansion project at Arlington National Cemetery.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME
TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$77,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$8,940,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$25,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program,

project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 408. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 412. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the

custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$58,292,000 of which not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$1,896,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$5,190,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups, including but not limited to, tribal organizations and institutions such as tribal colleges, tribal technical colleges, tribal community colleges and tribal universities, to improve the delivery of culturally appropriate public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed \$7,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, of which \$1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5); not to exceed \$25,206,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$23,500,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for

the Office; not to exceed \$4,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551–558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$30,500,000, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be for an interdisciplinary center based at a land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the Midwest region which will provide private entities, policymakers, and the public with timely insights and targeted economic solutions: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115–334.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, \$16,703,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$14,967,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$91,000,000, of which not less than \$77,428,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$6,867,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$1,466,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$37,000,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$22,603,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, \$20,800,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), \$111,561,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$60,537,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$4,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$1,884,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are

available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$90,612,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$187,513,000, of which up to \$46,850,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100,000 and with prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,788,063,000: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$500,000, except for greenhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000 each, and except for four buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other

political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, \$57,164,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$1,075,950,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That funds for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, Hispanic serving institutions education grants, capacity building for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, multicultural scholars, graduate fellowship and institution challenge grants, grants management systems, tribal colleges education equity grants, and scholarships at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving institutions and for Insular Areas shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 3157 may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$561,700,000 which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Ac-

tivities" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That funds for extension services at 1994 institutions and for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$41,100,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$1,617,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$1,162,026,000, of which up to \$14,276,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); of which \$500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for invasive catfish control; of which \$250,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds ("contingency fund") to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which \$15,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for the cotton pests program, including for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Animal Health Technical Services; of which \$35,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for agricultural quarantine and inspection services; of which \$3,500,000 shall be for activities under the authority of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831); of which \$65,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to support avian health; of which \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology infrastructure; of

which \$215,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for specialty crop pests, of which \$8,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for one-time control and management and associated activities directly related to the multiple-agency response to citrus greening; of which, \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for field crop and rangeland ecosystem pests; of which \$21,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for zoonotic disease management; of which \$44,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for emergency preparedness and response; of which \$59,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for tree and wood pests; of which \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile; of which up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the scrapie program for indemnities; of which \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: *Provided*, That of amounts available under this heading for wildlife services methods development, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of amounts available under this heading for the screwworm program, \$4,990,000 shall remain available until expended; of which \$24,527,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program and transition activities for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2024, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, im-

provement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$222,887,000, of which \$6,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 12306 of Public Law 113-79, and of which \$1,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 779 of division A of Public Law 117-103: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be to carry out section 12513 of Public Law 115-334, of which \$11,250,000 shall be for dairy business innovation initiatives established in Public Law 116-6 and the Secretary shall take measures to ensure an equal distribution of funds between these three regional innovation initiatives: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701), except for the cost of activities relating to the development or maintenance of grain standards under the United States Grain Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$62,596,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$21,501,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,000,000.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$1,117,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,190,009,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2024 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110-246 as further clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, \$1,527,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, \$244,183,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall be for the implementation of section 773 of Public Law 117-328: *Provided*, That \$60,228,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,209,307,000, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers and shall be available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024 to the Committees on Appropriations of both

Houses of Congress that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$696,594,000 shall be made available to county offices, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, any funds made available to county offices in the current fiscal year that the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency deems to exceed or not meet the amount needed for the county offices may be transferred to or from the Farm Service Agency for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101–5106), \$6,500,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may determine that United States territories and Federally recognized Indian tribes are “States” for the purposes of Subtitle A of such Act.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well-head or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2), \$7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387, 114 Stat. 1549A–12).

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

For necessary expenses to carry out direct reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under section 1621 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792), \$3,500,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm own-

ership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 5136), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), relending program (7 U.S.C. 1936c), and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 5136) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$3,500,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$3,100,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$2,118,491,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,633,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$37,667,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; relending program, \$61,426,000; Indian highly fractionated land loans, \$5,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: \$3,507,000 for emergency loans, to remain available until expended; and \$27,598,000 for direct farm operating loans, \$1,483,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed farm operating loans, \$19,368,000 for the relending program, \$1,577,000 for Indian highly fractionated land loans, and \$258,000 for boll weevil eradication program loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$326,053,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$305,803,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses”.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$65,637,000: *Provided*, That \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be available for compliance and integrity activities required under section 516(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)), and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a–f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and tem-

porary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$914,899,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$19,144,913 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available under this heading, \$7,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to carry out the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program under section 222 of subtitle A of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923), as amended by section 12302 of Public Law 115–334.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009) and in accordance with the provisions of laws relating to the activities of the Department, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$20,350,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That for funds provided by this Act or any other prior Act, the limitation regarding the size of the watershed or subwatershed exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres in which such activities can be undertaken shall only apply for activities undertaken for the primary purpose of flood prevention (including structural and land treatment measures): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$14,650,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities that increase fish or wildlife habitat, reduce drought impact, improve water quality or instream flow, or provide off-channel renewable energy production.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, \$1,000,000 is provided.

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND
REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation: *Provided further*, That such written notification shall include a detailed spend plan for the anticipated uses of such funds and an expected timeline for program execution if such obligation or commitment exceeds \$100,000,000.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$15,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, \$1,620,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$351,087,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Rural Partners Network activities of the Department of Agriculture, and may be transferred to other agencies of the Department for such purpose, consistent with the missions and authorities of such agencies: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, no less than \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for information technology expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section, as

amended by this Act, will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$880,000,000 shall be for section 502 direct loans; \$5,000,000 shall be for a Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes; and \$25,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2025 shall be for section 502 unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$25,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$60,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$400,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; and \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 loans, \$84,480,000 shall be for direct loans; Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes, \$2,288,000; section 504 housing repair loans, \$4,338,000; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, \$637,000; section 524 site development loans, \$477,000; and repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$20,988,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on their own resources to include proceeds from low income housing tax credit syndication, own contributions, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as "Asset Management Fee" of up to \$7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans and grants, including the cost of modifying

loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$34,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or re-amortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall, as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement, obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by sections 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$12,722,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$412,254,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,608,000,000, and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for renewal of rental assistance agreements for a maximum of 1,000 units where the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be restructured with another USDA loan or modification and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into rental assistance contracts in maturing properties with existing rental assistance agreements notwithstanding any provision of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, for a term of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years: *Provided further*, That any agreement to enter into a rental assistance contract under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 for a maturing property shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with the Housing Act of 1949, except that rents shall be based on current Fair Market Rents as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart A, 42 U.S.C. 1437f and 3535d, to determine the maximum initial rent and adjusted annually by the Operating Cost Adjustment Factor pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart B, unless the Agency determines that the project's budget-based needs require a higher rent, in which case the Agency may approve a budget-based rent level: *Provided further*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one year period: *Provided further*, That

upon request by an owner under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2024 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of twelve consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the eighth proviso under this heading and notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2024 for a project that the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, \$48,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid or otherwise paid off after September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as au-

thorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$2,800,000,000 for direct loans and \$650,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$18,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans and or loan guarantees under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or that were specified in the tables titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statements for division A of Public Law 117-103 and division A of Public Law 117-328 as described in section 4 in the matter preceding each such division A: *Provided further*, That \$8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$66,615,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and \$8,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C.

2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), the Southwest Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$100,000 shall be made available for one or more qualified state technology council to promote private-sector economic development in the bio-sciences: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$10,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$3,035,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$573,000 shall be available through June 30, 2024, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$1,147,000 shall be available through June 30, 2024, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$50,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$24,600,000, of which \$2,800,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$13,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, of which \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Agriculture Innovation

Centers authorized pursuant to section 6402 of Public Law 107-171.

RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), \$20,000,000.

For the cost of loans and grants, \$5,000,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$50,000,000.

HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

For the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 243 of subtitle D of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953), as added by section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities, \$500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs of loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as follows: \$860,000,000 for direct loans; and \$50,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$595,972,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$117,484,737 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$65,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act, and the De-

partment of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$35,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$8,500,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$21,817,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,695,000 of the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be available as the Secretary deems appropriate for water and waste direct one percent loans for distressed communities: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that any portion of the amount made available for one percent loans is not needed for such loans, the Secretary may use such amounts for grants authorized by section 306(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That if any funds made available for the direct loan subsidy costs remain unobligated after July 31, 2024, such unobligated balances may be used for grant programs funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That \$8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by sections 4, 305, 306, 313A, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 904, 935, 936, 940c-1, and 940g) shall be made as follows: guaranteed rural electric loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$2,167,000,000; cost of money direct loans made pursuant to sections 4, notwithstanding the one-eighth of one percent in 4(c)(2), and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, \$4,333,000,000; guaranteed

underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A of that Act, \$900,000,000; and for cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 305(d)(2) of that Act, \$550,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design, engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon subsurface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(d)(2)), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, \$5,720,000.

In addition, \$3,578,000 to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the energy efficiency measures supported by the funding in this paragraph shall contribute in a demonstrable way to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$33,270,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$49,574,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$9,573,570 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$100,385,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$10,385,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That the Secretary may award grants described in section 601(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 950bb(a)) for the purposes of carrying out such pilot program: *Provided further*, That the cost of direct loans shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That at least 90 percent of the households to be served by a project receiving a loan or grant under the pilot program shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to broadband: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such pilot program, a rural area without sufficient access to broadband shall be defined as twenty-five megabits per second downstream and three megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That to the extent possible, projects receiving funds provided under the pilot program must build out service to at least one hundred megabits per second downstream, and twenty megabits

per second upstream: *Provided further*, That an entity to which a loan or grant is made under the pilot program shall not use the loan or grant to overbuild or duplicate broadband service in a service area by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service unless such service is not provided sufficient access to broadband at the minimum service threshold: *Provided further*, That not more than four percent of the funds made available in this paragraph can be used for administrative costs to carry out the pilot program and up to three percent of funds made available in this paragraph may be available for technical assistance and pre-development planning activities to support the most rural communities: *Provided further*, That the Rural Utilities Service is directed to expedite program delivery methods that would implement this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adhere to the notice, reporting and service area assessment requirements set forth in section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950cc).

In addition, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Community Connect Grant Program authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950bb-3.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$1,127,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$33,266,226,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$18,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$21,005,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(c)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year 2024 shall not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$10,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$1,000,000 shall remain

available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and (e)(2)): *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2024” and inserting “2010 through 2025”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2023” and inserting “For fiscal year 2024”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2023” and inserting “For fiscal year 2024”.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$7,030,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to increase the amount of a cash-value voucher for women and children participants to an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$122,382,521,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2026, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*,

That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, \$480,070,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2024 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$177,348,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, \$932,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Codex Alimentarius, \$4,922,000, including not to exceed \$40,000 for official reception and representation expenses.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766),

\$227,330,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available for middle-income country training programs, funds made available for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, and up to \$2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation solely for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service, shall remain available until expended.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,619,107,000, to remain available until expended.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$24,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities as described in subsection 3107(a)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1(a)(2)).

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,063,000, to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses".

TITLE VI

RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; in addition to amounts appropriated to the FDA Innova-

tion Account, for carrying out the activities described in section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255); for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$6,721,782,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,422,104,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$362,381,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$613,538,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$31,109,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$33,500,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$25,000,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2024 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2024, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2024 but credited for fiscal year 2024, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2024 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2024 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2025, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2025 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2024 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$1,185,989,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than \$15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) \$2,334,704,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than \$10,000,000 shall be for pilots to increase unannounced foreign inspections and shall remain available until expended; (3) \$570,632,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (4) \$284,285,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regu-

latory Affairs; (5) \$770,697,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (6) \$77,505,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$684,324,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (8) \$215,701,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$55,061,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) \$230,423,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$367,522,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Food Policy and Response, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to, and for the administration of, section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities and shall not exceed \$2,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for "other activities", and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General" for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), medical countermeasure priority review voucher user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and fees relating to over-the-counter monograph drugs authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-72 shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, demolition, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described under section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act, in addition to amounts available for such purposes under the heading "Salaries and Expenses", \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated in this paragraph are appropriated pursuant to section 1002(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures

Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1002(b)(2)(A) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to the appropriation for “Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration Salaries and Expenses” solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Commissioner that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the account: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, and the rental of space (to include multiple year leases), in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, \$365,000,000, including not to exceed \$3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$25,000 for the expenses for consultations and meetings hosted by the Commission with foreign governmental and other regulatory officials, of which not less than \$80,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, and of which not less than \$4,218,000 shall be for expenses of the Office of the Inspector General: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the limitations in 31 U.S.C. 1553, amounts provided under this heading are available for the liquidation of obligations equal to current year payments on leases entered into prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of recording and liquidating any lease obligations that should have been recorded and liquidated against accounts closed pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1552, and consistent with the preceding proviso, such amounts shall be transferred to and recorded in a no-year account in the Treasury, which has been established for the sole purpose of recording adjustments for and liquidating such unpaid obligations.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$94,300,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the purposes of section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)), the Farm Credit Administration may exempt, an amount in its sole discretion, from the application of the limitation provided in that clause of export loans described in the clause guaranteed or insured in a manner other than described in subclause (II) of the clause.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2024 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year

2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in

the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements

up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 714. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as “section 14222”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as “section 32”) in excess of \$1,574,028,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutri-

tion Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$1,660,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—\$37,178,000: *Provided*, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2024, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2025 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed \$350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2024 appropriations Act.

SEC. 716. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that re-

main available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 717. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department

of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, non-Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed spending plan by program, project, and activity for all the funds made available under this Act including appropriated user fees, as defined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

SEC. 722. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 723. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 724. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 725. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only

for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the "variety" requirements of the final rule entitled "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term "variety" as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and "variety" as applied in the definition of the term "staple food" as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: *Provided*, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

SEC. 727. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 728. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 729. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the Broadband Treasury Rate Loan program, authorized in section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb), \$7,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 730. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided*, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub-

lic Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further*, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

SEC. 731. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

- (A) veterinary control and oversight;
- (B) disease history and vaccination practices;
- (C) livestock demographics and traceability;
- (D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;
- (E) surveillance practices;
- (F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and
- (G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.

SEC. 732. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the rural housing voucher program authorized by section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), as amended, \$35,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 733. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading "Rural Cooperative Development Grants" for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized by section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b), as amended, \$7,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 734. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

- (1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- (2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- (3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the

cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 735. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 736. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account”; “Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Business Program Account”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account”; and “Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and 2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further*, That with respect to specific activities

for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.

SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 738. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled “Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption”, and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. 739. For school years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the matter following the first comma in the second sentence of footnote (c) of section 220.8(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to the substitution of vegetables for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

SEC. 740. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

- (1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or
- (2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 741. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

SEC. 742. The Secretary, as part of the report on foreign landholding required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (Public Law 95–460), shall report to Congress on foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States, including the impact foreign ownership has on family farms, rural communities, and the domestic food supply: *Provided*, That within 2 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures made under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act, including an internet database that contains disaggregated data from each disclosure submitted: *Provided further*, That all prior year disclosures of foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States are published in the database: *Provided further*, That the plan includes a process to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information and that all disclosures of foreign investments in agricultural land on the USDA website be disaggregated by: (1) in any case in which such foreign person is an individual, the citizenship of such foreign person; and (2)

in any case in which such foreign person is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such foreign person is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such foreign person.

SEC. 743. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate the acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 744. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading “Rural Housing Assistance Grants” for housing repair grants authorized by section 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474), as amended, \$28,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 745. (a) After the effective date of any final rule the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) publishes in connection with its proposed rule to update these requirements (87 Federal Register 59168, issued on September 29, 2022), manufacturers may also continue to comply with the previous requirements promulgated by the FDA for the implied nutrient content claim “healthy” through the “compliance date” FDA provides in the final rule.

(b) Any food product manufactured and labeled as “healthy” during the compliance period FDA provides in that final rule shall not be directly or indirectly subject to any state-law requirements that are not identical to either (i) the Federal requirements for the implied nutrition content claim “healthy” that were in effect as of the date FDA issues the final rule, or (ii) the updated Federal requirements that FDA promulgates in the final rule, assuming the updated requirements go into effect during the regulatory compliance period.

SEC. 746. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. 747. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

SEC. 748. For school year 2024–2025, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B.

Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

SEC. 749. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

SEC. 750. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.

SEC. 751. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

SEC. 752. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are “Areas Rural in Character”: *Provided*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program” for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115-141 may be used for this purpose.

SEC. 753. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301-1311).

SEC. 754. Out of amounts appropriated to the Food and Drug Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than September 30, 2024, and following the review required under Executive Order No. 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled “Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability” (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

SEC. 755. In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is hereby appropriated \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program established pursuant to section 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2) to award grants to processors of invasive, wild-caught catfish.

SEC. 756. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2024, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones, excluding the funding provided through any Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending.

SEC. 757. In this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 in a manner inconsistent with section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

SEC. 758. (a) For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out no more than 10 pilot projects, under the terms and conditions determined by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 2 years, that award grants to an Indian tribe; a tribal organization approved by an Indian tribe; a tribal educational agency; a consortium of Indian tribes; or a partnership between an Indian tribe and either a State educational agency, a local educational agency, a tribal educational agency, or the Bureau of Indian Education to operate and implement the school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769), the summer food service program as established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, the child and adult care food program as established by section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the school breakfast program established by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) in either a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)); a school (as defined in section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760 (d)) on or near an Indian reservation; or an early child care and education facility: *Provided*, That to carry out this pilot program each grant awarded shall be no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$100,000 for each school year and shall not increase state administrative costs or the amount of benefits provided in any program: *Provided further*, That the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pilot project grant recipient shall be reimbursed for meals served under the school lunch program, the summer food service program, and the child and adult care food program as if the recipient were a State under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and under the school breakfast program as if the recipient were a State educational agency.

(c) Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the outcomes of the pilot program.

SEC. 759. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue or promote any new guide-

lines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers for *Listeria monocytogenes* (Lm) until the FDA considers the available new science in developing the Compliance Policy Guide (CPG), Guidance for FDA Staff, Sec. 55.320 *Listeria monocytogenes*—regarding Lm in low-risk foods, meaning foods that do not support the growth of Lm.

SEC. 760. Section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c) is amended in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking “two years” and inserting “five years”.

SEC. 761. Section 524 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490d) is amended in subsection (a)(1) by striking “two years” and inserting “five years”.

SEC. 762. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at paragraph (10) by inserting after “Secretary of Housing Urban Development” the following: “and the Secretary of Agriculture”.

SEC. 763. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to develop, issue, promote or advance any final guidelines or new regulations applicable to food manufacturers for long-term population-wide sodium reduction actions until an assessment is completed on the impact of the short-term sodium reduction targets.

SEC. 764. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a Bison Production and Marketing Grant Program that the Agricultural Marketing Service shall develop and maintain: *Provided*, That this program shall be similar, as determined by the Secretary, to the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program the Department of Agriculture currently maintains pursuant to section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)), and shall prioritize grants to national non-profits and federally chartered Tribal organizations that have expertise in bison production or marketing.

SEC. 765. Notwithstanding the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622 et seq.) and 9 CFR part 352, the Committee provides an additional \$700,000 to the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service to cover voluntary meat inspection fees for the slaughtering or processing of bison/buffalo at Native American owned establishments or establishments operating on tribal lands.

SEC. 766. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the Rural Water Operation Program under the heading “Natural Resources Conservation Service—Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations”, \$28,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 767. If services performed by APHIS employees are determined by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be in response to an animal disease outbreak, any premium pay that is funded, either directly or through reimbursement, shall be exempted from the aggregate of basic pay and premium pay calculated under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, and any other provision of law limiting the aggregate amount of premium pay payable on a biweekly or calendar year basis: *Provided*, That this section shall take effect as if enacted on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 768. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and

Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 769. Any rule-making, notice or guidance of or regarding USDA Proposed Rule (Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans; RIN 0584-AE88) shall allow and provide meal reimbursement for (or “low fat or fat free”) flavored milk in National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for grades Kindergarten through 12th grade and in Child and Adult Care Food Program for participants 6 years of age and older, and for any other program complying with the meal pattern requirements covered in such final rule.

SEC. 770. Sodium limits in effect for School Year 2023–2024 in child nutrition meal patterns shall remain effective through School Year 2026–2027, after which sodium limits that may be included in any rulemaking, notice or guidance of or regarding USDA Proposed Rule (Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans; RIN 0584-AE88), shall not be more restrictive than the Target 2 sodium levels published in the final rule entitled “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on January 26, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 4087).

SEC. 771. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.

SEC. 772. There is appropriated \$3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

SEC. 773. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) were tasked with providing findings and recommendations on alcohol consumption for the purposes of inclusion in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by Section 772 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328): *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider the findings and recommendations of the NASEM report in the development of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and further, both Secretaries shall ensure that the alcohol consumption recommendations in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans shall be based on the preponderance of scientific and medical knowledge consistent with section 5341 of title 7 of United States Code.

SEC. 774. The first proviso under the heading “Rural Community Facilities Program Account” in title I of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) is amended by inserting “or to repair or replace essential community facilities damaged by a disaster that occurred in calendar year 2023” after “calendar year 2022”: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 775. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for

the Rural Energy for American program authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$10,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 776. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available in Section 2304 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), \$30,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 777. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under Division A, Title IV, under the heading “Nutrition Programs Administration” for relocation expenses and the alteration and repair of buildings and improvement pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), \$8,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 778. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2024 in the “Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” established in section 742 of division A of Public Law 113-235, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, the following shall be available during the period of availability of the Fund for the specified purposes and in the specified amounts—

(1) for grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$505,023,927 for the purposes, and in the amounts specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and under the same authorities and conditions as amounts made available by this Act in the second paragraph under the heading “Rural Community Facilities Program Account”; and

(2) for expenses during fiscal year 2024, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years’ costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$68,476,073, under the same authorities and conditions as amounts made available by this Act under the heading “Food for Peace Title II Grants”: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 779. Section 2250b of title 7, United States Code, is hereby amended in the second proviso by striking “capital acquisition” and after “infrastructure” inserting “and information technology services.”

SEC. 780. Section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c-2(a)), shall be applied for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter until the specified funding has been expended as if the following were inserted after the final period: “In addition, the Secretary shall use \$9,465,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2024 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)).”

SEC. 781. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019) shall include the words “genetically engineered” prior to the existing acceptable market name.

SEC. 782. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117-103: *Provided*, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall continue to dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: *Provided further*, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: *Provided further*, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.

SEC. 783. There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 89).

SEC. 784. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for conservation activities under the heading “Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations”, \$30,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 785. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the “National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities”, \$37,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 786. There is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for section 306E(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide subgrants to eligible individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems.

SEC. 787. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be included as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) on a case by case basis pursuant to the authorities in section 721(k)(2)(J) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)(2)(J)) with respect to each covered transaction (as defined in section 721(a)(4) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4))) involving agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry (including agricultural transportation, agricultural storage, and agricultural processing), as determined by the CFIUS Chairperson in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, notify the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States of any agricultural land transaction that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe, based on information from or in cooperation with the Intelligence Community, is a covered transaction (A) that may pose a risk to the national security of the United States, with particular emphasis on covered transactions of an interest in agricultural land by foreign governments or entities of concern, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 19221(a), including the

People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (B) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501(a)): *Provided*, That there is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose, to carry out this section.

SEC. 788. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available in the "Working Capital Fund", \$78,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 789. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the "Community Connect Grant Program", \$30,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 790. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading "Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program", other than amounts made available for the Community Connect Grant Program, \$18,891,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 791. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for veterinary diagnostics under the heading "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses account", \$5,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 792. The agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture may reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), out of the funds provided in this Act, for costs incurred by OGC in providing services to such agencies or offices under time-limited agreements entered into with such agencies and offices: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 793. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2024".

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2024".

This division may be cited as the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024".

DIVISION C—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Com-

merce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, to carry out activities associated with title VI of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; recognizing contributions to export expansion pursuant to Executive Order 10978; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$45,000 per vehicle; not to exceed \$325,000 for purchase of armored vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitations; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$623,000,000, of which \$85,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That \$12,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities: *Provided further*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, up to \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purpose of carrying out a pilot fellowship program of the United States Commercial Service under which the Secretary of Commerce may make competitive grants to appropriate institutions of higher education or students to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of, and interest in employment with, that Service among minority students: *Provided further*, That any grants awarded under such program shall be made pursuant to regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary, which shall require as a condition of the initial receipt of grant funds, a commitment by prospective grantees to accept full-time employment in the Global Markets unit of the International Trade Administration upon the completion of participation in the program.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (subtitle B of title XVII of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 2208; 50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$191,000,000, of which \$76,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading for activities under the "revised nonsecurity category", as defined in section 250(c)(4)(E) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177), as amended, \$20,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, and for grants authorized by sections 27, 28, and 30 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722, 3722a, and 3723), as amended, \$400,000,000 to remain available until expended, of which \$50,000,000 shall be for grants under section 27, \$41,000,000 shall be for grants under section 28, and \$2,500,000 shall be for grants under section 30: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$30,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, \$68,000,000: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976; title II of the Trade Act of 1974; sections 27 through 30 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722–3723), as amended; and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Development Agency in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, as authorized by law, \$68,250,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, \$125,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$328,500,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$1,054,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), \$57,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES,
PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the design, construction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of buildings and facilities managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, not

otherwise provided for, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICESALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, \$4,195,799,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2024, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than \$4,195,799,000, this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further*, That any amount received in excess of \$4,195,799,000 in fiscal year 2024 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office “Salaries and Expenses” account: *Provided further*, That the budget of the President submitted for fiscal year 2025 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include within amounts provided under this heading for necessary expenses of the USPTO any increases that are expected to result from an increase promulgated through rule or regulation in offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law in either fiscal year 2024 or fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed \$13,500 shall be made available in fiscal year 2024 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2024 from the amounts made available for “Salaries and Expenses” for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO’s specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO’s specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FGLI Fund, and the Employees FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further*, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM’s yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO’s

specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO’s financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112–29): *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$2,450,000 shall be transferred to the “Office of Inspector General” account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
TECHNOLOGY
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND
SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), \$1,080,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$9,000,000 may be transferred to the “Working Capital Fund”: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$222,841,000 shall be made available for the NIST–STRS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses for industrial technology services, \$212,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$175,000,000 shall be for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and of which \$37,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing USA Program.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c–278e), \$168,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$80,242,000 shall be made available for the NIST–Construction projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That up to one percent of amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may be used for the administrative costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided*

further, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials for fiscal year 2025 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than \$5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; pilot programs for State-led fisheries management, notwithstanding any other provision of law; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, \$4,548,485,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, \$369,522,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries", which shall only be used for fishery activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program; Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; Observers and Training; Fisheries Management Programs and Services; and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$71,299,000 shall be for payment to the "Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund": *Provided further*, That of the \$4,946,007,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, \$4,548,485,000 is appropriated from the general fund, \$369,522,000 is provided by transfer, and \$28,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$139,499,000 shall be made available for the NOAA—CZM and NOAA—ORF projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents' Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, \$1,719,866,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, except that funds provided for acquisition and construction of vessels and aircraft, and construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in the matter preceding this proviso, \$100,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That in addition, \$44,000,000 shall be derived by transfer for the purposes provided under this heading from the unobligated balances in the Fund established in section 111(a) of division B of Public Law 116-93: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred pursuant to the preceding proviso from amounts made available in section 101(e)(1) of title I of division A of Public Law 118-5: *Provided further*, That of the \$1,776,866,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, \$1,719,866,000 is appropriated from the general fund, \$13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations, and \$44,000,000 is provided by transfer: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials for fiscal year 2025 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than \$5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, \$65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses of administering the fishery disaster assistance programs au-

thorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (title III of Public Law 99-659), \$300,000.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95-372, not to exceed \$349,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2024, obligations of direct loans may not exceed \$24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed \$150,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of section 106 of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (title I of division S of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328)), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may assess and collect fees pursuant to such section, which shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of such section, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed \$4,500 for official reception and representation, \$94,500,000: *Provided*, That no employee of the Department of Commerce may be detailed or assigned from a bureau or office funded by this Act or any other Act to offices within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for more than 180 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing bureau or office is fully reimbursed for the salary and expenses of the employee for the entire period of assignment using funds provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That amounts made available to the Department of Commerce in this or any prior Act may not be transferred pursuant to section 508 of this or any prior Act to the account funded under this heading, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances that threaten life or property.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, \$1,142,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$48,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of

passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is \$11,322,125,000, the life cycle cost of the Polar Follow On Program is \$6,837,900,000, the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is \$11,700,100,000, and the life cycle cost for the Space Weather Follow On Program is \$692,800,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Commerce may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to \$200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian Tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer

for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a customer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. To carry out the responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Administrator of NOAA is authorized to: (1) enter into grants and cooperative agreements with; (2) use on a non-reimbursable basis land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities provided by; and (3) receive and expend funds made available on a consensual basis from: a Federal agency, State or subdivision thereof, local government, Tribal government, Territory, or possession or any subdivisions thereof: *Provided*, That funds received for permitting and related regulatory activities pursuant to this section shall be deposited under the heading “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities” and shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for such purposes: *Provided further*, That all funds within this section and their corresponding uses are subject to section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 110. Amounts provided by this Act or by any prior appropriations Act that remain available for obligation, for necessary expenses of the programs of the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department of Commerce, including amounts provided for programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census, shall be available for expenses of cooperative agreements with appropriate entities, including any Federal, State, or local governmental unit, or institution of higher education, to aid and promote statistical, research, and methodology activities which further the purposes for which such amounts have been made available.

SEC. 111. The Secretary of Commerce, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive up to 50 percent of the cost sharing requirements under section 315, of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1461) as necessary at the request of the grant applicant, for amounts made available under this Act under the heading “Procurement, Acquisition and Construction” under the heading “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration”.

SEC. 112. Any unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds transferred to the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, as authorized by section 111 of title I of division B of Public Law 116–93, may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 113. The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere is authorized to designate one or more Cooperative Aviation Centers for the purposes of recruiting aviators for the NOAA commissioned officer corps from institutions that provide a four-year baccalaureate program of professional flight and piloting instruction that is accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International: *Provided*, That Cooperative Aviation Centers shall be located in a geographic area that experiences a wide variation in climate-related activity, such as frequent high winds, convective activity (including tornadoes), periods of low visibility, heat, and snow and ice episodes, to provide opportunities for pilots to demonstrate skill in all weather conditions compatible with fu-

ture encounters during their service in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.

SEC. 114. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may accept payments from a non-Federal party during fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of altering or replacing fencing, and related activities, for the Administration's port facility in Ketchikan, Alaska. Amounts accepted under this section may be credited to the appropriation account otherwise available for such purpose and shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 115. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the employees of the National Weather Service and non-governmental experts in personnel management, may establish an alternative or fixed rate for relocation allowance, including permanent change of station allowance, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5724 and the regulations prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 5738.

This title may be cited as the “Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2024”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUSTICE OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the operations, management, and accountability of the Department of Justice, \$142,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which not to exceed \$4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any reference to the Department of Justice's “General Administration” appropriations heading (including references that include its subheadings) which appears in any rule, regulation, provision, law, or other official document, shall hereafter be deemed a reference to the Department of Justice's “Justice Operations, Management, and Accountability” appropriations heading.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to \$40,000,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, to remain available until expended, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the first proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of immigration-related activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, \$844,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the “Immigration Examinations Fee” account, and of which not less than \$28,000,000 shall be available for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$50,000,000 of the total amount made available under this heading

shall remain available until September 30, 2028, for build-out and modifications of courtroom space.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$139,000,000, including not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, \$14,000,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the expiration of a term of office of a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed \$20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; the administration of pardon and clemency petitions; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, \$1,090,000,000, of which not to exceed \$50,000,000 for litigation support contracts and information technology projects, including cybersecurity and hardening of critical networks, shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided for INTERPOL Washington dues payments, not to exceed \$900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$8,900 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$8,900 shall be available to the Criminal Division for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to "Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities" from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, \$3,390,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any funds provided under this heading in prior year appropriations Acts that remain available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) may also be used to carry out any au-

thorized purposes of the Civil Rights Division: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed by the preceding proviso may not be used to increase the number of permanent positions.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, \$22,700,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund and to remain available until expended.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, \$233,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$233,000,000 to be derived from fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 605 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (15 U.S.C. 18a note), none of the funds credited to this account as offsetting collections during the current fiscal year shall become available for obligation in any fiscal year except as provided in the preceding two provisos or as provided in a subsequent appropriations Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including intergovernmental and cooperative agreements, \$2,611,000,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$19,600 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$40,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, \$245,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits of discretionary offsetting collections to the United States Trustee System Fund and amounts herein appropriated shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections pursuant to section 589a of title 28, United States Code (as limited by section 589a(f)(2) of title 28, United States Code), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in fiscal year 2024, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, exceed \$245,000,000, those excess amounts shall be available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the gen-

eral fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2024, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, (estimated at \$230,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts deposited in the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$15,000,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$2,504,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, \$270,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$16,000,000 is for construction of buildings for protected witness safesites; not to exceed \$3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed \$35,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading may not be transferred pursuant to section 205 of this Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, \$24,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, \$20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, \$1,692,000,000, of which not to exceed \$20,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$163,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space that is controlled, occupied, or utilized by the United

States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, \$2,100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$250,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall be considered "funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance" pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, \$128,000,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime, and money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include inter-governmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, \$547,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, \$10,643,713,000, of which not to exceed \$216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$279,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities, and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification,

and extension of federally owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed \$70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, \$2,567,000,000, of which not to exceed \$75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed \$90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$328,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 3672 of Public Law 106-310, up to \$10,000,000 may be used to reimburse States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, other public entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof for expenses incurred to clean up and safely dispose of substances associated with clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, conversion and extraction operations, tableting operations, or laboratories and processing operations for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances which may present a danger to public health or the environment.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, \$1,625,000,000, of which not to exceed \$35,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and cor-

rectional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, \$8,392,588,000: *Provided*, That not less than \$409,483,000 shall be for the programs and activities authorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391), of which not less than 2 percent shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for the National Institute of Justice to carry out evaluations of programs and activities related to the First Step Act of 2018: *Provided further*, That the Attorney General may transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Department for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended for necessary operations: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the operation of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading for programs and activities related to the First Step Act may not be transferred, or otherwise made available, to or for administration by the Department of Labor.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites, and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account, \$179,762,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$30,000,000 shall be available only for costs related to construction of new facilities: *Provided*, That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed \$2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated,

shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND
PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) (“the 1968 Act”); title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (commonly known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”) (Public Law 90-284) (“the Indian Civil Rights Act”); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) (“the 1994 Act”); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) (“the 1974 Act”); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) (“the 2000 Act”); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405) (“the 2004 Act”); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22) (“the 2015 Act”); the Abolish Human Trafficking Act (Public Law 115-392); and the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117-103) (“the 2022 Act”); and for related victims services, \$713,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$80,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from amounts available for obligation in this Act from the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473 (34 U.S.C. 20101), notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act of 1984, and merged with the amounts otherwise made available under this heading: *Provided*, That except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided—

(1) \$255,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act, and any applicable increases for the amount of such grants, as authorized by section 5903 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023: *Provided*, That \$10,000,000 shall be for any such increases under such section 5903, which shall apply to fiscal year 2024 grants funded by amounts provided in this paragraph;

(2) \$50,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual as-

sault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) \$2,500,000 is for the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics for research, evaluation, and statistics of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to “Research, Evaluation and Statistics” for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) \$17,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; and assistance to middle and high school students through education and other services related to such violence, of which \$3,500,000 is to engage men and youth in preventing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303, and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) \$60,500,000 is for grants to improve the criminal justice response as authorized by part U of title I of the 1968 Act, of which up to \$4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative; up to \$4,000,000 is for a domestic violence lethality reduction initiative; and up to \$8,000,000 is for an initiative to promote effective policing and prosecution responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including evaluation of the effectiveness of funded interventions (“Policing and Prosecution Initiative”);

(6) \$78,500,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) \$50,000,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) \$25,000,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act, of which \$12,500,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities;

(9) \$55,000,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) \$9,000,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40801 of the 1994 Act;

(11) \$22,000,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) \$12,000,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) \$1,000,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) \$1,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to “Research, Evaluation and Statistics” for

administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(15) \$500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women;

(16) \$11,000,000 is for programs to assist Tribal Governments in exercising special Tribal criminal jurisdiction, as authorized by section 204 of the Indian Civil Rights Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the 1994 Act shall apply to grants made;

(17) \$1,500,000 is for the purposes authorized under the 2015 Act;

(18) \$15,000,000 is for a grant program as authorized by section 41801 of the 1994 Act: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 109 of the 2022 Act shall apply to this program;

(19) \$11,000,000 is for culturally specific services for victims, as authorized by section 121 of the 2005 Act;

(20) \$3,000,000 is for an initiative to support cross-designation of tribal prosecutors as Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(21) \$1,000,000 is for an initiative to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including through the provision of technical assistance, as authorized by section 206 of the 2022 Act: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(22) \$2,000,000 is for a National Deaf Services Line to provide remote services to Deaf victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this service line;

(23) \$5,000,000 is for grants for outreach and services to underserved populations, as authorized by section 120 of the 2005 Act;

(24) \$4,000,000 is for an initiative to provide financial assistance to victims, including evaluation of the effectiveness of funded projects: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(25) \$5,000,000 is for trauma-informed, victim-centered training for law enforcement, and related research and evaluation activities, as authorized by section 41701 of the 1994 Act;

(26) \$10,000,000 is for grants to support access to sexual assault nurse examinations, as authorized by section 304 of title III of the 2004 Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program; and

(27) \$5,500,000 is for local law enforcement grants for prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of cybercrimes against individuals, as authorized by section 1401 of the 2022 Act, and for a National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2022 Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this paragraph.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) (“the 1994 Act”); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (“the 1974 Act”); the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-

21) (“the PROTECT Act”); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) (“the 2002 Act”); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79) (“PREA”); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198); the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391); and other programs, \$65,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$35,000,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs and other activities as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act; and

(2) \$30,000,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle C of title II of the 2002 Act, and for activities authorized by or consistent with the First Step Act of 2018, of which \$1,500,000 is for research on multidisciplinary teams, and not less than \$1,500,000 is for Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes grants.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASSISTANCE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) (“the 1994 Act”); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-351) (“the 1968 Act”); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-164) (“the TVPRA of 2005”); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) (“the Victims of Trafficking Act”); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) (“the 2002 Act”); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79) (“PREA”); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-403); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198) (“CARA”); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-324); Kevin and Avonte’s Law (division Q of Public Law 115-141) (“Kevin and Avonte’s Law”); the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018 (title III of division S of Public Law 115-141) (“the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act”); the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 (title V of divi-

sion S of Public Law 115-141) (“the STOP School Violence Act”); the Fix NICS Act of 2018 (title VI of division S of Public Law 115-141); the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-185); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115-271); the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391); the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111-84); the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-401); the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-277); the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507); the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117-103) (“the 2022 Act”); and other programs, \$2,475,061,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$924,061,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g), of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1—

(A) \$13,000,000 is for an Officer Robert Wilson III memorial initiative on Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR);

(B) \$3,000,000 is for the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;

(C) \$10,000,000 is for a grant program for State and local law enforcement to provide officer training on responding to individuals with mental illness or disabilities, including for purposes described in the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-325);

(D) \$3,000,000 is for a student loan repayment assistance program pursuant to section 952 of Public Law 110-315;

(E) \$15,500,000 is for prison rape prevention and prosecution grants to States and units of local government, and other programs, as authorized by PREA;

(F) \$3,000,000 is for the Missing Americans Alert Program (title XXIV of the 1994 Act), as amended by Kevin and Avonte’s Law;

(G) \$19,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-185);

(H) \$12,000,000 is for the Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108-405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review;

(I) \$3,000,000 is for the program specified in paragraph (1)(I) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance” in division B of Public Law 117-328;

(J) \$1,000,000 is for the purposes of the Ashanti Alert Communications Network as authorized under the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-401);

(K) \$3,500,000 is for a grant program to replicate and support family-based alternative sentencing programs;

(L) \$1,000,000 is for a grant program to support child advocacy training in post-secondary education;

(M) \$7,000,000 is for a rural violent crime initiative, including assistance for law enforcement;

(N) \$5,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-277);

(O) \$1,500,000 is for grants to accredited institutions of higher education to support forensic ballistics programs;

(P) \$3,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 1506 of the 2022 Act;

(Q) \$125,000,000 is for grants for law enforcement activities associated with the presi-

dential nominating conventions in addition to amounts provided for such purposes in section 222 of this Act; and

(R) \$350,028,000 is for discretionary grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and to assist victims of crime (other than compensation), which shall be made available for the OJP—Byrne projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); *Provided*, That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose;

(2) \$234,000,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, as authorized by section 241(I)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(I)(5)); *Provided*, That no jurisdiction shall request compensation for any cost greater than the actual cost for Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities;

(3) \$88,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking Act, by the TVPRA of 2005, or programs authorized under Public Law 113-4;

(4) \$12,000,000 for a grant program to prevent and address economic, high technology, white collar, and Internet crime, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110-403, of which not less than \$2,500,000 is for intellectual property enforcement grants including as authorized by section 401, and \$2,000,000 is for grants to develop databases on Internet of Things device capabilities and to build and execute training modules for law enforcement;

(5) \$19,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities;

(6) \$30,000,000 for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act; *Provided*, That \$1,500,000 shall be transferred directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Office of Law Enforcement Standards for research, testing, and evaluation programs;

(7) \$1,000,000 for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(8) \$88,000,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, of which no less than \$25,000,000 shall be for grants made under the authorities of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180) and Fix NICS Act of 2018;

(9) \$34,000,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

(10) \$153,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) \$120,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program); *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108-405, section 303);

(B) \$15,000,000 for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities;

(C) \$14,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program (Public Law 108-405, section 412); and

(D) \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108-405;

(11) \$51,500,000 for community-based grant programs to improve the response to sexual assault and apply enhanced approaches and techniques to reduce violent crime, including assistance for investigation and prosecution of related cold cases;

(12) \$14,000,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(13) \$50,000,000 for assistance to Indian Tribes;

(14) \$117,000,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199) and by the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act, of which not to exceed—

(A) \$8,000,000 is for a program to improve State, local, and Tribal probation or parole supervision efforts and strategies;

(B) \$5,000,000 is for children of incarcerated parents demonstration programs to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry or recidivism reduction strategy;

(C) \$5,000,000 is for additional replication sites employing the Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement model implementing swift and certain sanctions in probation, of which no less than \$500,000 shall be used for a project that provides training, technical assistance, and best practices; and

(D) \$10,000,000 is for a grant program for crisis stabilization and community reentry, as authorized by the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-281);

Provided, That up to \$7,500,000 of funds made available in this paragraph may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects, of which up to \$5,000,000 shall be for Pay for Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model and reentry housing;

(15) \$420,000,000 for comprehensive opioid use reduction activities, including as authorized by CARA, and for the following programs, which shall address opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorders consistent with underlying program authorities, of which—

(A) \$89,000,000 is for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(B) \$40,000,000 is for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416);

(C) \$35,000,000 is for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(D) \$32,000,000 is for a veterans treatment courts program;

(E) \$35,000,000 is for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products; and

(F) \$189,000,000 is for a comprehensive opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorder program;

(16) \$2,500,000 for a competitive grant program authorized by the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act;

(17) \$82,000,000 for grants to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act;

(18) \$3,000,000 for grants to State and local law enforcement agencies for the expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving civil rights, as authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-325);

(19) \$17,000,000 for grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, as authorized by section 4704 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111-84);

(20) \$9,000,000 for grants specified in paragraph (20) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance” in division B of Public Law 117-328;

(21) \$9,000,000 for programs authorized under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507);

(22) \$114,000,000 for initiatives to improve police-community relations, of which \$32,000,000 is for a competitive matching grant program for purchases of body-worn cameras for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement; \$32,000,000 is for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction; and \$50,000,000 is for a community violence intervention and prevention initiative; and

(23) \$3,000,000 is for emergency law enforcement assistance for events occurring during or after fiscal year 2024, as authorized by section 609M of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 50101);

Provided, That, if a unit of local government uses any of the funds made available under this heading to increase the number of law enforcement officers, the unit of local government will achieve a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative public sector safety service: *Provided further*, That in the spending plan submitted pursuant to section 528 of this Act, the Office of Justice Programs shall specifically and explicitly identify all changes in the administration of competitive grant programs for fiscal year 2024, including changes to applicant eligibility, priority areas or weightings, and the application review process: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, the amount specified in paragraph (1)(Q) is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (“the 1974 Act”); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the PROTECT Act (Public Law 108-21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-324); the Missing Children’s Assistance Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-267); the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-385); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473) (“the 1984 Act”); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198); and other juvenile justice programs, \$375,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$65,000,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act, and for training and technical assistance to assist small, non-profit organizations with the Federal grants

process: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, \$500,000 shall be for a competitive demonstration grant program to support emergency planning among State, local, and Tribal juvenile justice residential facilities;

(2) \$104,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) \$55,000,000 for delinquency prevention, of which, pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act—

(A) \$4,000,000 shall be for grants to prevent trafficking of girls;

(B) \$16,000,000 shall be for the Tribal Youth Program;

(C) \$4,500,000 shall be for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system;

(D) \$10,500,000 shall be for an initiative relating to youth affected by opioids, stimulants, and substance use disorder; and

(E) \$9,000,000 shall be for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence;

(4) \$41,000,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(5) \$103,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401) shall not apply for purposes of this Act);

(6) \$4,500,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act; and

(7) \$2,500,000 for a program to improve juvenile indigent defense:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (3) and (6) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the two preceding provisos shall not apply to grants and projects administered pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and \$34,800,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to “Public Safety Officer Benefits” from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the

1968 Act”); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-37); the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (Public Law 115-113) (“the LEMHW Act”); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115-271); the Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-32) (“the STOIC Act”); and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-325), \$664,516,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) \$256,168,839 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (34 U.S.C. 10384(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed \$125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$34,000,000 is for improving Tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, anti-methamphetamine activities, and anti-opioid activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$44,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act, which shall be transferred to and merged with “Research, Evaluation, and Statistics” for administration by the Office of Justice Programs: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, no less than \$4,000,000 is to support the Tribal Access Program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$10,000,000 is for training, peer mentoring, mental health program activities, and other support services as authorized under the LEMHW Act and the STOIC Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$7,500,000 is for the collaborative reform model of technical assistance in furtherance of section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(2) \$12,000,000 is for activities authorized by the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-199);

(3) \$16,000,000 is for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers;

(4) \$35,000,000 is for competitive grants to statewide law enforcement agencies in States with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids: *Provided*, That these funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration;

(5) \$53,000,000 is for competitive grants to be administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services Office for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act (title V of division S of Public Law 115-141);

(6) \$25,000,000 is for community policing development activities in furtherance of sec-

tion 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(7) \$247,347,161 is for a law enforcement technologies and interoperable communications program, and related law enforcement and public safety equipment, which shall be made available for the COPS Tech projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That grants funded by such amounts shall not be subject to section 1703 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10383); and

(8) \$20,000,000 is for activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-325).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this title for official reception and representation expenses, a total of not to exceed \$50,000 from funds appropriated to the Department of Justice in this title shall be available to the Attorney General for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 204. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to the following—

(1) paragraph 1(R) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance”; and

(2) paragraph (7) under the heading “Community Oriented Policing Services Programs”.

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 207. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 208. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of \$100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mechanisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 209. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 210. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 212. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Research, Evaluation and Statistics”, “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance”, and “Juvenile Justice Programs”—

(1) up to 2 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance; and

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

This section shall not apply to paragraph 1(R) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance”.

SEC. 213. Upon request by a grantee for whom the Attorney General has determined there is a fiscal hardship, the Attorney General may, with respect to funds appropriated in this or any other Act making appropriations for fiscal years 2021 through 2024 for the

following programs, waive the following requirements:

(1) For the adult and juvenile offender State and local reentry demonstration projects under part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631 et seq.), the requirements under section 2976(g)(1) of such part (34 U.S.C. 10631(g)(1)).

(2) For grants to protect inmates and safeguard communities as authorized by section 6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. 30305(c)(3)), the requirements of section 6(c)(3) of such Act.

SEC. 214. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12109(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 215. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 216. (a) None of the income retained in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102-140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2024, except up to \$12,000,000 may be obligated for implementation of a unified Department of Justice financial management system.

(b) Not to exceed \$30,000,000 of the unobligated balances transferred to the capital account of the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102-140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation in fiscal year 2024, and any use, obligation, transfer, or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not to exceed \$10,000,000 of the excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2024, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 217. Discretionary funds that are made available in this Act for the Office of Justice Programs may be used to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under such authorities as have been enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in appropriations acts in prior fiscal years and the current fiscal year.

SEC. 218. The Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate quarterly reports on the Crime Victims Fund, the Working Capital Fund, the Three Percent Fund, and the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Such quarterly reports shall contain at least the same level of information and detail for each Fund as was provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in fiscal year 2023.

SEC. 219. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to conduct, contract for, or otherwise support, live tissue training, unless the Attorney General issues a written, non-delegable determination that such training is medically necessary and cannot be replicated by alternatives.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department

of Justice to target or investigate parents who peacefully protest at school board meetings and are not suspected of engaging in unlawful activity.

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to investigate or prosecute religious institutions on the basis of their religious beliefs.

SEC. 222. Of the unobligated balances from amounts in the fund established by section 9006(a) of title 26, United States Code, \$25,000,000 shall be paid to the "Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance" appropriation, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for grants for law enforcement activities associated with the presidential nominating conventions, under the same authorities and conditions as amounts made available in paragraph (1)(Q) under the heading "Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance" in this Act.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2024".

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$7,965,000.

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

For necessary expenses of the National Space Council, in carrying out the purposes of title V of Public Law 100-685 and Executive Order No. 13803, hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, \$1,965,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Space Council may accept personnel support from Federal agencies, departments, and offices, and such Federal agencies, departments, and offices may detail staff without reimbursement to the National Space Council for purposes provided herein.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$7,334,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; per-

sonnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$935,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space technology research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$1,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$7,666,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$450,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, concurrent with the annual budget submission, a 5-year budget profile for an integrated system that includes the Space Launch System, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, and associated ground systems that will ensure a crewed launch as early as possible.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$4,220,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ENGAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support,

and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$143,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$26,000,000 shall be for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and \$58,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, space technology, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$3,129,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That if available balances in the “Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust Fund” are not sufficient to provide for the grant disbursements required under the third and fourth provisos under such heading in the Department of Housing and Urban Development—Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-404) as amended by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995 (Public Law 103-327), up to \$1,000,000 shall be available from amounts made available under this heading to make such grant disbursements: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$56,673,000 shall be made available for the SSMS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, \$300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$250,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That proceeds from leases deposited into this account shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That such proceeds referred to in the preceding proviso shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2024 in an amount not to exceed

\$30,000,000: *Provided further*, That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant to section 20145 of title 51, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$47,600,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds for any announced prize otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until a prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 10 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 20 percent by any such transfers. Any funds transferred to “Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration” for construction activities shall not increase that account by more than 20 percent. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under previous appropriations Acts that remains available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024 may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall retain its original availability and shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the theme, program, project, and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not more than 20 percent or \$50,000,000, whichever is less, of the amounts made available in the current-year Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration (CECR) appropriation may be applied to CECR projects funded under previous years’ CECR appropriations. Use of current-year funds under this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading “Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement” (“STEM Engagement”), up to \$5,000,000 shall be available to jointly fund, with an additional amount of up to \$1,000,000 each from

amounts made available in this Act under the headings “Science”, “Aeronautics”, “Space Technology”, “Exploration”, and “Space Operations”, projects and activities for engaging students in STEM and increasing STEM research capacities of universities, including Minority Serving Institutions.

Not to exceed \$32,600,000 made available for the current fiscal year in this Act within “Safety, Security and Mission Services” may be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Balances so transferred shall be available until expended only for activities described in section 30102(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by this Act, and shall remain available until expended. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) under the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Space Operations” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2018 are to remain available through fiscal year 2027 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Space Operations” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2019 are to remain available through fiscal year 2027 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; \$7,176,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$680,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts in the preceding proviso, not less than \$109,310,000 shall be for U.S. Antarctic Logistical Support: *Provided further*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, \$234,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$234,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

STEM EDUCATION

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics, and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$1,172,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; \$448,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$8,280 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2024 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$5,090,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$24,410,000, of which \$1,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 30 days in advance of any planned divestment through transfer, decommissioning, termination, or deconstruction of any NSF-owned facilities or any NSF capital assets (including land, structures, and equipment) valued greater than \$2,500,000.

This title may be cited as the “Science Appropriations Act, 2024”.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$14,350,000: *Provided*, That

none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to employ any individuals under Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the preceding proviso, \$2,000,000 shall be used to separately fund the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110-233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-2), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to \$31,500,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, \$455,000,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$2,250 from available funds: *Provided further*, That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, \$122,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, \$560,000,000, of which \$516,100,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; \$5,700,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; \$26,200,000 is for management and grants oversight; \$5,000,000 is for client self-help and information technology; \$5,000,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund;

and \$2,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided*, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996d(d)): *Provided further*, That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2023 and 2024, respectively: *Provided*, That for the purposes of applications of such sections 501 and 502, any requirement relating to the proportion of attorneys serving on the governing body of an entity providing legal assistance shall be deemed to be satisfied if at least 33 percent of such governing body is composed of attorneys otherwise meeting the criteria established by section 1007(c) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996f(c)), and section 502(2)(b)(ii) of Public Law 104-134 shall not apply.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), \$4,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE

REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$59,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not to exceed \$124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities of the United States Trade Representative authorized by section 611 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4405), including transfers, \$15,000,000, to be derived from the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of such section shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) \$7,640,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, for

the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress; unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations. (b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall be used to purchase items that are manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term "promotional items" has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A-87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473 (34 U.S.C. 20101) in any fiscal year in excess of \$1,353,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act, of the amounts available from the Fund for obligation: (1) \$10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and remain available until expended for oversight and auditing purposes associated with this section; and (2) 5 percent shall be available to the Office for Victims of Crime for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian Tribes to improve services for victims of crime.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any depart-

ment, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(d) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, "Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems" unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the FBI and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the FBI or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of

such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST, the FBI, and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the FBI, that the acquisition of such system is in the national interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the agency Inspector General.

SEC. 515. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States–Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States–Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 517. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; USA FREEDOM Act of 2015; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 518. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent or more, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increase; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new estimates of the total project or procurement costs; and a statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 519. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically

authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2024 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than \$5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 521. (a) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Commerce, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2024, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) “Economic Development Administration—Economic Development Assistance Programs”, \$35,000,000, only from prior year appropriations;

(2) “Census Working Capital Fund”, \$10,000,000;

(3) “National Institute of Standards and Technology—Working Capital Fund”, \$10,000,000;

(4) “Nonrecurring Expenses Fund”, \$12,440,000,000, only from amounts appropriated by section 101(e) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5); and

(5) “Departmental Management—Working Capital Fund”, \$10,000,000.

(b) Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2024, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) “Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses”, \$367,700,000;

(2) “Federal Prison System—Buildings and Facilities”, \$19,000,000;

(3) “State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office on Violence Against Women—Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs”, \$5,000,000;

(4) “State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs”, \$120,000,000; and

(5) “State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services”, \$15,000,000.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2024, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) “Working Capital Fund”, \$131,572,000; and

(2) “Legal Activities—Assets Forfeiture Fund”, \$500,000,000.

(d) The Departments of Commerce and Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2024, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsections (a), (b), and (c).

(e) The amounts rescinded in subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not be from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) The amounts rescinded pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) shall not be from—

(1) amounts provided under subparagraph (Q) of paragraph (1) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance” in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328; or

(2) amounts provided under paragraph (7) under the heading “State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs” in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 523. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless—

(1) such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States; or

(2) such conference is a scientific conference and the department or agency head determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within at least 15 days of that determination and the basis for that determination.

SEC. 524. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 525. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are “Energy Star” qualified or have the “Federal Energy Management Program” designation.

SEC. 526. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), or the National Space Council (NSC) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral

policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(c) The limitations described in subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities which NASA, OSTP, or NSC, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(d) Any certification made under subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than 30 days prior to the activity in question and shall include a description of the purpose of the activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

SEC. 527. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, adjudication, or other law enforcement- or victim assistance-related activity.

SEC. 528. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the International Trade Commission, the Legal Services Corporation, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Offices of Science and Technology Policy and the United States Trade Representative, the National Space Council, and the State Justice Institute shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 529. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 530. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 (“Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research”) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SEC. 531. None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mex-

ico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

SEC. 532. The Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall provide a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of such Department or agency, including the purpose of such travel.

SEC. 533. Of the amounts made available by this Act, not less than 10 percent of each total amount provided, respectively, for Public Works grants authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722) shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any Territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 534. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding \$500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper’s Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any un-

classified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 535. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR section 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin “curios or relics” firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to deny, or fail to act on, an application for the importation of any model of shotgun if—

(1) all other requirements of law with respect to the proposed importation are met; and

(2) no application for the importation of such model of shotgun, in the same configuration, had been denied by the Attorney General prior to January 1, 2011, on the basis that the shotgun was not particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

SEC. 537. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 538. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 539. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 540. (a) The remaining unobligated balances of funds as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available to “Office of the United States Trade Representative—Salaries and Expenses” in section 540(a) of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded pursuant to this subsection is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2026, and shall be available for the same purposes, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes, and under the same authorities for which the funds were provided in Public Law 116–113, except that all references to “2023” under such heading in Public Law 116–113 shall be deemed to refer instead to “2026”.

(b) The remaining unobligated balances of funds as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available to “Office of the United States Trade Representative—Trade Enforcement Trust Fund” in section 540(b) of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded pursuant to this subsection is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2026, and shall be available for the same purposes, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes, and under the same authorities for which the funds were provided in Public Law 116–113, except that the reference to “2023” under such heading in Public Law 116–113 shall be deemed to refer instead to “2026”.

(c) The amounts rescinded pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) Each amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 541. Funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in this Act and any remaining unobligated balances of funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in prior year Acts, other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or from amounts made available under the heading “Department of Justice—Legal Activities—Fees and Expenses of Witnesses”, shall be available to provide payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(i)(2)): *Provided*, That payments made pursuant to the matter preceding this proviso may not exceed \$5,000,000 for the Department of Commerce and \$10,000,000 for the Department of Justice.

SEC. 542. Notwithstanding title II of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and

Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), up to 0.7 percent of amounts made available to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration by such Act shall be available for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of programs administered by such Administration that received appropriations by such Act, in addition to amounts previously made available for such purpose: *Provided*, That all such amounts shall be available across such programs and shall be available for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (as authorized by section 902 of division N of Public Law 116–260) and of the Broadband Connectivity Infrastructure Program (as authorized by section 905(d) of division N of Public Law 116–260), regardless of the heading under which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That such amounts may be transferred between the appropriate accounts to carry out this section, in addition to authorities included elsewhere in such Act: *Provided further*, That this section shall not reduce the total allocation for any State under Program Notices of Available Amounts dated June 30, 2023: *Provided further*, That amounts transferred pursuant to this section may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of the planned use of funds: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 543. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to move the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Canine Training Center or the ATF National Canine Division from Front Royal, Virginia, to another location.

SEC. 544. (a) Section 507(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “excluding subparagraph (F)” after “(a)(8)”.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 545. Section 107(b)(2)(C) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “total costs of the projects described in the application submitted” and inserting in its place “total project cost. In general, this project match requirement may be satisfied by contributions or expenditures committed to improve victim support services that promote victim recovery and reintegration into society, provided that these contributions and expenditures are consistent with applicable grant requirements and approved project scope”.

SEC. 546. (a)(1)(A) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102(a) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), including the transfer authority in such paragraphs of that section of that Act, to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified,

and for the projects and activities specified, in the table titled “Department of Commerce Allocation of National Institute of Standards and Technology Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2024” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and pursuant to the direction included in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

(B) Not later than October 15, 2024, and notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall allocate from the amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102(a) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), including the transfer authority in such paragraphs of that section of that Act, to the account specified, in the amount specified, and for the project and activity specified, in the table titled “Department of Commerce Allocation of National Institute of Standards and Technology Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2025” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and pursuant to the direction included in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

(C) Not later than October 15, 2025, and notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall allocate from the amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102(a) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), including the transfer authority in such paragraphs of that section of that Act, to the accounts specified, in the amounts not to exceed that specified, and for the projects and activities specified, in the table titled “Department of Commerce Allocation of National Institute of Standards and Technology Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2026” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and pursuant to the direction included in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Workforce and Education Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 102(d)(1) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), to the account specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled “National Science Foundation Allocation of Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2024” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(b) Neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under section 102(a)(2)(A) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 or under section 102(d)(2) of such Act if there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation, apportionment, or allotment of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the CHIPS for America Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the

Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and subject to the terms and conditions in section 505 of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce may reallocate funds allocated to Industrial Technology Services for section 9906 of Public Law 116-283 by subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

(2) the Director of the National Science Foundation may reallocate funds allocated to the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund by subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(d) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed allocations by account and by program, project, or activity, with detailed justifications, for amounts made available under section 102(a)(2) and section 102(d)(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 for fiscal year 2025.

(e) The Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall each provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section, and section 543(a)(1) of division B of Public Law 117-328, the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to section 543 (a)(2) of division B of Public Law 117-328, and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section and section 543(a)(3) of division B of Public Law 117-328, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds.

This division may be cited as the “Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$142,990,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall

not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$11,413,000 is rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,854,688,000, to remain available until expended; of which \$114,775,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover 35 percent of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$9,678,000 is rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under this heading in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) for which spend plan allocations have not been announced as of the date of enactment of this Act, \$1,434,500,000 shall be used, regardless of project purpose and in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes, for projects specified in the table titled “Corps of Engineers—Construction” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and, when combined with the amounts made available in the matter preceding the first proviso under this heading, shall not in total exceed the amount for any project as specified in such table: *Provided further*, That projects receiving funds pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be subject to the terms and conditions of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58): *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit directly to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan that includes the amount that each project specified in the table titled “Corps of Engineers—Construction” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) will receive from amounts made available in the matter preceding the first proviso under this heading and from amounts repurposed pursuant to the third proviso under this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan

has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$368,037,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$6,057,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$1,110,000 is rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$5,552,816,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$2,650,168,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operations and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected; and of which \$58,000,000, to be derived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) and shall be designated as being for such purpose pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 14003 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136): *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or

activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$30,000 is rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$221,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$216,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 7016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not more than 75 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Con-

gress the report required under section 101(d) of this Act and a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to specific programs, projects, or activities: *Provided further*, That not more than 90 percent of such amounts made available under this heading shall be available for obligation until the Assistant Secretary provides in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress recommendations for the appropriate level of design during feasibility studies, the appropriate level of preconstruction engineering and design required before a construction new start, and how cost estimate classifications may best be adjusted for changing environments.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$2,200,000, to remain available until expended, for safety projects to maintain, upgrade, and repair dams identified in the National Inventory of Dams with a primary owner type of state, local government, public utility, or private: *Provided*, That no project may be funded with amounts provided under this heading for a dam that is identified as jointly owned in the National Inventory of Dams and where one of those joint owners is the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall also be available for projects to construct, maintain, upgrade, and repair levees and ancillary features with a primary owner type of state, municipal, county, private, or other non-Federal entity: *Provided further*, That no project may be funded with amounts provided under this heading for a levee unless the Secretary has certified in advance, in writing, that the levee is not owned, in whole or in part, by the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$440,000,000: *Provided further*, That the use of direct loans or loan guarantee authority under this heading for direct loans or commitments to guarantee loans for any project shall be in accordance with the criteria published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39189) pursuant to the fourth proviso under the heading "Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account" in division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94): *Provided further*, That none of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Secretary and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have certified in advance in writing that the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, and the project comply with the criteria referenced in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That any references to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Administrator in the criteria referenced in the previous two provisos shall be deemed to be references to the Army Corps of Engineers or the Secretary of the Army, respectively, for purposes of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That for the pur-

poses of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Secretary shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Secretary pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: *Provided further*, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of these

emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: *Provided further*, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: *Provided further*, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: *Provided further*, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$8,200,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): *Provided*, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 107. Additional funding provided in this Act shall be allocated only to projects determined to be eligible by the Chief of Engineers.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available by this Act or any prior Act may be used to alter the eligibility requirements for assistance under section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n) in effect on November 14, 2022, without express authorization by Congress.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other requirement, the remaining unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction" in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) for which spend plan allocations have not been announced as of the date of enactment of this Act (other than such balances otherwise repurposed by the third proviso under such heading in this title) may be made available for projects, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes and regardless of project purpose, that have previously received funds under the heading "Construction" in title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) subject to the terms and conditions of such title IV of division B as applicable and as specifically modified by section 111 of this Act, or in chapter 4 of title X of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113-2) subject to the terms and conditions of such chapter 4 of title X as applicable and as specifically modified by section 111 of this Act, and for which non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 110. The remaining unobligated balances from amounts provided under the heading "Construction" in title IV of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division B of Public Law 117-43) for which spend plan allocations were announced prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be reallocated to the same project, including modifications thereto, and in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, that has previously received funds under such heading in title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), subject to the terms and conditions of such title IV of division B of Public Law 115-123 as applicable and as specifically modified by section 111 of this Act: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 111. Studies or projects receiving funds under the following headings in the following Acts as of the date of enactment of this Act are not required to be completed with such funds and may receive funds from

this Act or future Acts, and any additional funds for such studies and projects shall be subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to the following headings in the following Acts—

(1) "Investigations" or "Construction" in title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123);

(2) "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction" in chapter 4 of title X of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113-2); and

(3) "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Investigations" in title III of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).

SEC. 112. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available to "Corps of Engineers—Civil", the following funds shall be transferred from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts to "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Investigations" and, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes, shall be used for studies that have previously received funds provided under the heading "Investigations" in title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) or under such heading in title III of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) and for which non-Federal interests have entered into feasibility cost sharing agreements with the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) \$371,293.38 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Construction" in chapter 3 of title I of division B of Public Law 109-148;

(2) \$562,613.89 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" in chapter 3 of title I of division B of Public Law 109-148 that were provided for the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet channel;

(3) \$38,873.32 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Construction" in chapter 3 of title II of Public Law 109-234 that were provided for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project, the North Padre Island, Texas project, the Sacramento, California, Area project, and the Hawaii Water Systems Technical Assistance Program;

(4) \$95.55 from the combined unobligated balances under the "Construction" headings in chapter 3 of title IV and chapter 3 of title V of Public Law 110-28;

(5) \$83,734.13 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Construction" in chapter 3 of title III of Public Law 110-252, including amounts that were provided for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project, the West Bank and Vicinity project, and the Southeast Louisiana Urban Drainage project;

(6) \$2,122.56 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" in chapter 3 of title III of Public Law 110-252;

(7) \$10.72 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Mississippi River and Tributaries" in chapter 3 of title III of Public Law 110-252;

(8) \$274,678.03 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Construction" in chapter 3 of title I of division B of Public Law 110-329 that were provided for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project, the West Bank and Vicinity project, and the Southeast Louisiana Urban Drainage project;

(9) \$267,434.81 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" in chapter 3 of title I of division B of Public Law 110-329;

(10) \$0.02 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" in title IV of Public Law 111-32;

(11) \$246,869.24 from the unobligated balances under the heading "Operation and

Maintenance” in chapter 4 of title I of Public Law 111–212; and

(12) \$2,643,142.04 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Operation and Maintenance” in title I of Public Law 112–77: *Provided*, That studies receiving funding pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the heading “Investigations” in title IV of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) or such heading in title III of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), as applicable and as specifically modified by section 111 of this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or as being for disaster relief pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$23,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$4,650,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,750,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,990,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and others, \$1,751,698,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,051,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$7,584,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That \$500,000 shall be available for transfer into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as amended (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)): *Provided further*, That such transfers, except for the transfer authorized by the preceding proviso, may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation

Fund, the Water Storage Enhancement Receipts account established by section 4011(e) of Public Law 114–322, or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$5,500,000 shall be deposited in the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund established by section 110 of title I of division B of appendix D of Public Law 106–554: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706: *Provided further*, That within available funds, \$250,000 shall be for grants and financial assistance for educational activities: *Provided further*, That in accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114–322 and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated July 25, 2023, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2023 and prior fiscal years shall be made available to the Sites Reservoir Project.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, such sums as may be collected in fiscal year 2024 in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further*, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the six regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2025, \$66,794,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activi-

ties or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase and replacement of not to exceed 30 motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), the amounts made available in this title under the heading “Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources” shall be expended for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “Final Bill” columns in the “Water and Related Resources” table included under the heading “Title II—Department of the Interior” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(e) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later

than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Section 9504(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking “\$820,000,000” and inserting “\$920,000,000”.

SEC. 204. (a) Title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 204 of division D of Public Law 117–103, shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2022” each place it appears.

(b) Section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) is amended by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$30,000,000”.

SEC. 205. Section 9106(g)(2) of Public Law 111–11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2022”.

SEC. 206. (a) Section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2022”.

(b) Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2022” and by substituting “\$130,000,000” for “\$120,000,000”.

SEC. 207. Section 9503(f) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10363(f)) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2023”.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$3,460,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$223,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of in-

terest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$865,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount \$70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

ELECTRICITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$280,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$19,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading allocated for the purposes of section 9 of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638), including for Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer activities, or for the purposes of section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended (42 U.S.C. 16391(a)), for Technology Commercialization Fund activities, may be reprogrammed without being subject to the restrictions in section 301 of this Act.

GRID DEPLOYMENT

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for grid deployment in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7191 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$6,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,685,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$90,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of section 954(a)(6) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, the only amount available shall be from the amount specified as including that purpose in the “Final Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy and carbon management research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of in-

terest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$865,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount \$70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

ENERGY PROJECTS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out community project funding activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$83,724,000, to remain available until expended, for projects specified in the table that appears under the heading “Congressionally Directed Spending for Energy Projects” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$13,010,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$213,390,000, to remain available until expended.

SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT

For the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products, and for other necessary expenses pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6239 note), section 32204 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), and section 30204 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), \$100,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,150,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$135,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$342,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in addition, fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of

section 6939f of title 42, United States Code, and deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 309 of title III of division C of Public Law 116-94 are appropriated, to remain available until expended, for mercury storage costs.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$855,000,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$0 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 35 passenger motor vehicles, \$8,240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$226,831,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended, \$12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for carrying out the activities of technology transitions, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$11,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for clean energy demonstrations in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$27,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$460,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$40,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Con-

gressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses of the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, as authorized, \$70,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That up to \$70,000,000 of fees collected in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and used for necessary administrative expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees collected in fiscal year 2024 exceed \$70,000,000, those excess amounts shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2024 (estimated at \$70,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from fees collected in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.8 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, \$6,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$70,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$14,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$387,078,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$100,578,000 in fiscal year 2024 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$286,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$86,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$19,108,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$118,056,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,581,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NAVAL REACTORS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,946,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which, \$92,800,000 shall be transferred to "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy", for the Advanced Test Reactor: *Provided*, That of such amount made available under this heading, \$61,540,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$17,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$7,285,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$326,893,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

DEFENSE URANIUM ENRICHMENT
DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities for Department of Energy contributions for uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning activities, \$285,000,000, to be deposited into the Defense Environmental Cleanup account, which shall be transferred to the "Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund".

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,080,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$381,593,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2024, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN
POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$8,449,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$8,449,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$71,850,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant

facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$52,326,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$40,886,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,440,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$80,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER
ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$313,289,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$313,289,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$213,417,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$99,872,000, of which \$99,872,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$475,000,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND
MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at

the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$3,425,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$3,197,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$1,872,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further*, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$520,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$520,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) provide nonoperational funding through a competition restricted only to Department of Energy National Laboratories totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(D) provide nonoperational funding directly to a Department of Energy National Laboratory totaling \$25,000,000 or more;

(E) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(F) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “Final Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify, and obtain the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds \$100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

SEC. 305. No funds shall be transferred directly from “Department of Energy—Power Marketing Administration—Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund, Western Area Power Administration” to the general fund of the Treasury in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 306. Only \$35,000,000 of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading “Weapons Activities” for W80-4 Alteration-SLCM, as specified in the “Final Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), shall be available for obligation until 15 days after the date on which the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Administrator is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (c) and subsection (d) of section 1642 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

SEC. 307. (a) Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available to the Department of Energy under each heading in title III of division J of Public Law 117-58, an amount

equal to the amount transferred from each such heading as of September 30, 2023, pursuant to section 303 of Public Law 117-58 shall be transferred not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to oversee the funds made available to the Department of Energy in Public Law 117-58: *Provided*, That any amounts so transferred that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) As of the date of enactment of this Act, of the amounts made available to the Department of Energy under each of sections 50121, 50141, 50142, 50143, 50144, 50145, 50151, 50152, 50153, and 50161 of Public Law 117-169, two-tenths of one percent of such amounts shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to oversee the funds made available to the Department of Energy in Public Law 117-169: *Provided*, That amounts so transferred shall be derived from the unobligated balances of amounts under each such section.

(c) Section 303 of Public Law 117-58 is amended by striking “through 2026” and inserting “and 2023, and two-tenths of such amounts made available in each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026”: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 308. (a) Notwithstanding sections 161 and 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6247), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell one million barrels of refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2024.

(b) All proceeds from such sale shall be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury during fiscal year 2024.

(c) Upon the completion of such sale, the Secretary shall carry out the closure of the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve.

(d)(1) The Secretary of Energy may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submitted by the President pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(2) The budget request or notification shall include—

(A) the justification for the new reserve;

(B) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(C) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(D) the location of the reserve; and

(E) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 309. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (1) to any entity that is under the ownership, control, or influence of

the Chinese Communist Party; or (2) except on condition that such petroleum products will not be exported to the People's Republic of China.

SEC. 310. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of \$10,000,000 or greater to an entity of concern as defined in section 10114 of division B of Public Law 117-167.

(b) The Secretary shall implement the requirements under subsection (a) using a risk-based approach and analytical tools to aggregate, link, analyze, and maintain information reported by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act.

(c) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

(d) The Secretary shall have the authority to require the submission to the agency, by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act, documentation necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

(e) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act"), shall not apply to the implementation of the requirements under this section.

(f) The Secretary and other Federal agencies shall coordinate to share relevant information necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

SEC. 311. (a) Of the unobligated amounts available under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy" in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) for fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 the following shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for these purposes:

(1)(A) \$500,000,000 for not more than two competitive awards for commercial utility deployment projects for a grid scale Generation 3+ small modular reactor design pursuant to section 959A of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, of which \$200,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2024 and \$300,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2025; and

(B) up to \$300,000,000 for the not more than two awards made under subparagraph (A) shall be available in fiscal year 2026.

(2) \$100,000,000 for one or more competitive awards to support design, licensing, supplier development, and site preparation of a grid-scale Generation 3+ reactor design under the Advanced Small Modular Reactor RD&D program.

(3)(A) \$50,000,000 for university and college-based nuclear reactor safety training as authorized by law, including section 31 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, section 4 of the Nuclear Safety, Research, Demonstration, and Development Act of 1980, and section 10745 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (division B of Public Law 117-167); and

(B) up to \$50,000,000 for the training under subparagraph (A) shall be available in fiscal year 2025.

(b) *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 312. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously appropriated under

the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy" in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) that were made available for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, up to \$2,720,000,000 shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise available, for necessary expenses to carry out the Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31)): *Provided*, That if insufficient unobligated balances are available from such fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024 amounts to fund a total amount for such purpose of up to \$2,720,000,000, then up to \$800,000,000 from amounts previously appropriated under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy" in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) that are made available for fiscal year 2025 may be made available, in addition to amounts otherwise available, for such purpose to meet such total amount: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section may be transferred to "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—American Energy Independence Fund" in either fiscal year 2024 or fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other similar transactions with public agencies and private organizations and persons, as authorized by section 646(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(a)), for such periods of time and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, without regard to section 161(u) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201(u)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from the sale or transfer of LEU and HALEU or from any other transaction in connection with the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section shall hereafter be credited to the "American Energy Independence Fund" as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That receipts may hereafter be collected from transactions entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(iii) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(iii)) and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from any transaction entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii)) shall hereafter be credited to the "American Energy Independence Fund" as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use funds repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section for a commitment only if the full extent of the anticipated costs stemming from that commitment is recorded as an obligation at the time that the commitment is made and only to the extent that up-front obligation is recorded in full at that time: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation estab-

lishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) Amounts may not be repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section until a law is enacted or administrative action is taken to prohibit or limit importation of LEU and HALEU from the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity into the United States.

(c) The Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31)) is amended—

(1) in subsections (f)(1)(B)(i) and (h)(4)(B)(i) to read as follows—

"(i) may not make commitments under this subsection (including cooperative agreements (used in accordance with section 6305 of title 31, United States Code), purchase agreements, guarantees, leases, service contracts, or any other type of commitment) for the purchase or other acquisition of HALEU or LEU unless funds are specifically provided for those purposes in advance in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this Act; and".

(2) in subsection (j) to read as follows—

"(j) REASONABLE COMPENSATION.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that any LEU and HALEU made available by the Secretary under 1 or more of the Programs is subject to reasonable compensation, taking into account the fair market value of the LEU or HALEU and the purposes of this section."

SEC. 313. (a) Subject to subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Department of Energy in this or any other Act, including prior Acts and Acts other than appropriations Acts, may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of any contractor detailed to a Congressional Committee or Member Office or to the Executive Branch for longer than a 24-month period, to perform a scope of work, or participate in any matter, with the intent to influence decisions or determinations regarding a Department of Energy National Laboratory, or participate in any matter that may have a direct and predictable effect on the contractor's employer or personal financial interest: *Provided*, That with respect to contractors detailed to a Congressional Committee or Member Office or to the Executive Branch as of the date of enactment of this Act, the initial 24-month period described in this subsection shall be deemed to have begun on the later of the date on which such contractor was detailed or the date that is 12 months before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "contractor" is defined to mean any contracted employee of a Department of Energy National Laboratory, as defined by section 2 (3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

SEC. 314. (a) The fifty-first proviso under the heading "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" in title III of division J of Public Law 117-58 is amended by striking "three percent" each place it appears and inserting "five percent".

(b) The eighth proviso under the heading "Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response" in title III of division J of Public Law 117-58 is amended by striking "three percent" each place it appears and inserting "five percent".

(c) The tenth proviso under the heading "Electricity" in title III of division J of Public Law 117-58 is amended by striking "three percent" each place it appears and inserting "five percent".

(d) The twenty-second proviso under the heading "Fossil Energy and Carbon Management" in title III of division J of Public Law 117-58 is amended by striking "three percent" each place it appears and inserting "five percent".

(e) The twenty-sixth proviso under the heading “Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations” in title III of division J of Public Law 117–58 is amended by striking “three percent” each place it appears and inserting “five percent”.

(f) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

TITLE IV INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100–456, section 1441, \$42,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$31,100,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$17,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 307(c) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998, as amended, funds shall be available for construction projects for which the Denali Commission is the sole or primary funding source in an amount not to exceed 90 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by such section and by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106–113 (113 Stat. 1501A–280), and for Indian Tribes, as defined by section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, and in an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for any project for which the Denali Commission is not the sole or primary funding source, provided that such project is consistent with the purposes of the Commission.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out

activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$41,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

For expenses necessary for the Great Lakes Authority in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$928,317,580, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$10,350,720 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$794,341,580 in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$133,976,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$15,769,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$12,655,000 in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2025, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$3,114,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$1,520,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100–203, section 5051, \$4,064,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011,

version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all Federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for “Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses” shall be expended as directed in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality

of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semiannual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 504. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to admit any non-US citizen from Russia or China to any nuclear weapons production facility, as such term is defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act, other than areas accessible to the general public, unless 30 days prior to facility admittance, the Department of Energy provides notification to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services of both Houses of Congress.

This division may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to section 1010(a) of Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), \$1,294,916,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$55,000,000 for annual maintenance and deferred maintenance programs and \$141,972,000 for the wild horse and burro program, as authorized by Public Law 92-195 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts in the fee account of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund may be used for any bureau-related expenses associated with the processing of oil and gas applications for

permits to drill and related use of authorizations: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$1,000,000 may be made available for the purposes described in section 122(e)(1)(A) of division G of Public Law 115-31 (43 U.S.C. 1748c(e)(1)(A)): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$150,000 is for projects specified for Land Management Priorities in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

In addition, \$39,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining claim fee program, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than \$1,294,916,000, and \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; \$115,521,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That 25 percent of the aggregate of all receipts during the current fiscal year from the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands is hereby made a charge against the Oregon and California land-grant fund and shall be transferred to the General Fund in the Treasury in accordance with the second paragraph of subsection (b) of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 2605).

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b, 315m) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and

for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that section, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary of the Interior to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the action: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section 211(b) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1721(b)), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to \$100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$10,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Public Law 90-620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the Bureau on a reimbursable basis.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, \$1,520,273,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses:

Provided, That not to exceed \$22,000,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii) of such section): *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$44,920,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, shall be for projects specified for Stewardship Priorities in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That amounts in the preceding proviso may be transferred to the appropriate program, project, or activity under this heading and shall continue to only be available for the purposes and in such amounts as such funds were originally appropriated.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; \$19,280,000, to remain available until expended.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), \$23,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$49,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$20,500,000, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$72,384,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, \$6,100,000 is for a competitive

grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That \$7,284,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting \$13,384,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in 2024 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2025, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2026, in the manner provided herein.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed one dollar for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the

heading “United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management” and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, \$2,888,424,000, of which \$11,661,000 for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration and \$110,980,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets and \$188,184,000 for cyclic maintenance projects for constructed assets and cultural resources and \$10,000,000 for uses authorized by section 101122 of title 54, United States Code shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representative expenses: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act are available for the purposes of section 5 of Public Law 95-348: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 9 of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 115-102), \$3,300,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be made available for the purposes specified by that Act: *Provided further*, That sections 7(b) and 8 of that Act shall be amended by striking “July 1, 2024” and inserting “July 1, 2025”.

In addition, for purposes described in section 2404 of Public Law 116-9, an amount equal to the amount deposited in this fiscal year into the National Park Medical Services Fund established pursuant to such section of such Act, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from such Fund.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, \$91,233,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$1,640,000 shall be for projects specified for Statutory and Contractual Aid in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code), \$188,666,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$25,500,000 shall be for Save America's Treasures grants for preservation of nationally significant sites, structures and artifacts as authorized by section 7303 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (54 U.S.C. 3089): *Provided*, That an individual Save America's Treasures grant shall be matched by non-Federal funds: *Provided further*, That individual projects shall only be eligible for one grant: *Provided further*, That all projects to be funded shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for the Historic Preservation Fund, \$1,250,000 is for competitive grants for

the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently under-represented, as determined by the Secretary; \$24,000,000 is for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the African American Civil Rights movement; \$5,000,000 is for competitive grants to preserve sites related to the struggle of all people to achieve equal rights in America; \$11,000,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities; \$12,500,000 is for competitive grants for the restoration of historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, to be made without imposing the usage or direct grant restrictions of section 101(e)(3) (54 U.S.C. 302904) of the National Historic Preservation Act; \$7,000,000 is for a competitive grant program to honor the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States by restoring and preserving sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation; and \$19,766,000 is for projects specified for the Historic Preservation Fund in the table titled "Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That such competitive grants shall be made without imposing the matching requirements in section 302902(b)(3) of title 54, United States Code to States and Indian tribes as defined in chapter 3003 of such title, Native Hawaiian organizations, local governments, including Certified Local Governments, and non-profit organizations.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, and related equipment, and compliance and planning for programs and areas administered by the National Park Service, \$172,255,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any project initially funded in fiscal year 2024 with a future phase indicated in the National Park Service 5-Year Line Item Construction Plan, a single procurement may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further*, That the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause availability of funds found at 48 CFR 52.232-18: *Provided further*, That National Park Service Donations, Park Concessions Franchise Fees, and Recreation Fees may be made available for the cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Park Service Construction appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations, in accordance with current reprogramming thresholds, prior to making any charges authorized by this section.

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of section 101701 of title 54, United States Code, relating to challenge cost share agreements, \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended, for Centennial Challenge projects and programs: *Provided*, That not less than 50 percent of the total cost of each project or program shall be derived from non-Federal sources in the form of donated cash, assets, or a pledge of donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 101917(c)(2) of title 54, United States

Code, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefitting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefitting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefitting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

For the costs of administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants authorized by section 105(a)(2)(B) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432), the National Park Service may retain up to 3 percent of the amounts which are authorized to be disbursed under such section, such retained amounts to remain available until expended.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under 23 U.S.C. 203. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for fiscal year 2021 or prior fiscal years under the heading "National Park Service—Construction", \$18,500,000 is permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading "National Park Service—Construction" in division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), \$9,000,000 is permanently rescinded from amounts made available for equipment replacement under such heading, as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the matter preceding division A of such Act.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98(a)(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; \$1,455,434,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$95,334,000 shall remain available until expended for satellite operations; and of which \$74,840,000 shall be available until expended for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that exceed \$100,000 in cost: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided*

further, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$5,237,000 shall be for projects specified for Special Initiatives in the table titled "Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That amounts in the preceding proviso may be transferred to the appropriate program, project, or activity under this heading and shall continue to only be available for the purposes and in such amounts as such funds were originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological Survey such sums as are necessary shall be available for contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations, observation wells, and seismic equipment; expenses of the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons employed by the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements (including noncompetitive cooperative agreements with tribes) as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 6101, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for granting and administering leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$211,162,000, of which \$155,162,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which \$56,000,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease

rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$155,162,000: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENFORCEMENT

For expenses necessary for the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing laws and regulations as authorized by law and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$167,330,000, of which \$136,450,000, including not to exceed \$3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, is to remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which \$30,880,000 is to remain available until expended, including \$2,880,000 for offshore decommissioning activities: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$139,330,000.

For an additional amount, \$38,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2024, as provided in this Act: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2024, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016; title IV, sections 4202 and 4303; title VII; and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$15,099,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND
ENFORCEMENT

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and

Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, \$116,186,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$62,400,000 shall be available for State and tribal regulatory grants, and of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, for costs to review, administer, and enforce permits issued by the Office pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95-87 (30 U.S.C. 1257), \$40,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That fees assessed and collected by the Office pursuant to such section 507 shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$116,186,000.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, \$32,546,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97-365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That funds made available under title IV of Public Law 95-87 may be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of projects funded by the Federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines: *Provided further*, That such projects must be consistent with the purposes and priorities of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

In addition, \$130,000,000, to remain available until expended, for payments to States and federally recognized Indian tribes for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That such additional amount shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities described in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)): *Provided further*, That of such additional amount, \$86,000,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section, \$33,000,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the subsequent greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet such priorities, and \$11,000,000 shall be for grants to federally recognized Indian tribes, without regard to their status as certified or uncertified under the Surface Min-

ing Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)), for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) and shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977: *Provided further*, That such payments shall be made to States and federally recognized Indian tribes not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That if payments have not been made by the date specified in the preceding proviso, the amount appropriated for salaries and expenses under the heading "Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement" shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day until such payments have been made.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13) and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), \$1,898,550,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$78,494,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments: *Provided*, That in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary of the Interior may exceed such cap for welfare payments from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster: *Provided further*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$69,995,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, land acquisition, attorney fees, litigation support, land records improvement, hearings and appeals, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$841,000 shall be for projects specified for Special Initiatives (CDS) in the table titled "Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a federally recognized tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2025, may be transferred during fiscal year 2026 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder's trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$7,096,000 of funds made available under this heading may, as needed, be transferred to "Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations" for trust, probate, and administrative functions: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may accept transfers of funds from United States

Customs and Border Protection to supplement any other funding available for reconstruction or repair of roads owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as identified on the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory, 23 U.S.C. 202(b)(1).

INDIAN LAND CONSOLIDATION

For the acquisition of fractional interests to further land consolidation as authorized under the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106-462), and the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-374), \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any provision of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106-462) that requires or otherwise relates to application of a lien shall not apply to the acquisitions funded herein.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87-483; \$133,780,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to the Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be derived from the Indian Irrigation Fund established by section 3211 of the WIIN Act (Public Law 114-322; 130 Stat. 1749): *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading are made available for the modernization of Federal field communication capabilities, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant

to Public Laws 99-264, and 101-618, and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, \$976,000, to remain available until expended.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, \$13,329,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$2,125,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed \$185,707,188.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001-2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), \$1,131,617,000 to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein: *Provided*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$833,592,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) and section 1128 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2008), not to exceed \$95,822,000 within and only from such amounts made available for school operations shall be available for administrative cost grants associated with grants approved prior to July 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel.

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of buildings, utilities, and other facilities necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; \$234,725,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects, the Secretary of the Interior may assume control of a project and all funds related to the project, if, not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Public Law 100-297 (25 U.S.C. 2501, et seq.) grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act, has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding Public Law 87-279 (25 U.S.C. 15), the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the

Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except Executive Direction and Administrative Services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413).

In the event any tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that tribe, or that tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

No funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau of Indian Education school system as of October 1, 1995, except that the Secretary of the Interior may waive this prohibition to support expansion of up to one additional grade when the Secretary determines such waiver is needed to support accomplishment of the mission of the Bureau of Indian Education, or more than one grade to expand the elementary grade structure for Bureau-funded schools with a K-2 grade structure on October 1, 1996. Appropriations made available in this or any prior Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available, in accordance with the Bureau's funding formula, only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, and to any school or school program that was reinstated in fiscal year 2012. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106-113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101-301, the Secretary shall continue to

distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

Funds available under this Act may not be used to establish satellite locations of schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, except that the Secretary may waive this prohibition in order for an Indian tribe to provide language and cultural immersion educational programs for non-public schools located within the jurisdictional area of the tribal government which exclusively serve tribal members, do not include grades beyond those currently served at the existing Bureau-funded school, provide an educational environment with educator presence and academic facilities comparable to the Bureau-funded school, comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal, or State health and safety standards, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and demonstrate the benefits of establishing operations at a satellite location in lieu of incurring extraordinary costs, such as for transportation or other impacts to students such as those caused by busing students extended distances: *Provided*, That no funds available under this Act may be used to fund operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, construction, or other facilities-related costs for such assets that are not owned by the Bureau: *Provided further*, That the term “satellite school” means a school location physically separated from the existing Bureau school by more than 50 miles but that forms part of the existing school in all other respects.

Funds made available for Tribal Priority Allocations within Operation of Indian Programs and Operation of Indian Education Programs may be used to execute requested adjustments in tribal priority allocations initiated by an Indian tribe.

BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, \$100,009,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$17,152,000 from this or any other Act, may be available for settlement support: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, “Operation of Indian Programs” and Bureau of Indian Education, “Operation of Indian Education Programs” accounts; the Office of the Solicitor, “Salaries and Expenses” account; and the Office of the Secretary, “Departmental Operations” account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2024, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 15 months and has a balance of \$15 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$100,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be

credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not be required to reconcile Special Deposit Accounts with a balance of less than \$500 unless the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration receives proof of ownership from a Special Deposit Accounts claimant: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 102 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-412) or any other provision of law, the Secretary may aggregate the trust accounts of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown for a continuous period of at least 5 years and shall not be required to generate periodic statements of performance for the individual accounts: *Provided further*, That with respect to the preceding proviso, the Secretary shall continue to maintain sufficient records to determine the balance of the individual accounts, including any accrued interest and income, and such funds shall remain available to the individual account holders.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, \$147,418,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which \$14,295,000 for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities may, as needed, be transferred to and merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs “Operation of Indian Programs” and Bureau of Indian Education “Operation of Indian Education Programs” accounts and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration “Federal Trust Programs” account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2024, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading in this Act may be transferred to and merged with “United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management” only to implement the functional transfer of the Office of Subsistence Management to the Office of the Secretary and maintain uninterrupted execution of ongoing subsistence management activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

For fiscal year 2024, up to \$400,000 of the payments authorized by chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided*, That the amounts provided under this Act specifically for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program are the only amounts available for payments authorized under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in the event the sums appropriated for any fiscal year for payments pursuant to this chapter are insufficient to make the full payments authorized by that chapter to all units of local government, then the payment to each local government shall be made proportionally: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make adjustments to payment to individual units of local government to correct for prior overpayments or underpay-

ments: *Provided further*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that chapter to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than \$100.

INSULAR AFFAIRS
ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and other jurisdictions identified in section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188, \$120,107,000, of which: (1) \$109,890,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, coral reef initiative and natural resources activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands, as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, as authorized by law (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) \$10,217,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104-134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement are appropriated to institutionalize routine operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee’s commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, \$3,463,000, to remain available until expended, as provided for in sections 221(a)(2) and 233 of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau; and section 221(a)(2) of the Compacts of Free Association for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized by Public Law 99-658 and Public Law 108-188.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188 and Public Law 104-134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan

administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, \$97,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$67,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, fire suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, fuels management activities, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, \$1,113,471,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided \$214,450,000 is for fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided \$10,000,000 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for fuels management activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such fuels management activities on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of fuels management activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, non-profit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public Law 109-154), or related partnerships

with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading in this Act and unobligated balances made available under this heading in prior Acts, other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, shall be available, in addition to any other funds made available for such purpose, to continue uninterrupted the Federal wildland firefighter base salary increases provided under section 40803(d)(4)(B) of Public Law 117-58: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$383,657,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading "Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations, \$350,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Pro-*

vided, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" and "Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the "Wildland Fire Management" accounts in the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), \$9,661,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior to inventory, assess, decommission, reclaim, respond to hazardous substance releases, remediate lands pursuant to section 40704 of Public Law 117-58 (30 U.S.C. 1245), and carry out the purposes of section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907), as amended, \$4,800,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That amounts appropriated under this heading are available for program management and oversight of these activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer the funds provided under this heading in this Act to any other account in the Department to carry out such purposes, and may expend such funds directly, or through grants: *Provided further*, That these amounts are not available to fulfill Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) obligations agreed to in settlement or imposed by a court, whether for payment of funds or for work to be performed.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND
RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and 54 U.S.C. 100721 et seq., \$7,715,000, to remain available until expended.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the operation and maintenance of a departmental financial and business management system, data management, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, cybersecurity, and the consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, \$107,710,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may assess reasonable charges to State, local, and tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93-638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment, or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into grants and cooperative agreements to support the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, aircraft which may be obtained by donation, purchase, or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

For necessary expenses for management of the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, \$167,937,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; of which \$69,751,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$15,000 shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary of the Interior concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments.

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-BUREAU

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement,

or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies shall have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—DEPARTMENT-WIDE

SEC. 102. The Secretary of the Interior may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7717(b)); for emergency reclamation projects under section 410 of Public Law 95-87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, with such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for "wildland fire suppression" shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when authorized by the Secretary of the Interior, in total amount not to exceed \$500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues, when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members

only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, and Bureau of Trust Funds Administration and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for settlement support activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose. The Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of the expenditure or transfer of any funds under this section, including the amount expended or transferred and how the funds will be used.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including tribal base funds, to alleviate tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2024. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

ELLIS, GOVERNORS, AND LIBERTY ISLANDS

SEC. 106. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein, including the use of all or part of any pier, dock, or landing within the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities in the support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands, and of other program and administrative activities, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees (and other monetary consideration), or by exchange; and the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts, or other agreements for the use of such facilities on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine reasonable.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES

SEC. 107. (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of the Interior shall collect a non-refundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the "Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement" account, from the designated operator for facilities subject to inspection under 43 U.S.C. 1348(c).

(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

- (1) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;
- (2) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and
- (3) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

- (1) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and
- (2) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(d) Fees for inspection of well operations conducted via non-rig units as outlined in title 30 CFR 250 subparts D, E, F, and Q shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2024 shall be—

(1) \$13,260 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of 2,500 feet or more;

(2) \$11,530 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and

(3) \$4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(e) The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (b) quarterly, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (c) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (d) with payment required by the end of the following quarter.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 108. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code (except that the 5-year term restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply), for the long-term care and maintenance of excess wild free roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 109. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, intended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 110. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2024, in carrying out work involving cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments or any political subdivision thereof, Indian Affairs may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM

SEC. 111. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to Federal grants and cooperative agreements, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, private nonprofit organizations designated by the Secretary of Labor under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 to utilize the talents of older Americans in programs authorized by other provisions of law administered by the Secretary and consistent with such provisions of law.

(b) Prior to awarding any grant or agreement under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the agreement would not—

(1) result in the displacement of individuals currently employed by the Department, including partial displacement through reduction of non-overtime hours, wages, or employment benefits;

(2) result in the use of an individual under the Department of the Interior Experienced Services Program for a job or function in a case in which a Federal employee is in a lay-off status from the same or substantially equivalent job within the Department; or

(3) affect existing contracts for services.

OBLIGATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 112. Amounts appropriated by this Act to the Department of the Interior shall be available for obligation and expenditure not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

SEC. 113. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement an orderly transition to separate accounts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, may transfer funds among and between the successor offices and bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in this Act.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

SEC. 114. Section 6906 of title 31, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2019”.

DISCLOSURE OF DEPARTURE OR ALTERNATE PROCEDURE APPROVAL

SEC. 115. (a) Subject to subsection (b), in any case in which the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement or the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management prescribes or approves any departure or use of alternate procedure or equipment, in regards to a plan or permit, under 30 CFR 585.103; 30 CFR 550.141; 30 CFR 550.142; 30 CFR 250.141; or 30 CFR 250.142, the head of such bureau shall post a description of such departure or alternate procedure or equipment use approval on such bureau's publicly available website not more than 15 business days after such issuance.

(b) The head of each bureau may exclude confidential business information.

LONG BRIDGE PROJECT

SEC. 116. (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE.—On request by the State of Virginia or the District of Columbia for the purpose of the construction of rail and other infrastructure relating to the Long Bridge Project, the Secretary of the Interior may convey to the State or the District of Columbia, as applicable, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the approximately 4.4 acres of National Park Service land depicted as “Permanent Impact to NPS Land” on the Map dated May 15, 2020, that is identified by the State or the District of Columbia.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Such conveyance of the National Park Service land under subsection (a) shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary may require. If such conveyed land is no longer being used for the purposes specified in this section, the lands or interests therein shall revert to the National Park Service after they have been restored or remediated to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

(c) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the State or the District of Columbia, as applicable, by mutual agreement, may—

(1) make minor boundary adjustments to the National Park Service land to be conveyed to the State or the District of Columbia under subsection (a); and

(2) correct any minor errors in the Map referred to in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) LONG BRIDGE PROJECT.—The term “Long Bridge Project” means the rail project, as identified by the Federal Railroad Administration, from Rosslyn (RO) Interlocking in Arlington, Virginia, to L'Enfant (LE) Interlocking in Washington, DC, which includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Virginia.

INTERAGENCY MOTOR POOL

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or Federal regulation, federally recognized Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations that receive Tribally-Controlled School Grants pursuant to Public Law 100-297 may obtain interagency motor vehicles and related services for performance of any activities carried out under such grants to the same extent as if they were contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

APPRAISER PAY AUTHORITY

SEC. 118. For fiscal year 2024, funds made available in this or any other Act or otherwise made available to the Department of the Interior for the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to establish higher minimum rates of basic pay for employees of the Department of the Interior in the Appraiser (GS-1171) job series at grades 11 through 15 carrying out appraisals of real property and appraisal reviews conducted in support of the Department's realty programs at rates no greater than 15 percent above the minimum rates of basic pay normally scheduled, and such higher rates shall be consistent with subsections (e) through (h) of section 5305 of title 5, United States Code.

SAGE-GROUSE

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)—

(1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*);

(2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.

STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS

SEC. 120. For expenses necessary to carry out section 200305 of title 54, United States Code, the National Park Service may retain up to 7 percent of the State Conservation Grants program to provide to States, the District of Columbia, and insular areas, as matching grants to support state program administrative costs.

RETENTION OF CONCESSION FRANCHISE FEES

SEC. 121. Section 101917(c) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may reduce the percentage allocation otherwise applicable under paragraph (2) to a unit or area of the National Park Service for a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the revenues collected at the unit or area exceed the reasonable needs of the unit or area for which expenditures may be made for that fiscal year. In no event may a percentage allocation be reduced below 60 percent.”.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND DEPOSITS

SEC. 122. Section 303102 of title 54, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2023”.

DECOMMISSIONING ACCOUNT

SEC. 123. The matter under the amended heading “Royalty and Offshore Minerals

Management” for the Minerals Management Service in Public Law 101–512 (104 Stat. 1926, as amended) (43 U.S.C. 1338a) is further amended by striking the fifth and sixth provisions in their entirety and inserting the following: “*Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any moneys hereafter received as a result of the forfeiture of a bond or other security by an Outer Continental Shelf permittee, lessee, or right-of-way holder that does not fulfill the requirements of its permit, lease, or right-of-way or does not comply with the regulations of the Secretary, or as a bankruptcy distribution or settlement associated with such failure or noncompliance, shall be credited to a separate account established in the Treasury for decommissioning activities and shall be available to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation to cover the cost to the United States of any improvement, protection, rehabilitation, or decommissioning work rendered necessary by the action or inaction that led to the forfeiture or bankruptcy distribution or settlement, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited into the decommissioning account may be allocated to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for such costs: *Provided further*, That any moneys received for such costs currently held in the Ocean Energy Management account shall be transferred to the decommissioning account: *Provided further*, That any portion of the moneys so credited shall be returned to the bankruptcy estate, permittee, lessee, or right-of-way holder to the extent that the money is in excess of the amount expended in performing the work necessitated by the action or inaction which led to their receipt or, if the bond or security was forfeited for failure to pay the civil penalty, in excess of the civil penalty imposed.”.

NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

SEC. 124. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Department of the Interior Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” (the Fund): *Provided*, That unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated for this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Department of the Interior by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated) into the Fund: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, and in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for information and business technology system modernization and facilities infrastructure improvements and associated administrative expenses, including nonrecurring maintenance, necessary for the operation of the Department or its bureaus, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund may not be obligated without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in this Act.

EBEY’S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE

SEC. 125. Section 508(f) of Public Law 95–625 (92 stat. 3509) is amended by striking “not to exceed \$5,000,000” and inserting “\$18,000,000”.

INTERIOR AUTHORITY FOR OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

SEC. 126. (a) In fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the Secretary of the Interior may authorize and execute agreements to achieve operating

efficiencies among and between two or more component bureaus and offices through the following activities:

(1) co-locating in offices and facilities leased or owned by any such component and sharing related utilities and equipment;

(2) detailing or assigning staff on a non-reimbursable basis for up to 5 business days; and

(3) sharing staff and equipment necessary to meet mission requirements.

(b) The authority provided by subsection (a) is to support areas of mission alignment between and among component bureaus and offices or where geographic proximity allows for efficiencies.

(c) Bureaus and offices entering into agreements authorized under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(3) shall bear costs for such agreements in a manner that reflects their approximate benefit and share of total costs, which may or may not include indirect costs.

(d) In furtherance of the requirement in subsection (c), the Secretary of the Interior may make transfers of funds in advance or on a reimbursable basis.

TITLE II

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, \$758,103,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, \$19,530,000 shall be for Research: National Priorities as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$2,030,000 shall be for projects specified for Science and Technology in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; implementation of a coal combustion residual permit program under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016; and not to exceed \$40,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$3,178,028,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That of the funds included under this heading—

(1) \$30,700,000 shall be for Environmental Protection: National Priorities as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(2) \$681,726,000 shall be for Geographic Programs as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter

preceding division A of this consolidated Act); and

(3) \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for grants, including grants that may be awarded on a non-competitive basis, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs to establish and implement a program to assist Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaskan Native Village Corporations, federally-recognized tribes in Alaska, Alaska Native Non-Profit Organizations and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations, and intertribal consortia comprised of Alaskan tribal entities to address contamination on lands conveyed under or pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on an inventory of such lands developed and maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency: *Provided*, That grants awarded using funds made available in this paragraph may be used by a recipient to supplement other funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through individual media or multi-media grants or cooperative agreements: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available in this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, the Environmental Protection Agency may reserve up to \$2,000,000 for salaries, expenses, and administration of the program and for grants related to such program that address contamination on lands conveyed under or pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on the EPA inventory of such lands.

In addition, \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): *Provided*, That fees collected pursuant to that section of that Act and deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated in this paragraph from the general fund for fiscal year 2024 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2024, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed \$9,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$9,000,000 shall be deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2024, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the funds included in the first paragraph under this heading, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees appropriated, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$43,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the Office of Inspector General shall be subject to the terms, conditions, and requirements specified under this heading in Senate Report 118–83.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the

Environmental Protection Agency, \$40,676,000, to remain available until expended.

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$537,700,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2023, and not otherwise appropriated from the Trust Fund, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$537,700,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$11,328,000 shall be paid to the “Office of Inspector General” appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2025, and \$30,343,000 shall be paid to the “Science and Technology” appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2025.

**LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST
FUND PROGRAM**

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$89,214,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$64,723,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; and \$24,491,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency’s responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$20,711,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

**STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)**

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$4,418,938,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$1,638,861,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which \$1,126,101,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided*, That \$787,652,267 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and \$631,659,905 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds shall be for the construction of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water

infrastructure and for water quality protection in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) for projects specified for “STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund” and “STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund” in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and, for purposes of these grants, each grantee shall contribute not less than 20 percent of the cost of the project unless the grantee is approved for a waiver by the Agency: *Provided further*, That \$13,300,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Administrator for salaries, expenses, and administration for Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items: *Provided further*, That the amounts in the preceding proviso under this heading shall not be available for obligation until the report, as specified under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) is received by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, to the extent there are sufficient eligible project applications and projects are consistent with State Intended Use Plans, not less than 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants may, at the discretion of each State, be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further*, That the Administrator is authorized to use up to \$1,500,000 of funds made available for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under this heading under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381) to conduct the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2024 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, grants made under title II of such Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia may also be made for the purpose of providing assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and esti-

mates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the provisions of such subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 and section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act may also be used to provide assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and regulations issued pursuant thereof, up to a total of \$2,000,000 of the funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of such Act may also be used for grants for training, technical assistance, and educational programs relating to the operation and management of the treatment works specified in section 518(c) of such Act: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, funds reserved under section 518(c) of such Act shall be available for grants only to Indian tribes, as defined in section 518(h) of such Act and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$30,000,000, whichever is greater, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or \$20,000,000, whichever is greater, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations

of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act, or where such debt was incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act if the State, with concurrence from the Administrator, determines that such funds could be used to help address a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water or if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1452(o) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(o)), the Administrator shall reserve up to \$12,000,000 of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2024 for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to pay the costs of monitoring for unregulated contaminants under section 1445(a)(2)(C) of such Act: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances available in the “State and Tribal Assistance Grants” account appropriated prior to fiscal year 2012 for “special project grants” or “special needs infrastructure grants,” or for the administration, management, and oversight of such grants, \$1,500,000 are permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending grants in this or prior appropriations Acts are not subject to compliance with Federal procurement requirements for competition and methods of procurement applicable to Federal financial assistance, if a Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending recipient has procured services or products through contracts entered into prior to the date of enactment of this legislation that complied with state and/or local laws governing competition;

(2) \$35,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission: *Provided*, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) \$39,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: *Provided*, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards

consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) \$98,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including grants, inter-agency agreements, and associated program support costs: *Provided*, That at least 10 percent shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the United States;

(5) \$90,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(6) \$67,800,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(7) \$28,500,000 shall be for grants under subsections (a) through (j) of section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a): *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2024, funds provided under subsections (a) through (j) of such section of such Act may be used—

(A) by a State to provide assistance to benefit one or more owners of drinking water wells that are not public water systems or connected to a public water system for necessary and appropriate activities related to a contaminant pursuant to subsection (j) of such section of such Act; and

(B) to support a community described in subsection (c)(2) of such section of such Act;

(8) \$28,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-24(d));

(9) \$22,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19b);

(10) \$6,500,000 shall be for grants under section 1459A(l) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19a(l));

(11) \$25,500,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8));

(12) \$41,000,000 shall be for grants under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301);

(13) \$5,400,000 shall be for grants under section 4304(b) of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-270);

(14) \$5,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4282(a)), of which not more than 2 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 302(a) of such Act, the Administrator may also provide grants pursuant to such authority to intertribal consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a), to former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and Alaska Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203;

(15) \$7,000,000 shall be for grants under section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act for wildfire smoke preparedness grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in

the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That not more than 3 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section;

(16) \$38,693,000 shall be for State and Tribal Assistance Grants to be allocated in the amounts specified for those projects and for the purposes delineated in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) for remediation, construction, and related environmental management activities in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(17) \$2,250,000 shall be for grants under section 1459F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19g);

(18) \$4,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 2001 of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-270, 42 U.S.C. 300j-3c note): *Provided*, That the Administrator may award grants to and enter into contracts with tribes, intertribal consortia, public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals, without regard to section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, and enter into interagency agreements as appropriate;

(19) \$2,000,000 shall be for grants under section 50217(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (33 U.S.C. 1302f(b); Public Law 117-58);

(20) \$3,500,000 shall be for grants under section 124 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1276); and

(21) \$1,106,333,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement, and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104-134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, and under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016 to assist States in developing and implementing programs for control of coal combustion residuals, of which: \$46,250,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA; \$9,500,000 shall be for Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, including associated program support costs; \$1,475,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which shall be in addition to funds appropriated under the heading “Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program” to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; \$18,512,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be for State participation in national- and State-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to State monitoring programs.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$64,634,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such

loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$12,500,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be used solely for the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans for projects described in section 5026(9) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to State infrastructure financing authorities, as authorized by section 5033(e) of such Act: *Provided further*, That the use of direct loans or loan guarantee authority under this heading for direct loans or commitments to guarantee loans for any project shall be in accordance with the criteria published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39189) pursuant to the fourth proviso under the heading “Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account” in division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94): *Provided further*, That none of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Administrator and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have certified in advance in writing that the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, and the project comply with the criteria referenced in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Administrator shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Administrator pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$7,640,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency’s function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8), to remain available until expended.

Notwithstanding section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees under section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136w-8) for fiscal year 2024.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate fees in accordance with section 3024 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6939g) for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until expended.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to \$368,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, Office of Inspector General, Hazardous Substance Superfund, and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Accounts, are available for the construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, provided that the cost does not exceed \$300,000 per project.

For fiscal year 2024, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(f)), the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of the Act to make grants to Indian tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act.

The Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” for fiscal year 2024 to provide grants to implement the Southeast New England Watershed Restoration Program.

Notwithstanding the limitations on amounts in section 320(i)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, not less than \$2,500,000 of the funds made available under this title for the National Estuary Program shall be for making competitive awards described in section 320(g)(4).

For fiscal year 2024, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water may, using funds appropriated under the headings “Environmental Programs and Management” and “Science and Technology”, contract directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 5, for the temporary or intermittent personal services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purposes of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purpose: *Provided*, That amounts used for this purpose by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water collectively may not exceed \$2,000,000.

The Environmental Protection Agency shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate with copies of any available Depart-

ment of Treasury quarterly certification of trust fund receipts collected from section 13601 of Public Law 117-169 and section 80201 of Public Law 117-58, an annual operating plan for such receipts showing amounts allocated by program area and program project, and quarterly reports for such receipts of obligated balances by program area and program project.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, \$1,000,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Natural Resources and Environment mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the office.

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$1,150,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That a portion of the funds made available under this heading shall be for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief’s Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer’s Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services; and, for information technology, including cybersecurity requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, \$300,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$31,500,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for Fire Science Research.

STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, tribes, and others, and for forest health management, including for invasive plants, and conducting an international program and trade compliance activities as authorized, \$303,306,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, as authorized by law, of which \$19,806,000 shall be for projects specified for Forest Resource Information and Analysis in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, and for hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands, \$1,863,557,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$31,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That for the funds provided in the preceding proviso, section 4003(d)(3)(A) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(A)) shall be applied by substituting “20” for “10” and section 4003(d)(3)(B) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(B)) shall be applied by substituting “4” for “2”: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$39,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$175,450,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities, of which not to exceed \$30,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the “State, Private, and Tribal Forestry” appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106-393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the “State, Private, and Tribal Forestry” appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred, and that the amount credited shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the “Capital Improvement and Maintenance” account, the “Range Betterment Fund” account, and the “Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses” account.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$156,130,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system; and for maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C.

532-538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 and 205: *Provided*, That \$6,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by 16 U.S.C. 538(a): *Provided further*, That \$5,130,000 shall be for projects specified for Construction Projects in the table titled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2024 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS
SPECIAL ACTS

For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California; and the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, Arkansas; as authorized by law, \$664,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND
EXCHANGES

For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available through September 30, 2027, (16 U.S.C. 516-617a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, Public Law 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST
AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), \$45,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR
SUBSISTENCE USES

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.), \$1,099,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for forest fire suppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency wildland fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, \$2,312,654,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts

previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management may be transferred to the “National Forest System” account: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for support to Federal emergency response: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading in this Act and unobligated balances made available under this heading in prior Acts, other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, shall be available, in addition to any other funds made available for such purpose, to continue uninterrupted the Federal wildland firefighter base salary increases provided under section 40803(d)(4)(B) of Public Law 117-58: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management” for wildfire suppression operations, \$2,300,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings “Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management” and “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management” for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the “Wildland Fire Management” accounts in the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading “Wildland Fire Management” in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of the Agriculture

Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), shall be deposited in the special account established by section 8705(f)(1) of such Act, shall be available to cover the costs described in subsection (c)(3) of such section of such Act, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be transferred to the "National Forest System" account.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and acquisition of aircraft to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed \$100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 428a; (5) for expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and (7) for debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94): *Provided*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase or decrease the funds appropriated to any account in this fiscal year by more than ten percent: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary of Agriculture's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided*, That all funds used pursuant to this paragraph must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible.

Not more than \$50,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior for wildland fire management, hazardous fuels management, and State fire assistance when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the National Forest System Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and urgent rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water: *Provided*, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this paragraph shall

be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States government, private sector, and international organizations: *Provided*, That the Forest Service, acting for the International Program, may sign direct funding agreements with foreign governments and institutions as well as other domestic agencies (including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation), United States private sector firms, institutions and organizations to provide technical assistance and training programs on forestry and rangeland management: *Provided further*, That to maximize effectiveness of domestic and international research and cooperation, the International Program may utilize all authorities related to forestry, research, and cooperative assistance regardless of program designations.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to enter into a cooperative agreement with the section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organization, "Forest Service International Foundation" to assist the Foundation in meeting administrative, project, and other expenses, and may provide for the Foundation's use of Forest Service personnel and facilities.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from National Forest System lands, and for the performance of cadastral surveys to designate the boundaries of such lands.

None of the funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be subject to transfer under the provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257), section 442 of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7772), or section 10417(b) of Public Law 107-171 (7 U.S.C. 8316(b)).

Not more than \$82,000,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture and not more than \$14,500,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Department Reimbursable Programs, commonly referred to as Greenbook charges: *Provided*, That nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit or limit the use of reimbursable agreements requested by the Forest Service in order to obtain information technology services, including telecommunications and system modifications or enhancements, from the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, \$4,000 is available to the Chief of the Forest Service for official reception and representation expenses.

Pursuant to sections 405(b) and 410(b) of Public Law 101-593, of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$3,000,000 may be advanced in a lump sum to the National Forest Foundation to aid conservation partnership projects in support of the Forest Service mission, without regard to when the Foundation incurs expenses, for projects on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That of the Federal funds made available to the Foundation, no more than \$300,000 shall be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall obtain, by the end of the period of Federal financial assistance, private contributions to match funds made available by the Forest Service on at least a one-for-one basis: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or a non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of Public Law 98-244, up to \$3,000,000 of the funds available to the Forest Service may be advanced to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in a lump sum to aid cost-share conservation projects, without regard to when expenses are incurred, on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That such funds shall be matched on at least a one-for-one basis by the Foundation or its sub-recipients: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Any amounts made available to the Forest Service in this fiscal year, including available collections, may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements to support forest or grassland collaboratives in the accomplishment of activities benefitting both the public and the National Forest System, Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands. Eligible activities are those that will improve or enhance Federal investments, resources, or lands, including for collaborative and collaboration-based activities, including but not limited to facilitation, planning, and implementing projects, technical assistance, administrative functions, operational support, participant costs, and other capacity support needs, as identified by the Forest Service. Eligible recipients are Indian tribal entities (defined at 25 U.S.C. 5304(e)), state government, local governments, private and nonprofit entities, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into such cooperative agreements notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31 when the Secretary determines that the public interest will be benefited and that there exists a mutual interest other than monetary considerations. Transactions subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations shall be publicly advertised and require competition when required by such Title 2. For those transactions not subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the agency may require public advertising and competition when deemed appropriate. The term "forest and grassland collaboratives" means groups of individuals or entities with diverse interests participating in a cooperative process to share knowledge, ideas, and resources about the protection, restoration, or enhancement of natural and other resources on Federal and adjacent non-Federal lands, the improvement or maintenance of public access to Federal lands, or the reduction of risk to such lands caused by natural disasters.

The 19th unnumbered paragraph under the heading “Administrative Provisions, Forest Service” in title III of Public Law 109-54, as amended, shall be further amended by striking “For each fiscal year through 2009” and inserting “For this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter” and adding at the end the following new sentence: “Congress hereby ratifies and approves payments by the Forest Service made in accordance with this paragraph to agency employees stationed in Puerto Rico after August 2, 2005.”

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities and natural resource-based businesses for sustainable rural development purposes.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for payments to counties within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, pursuant to section 14(c)(1) and (2), and section 16(a)(2) of Public Law 99-663.

Any funds appropriated to the Forest Service may be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement in section 502(c) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056(c)(2)).

The Forest Service shall not assess funds for the purpose of performing fire, administrative, and other facilities maintenance and decommissioning.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations, and similar matters unrelated to civil litigation: *Provided*, That future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the sums requested for transfer.

An eligible individual who is employed in any project funded under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and administered by the Forest Service shall be considered to be a Federal employee for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

The Forest Service may employ or contract with an individual who is enrolled in a training program at a longstanding Civilian Conservation Center (as defined in section 147(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197(d))) at regular rates of pay for necessary hours of work on National Forest System lands.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to pay, from a single account, the base salary and expenses of employees who carry out functions funded by other accounts for Enterprise Program, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, remnant Natural Resource Manager, Job Corps, and National Technology and Development Program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

For expenses necessary to carry out the Act of August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 674), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Indian Health Service, \$56,061,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on

October 1, 2023; in addition, \$264,702,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the Electronic Health Record System and the Indian Healthcare Improvement Fund, of which \$74,138,000 is for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund and may be used, as needed, to carry out activities typically funded under the Indian Health Facilities account; and, in addition, \$4,684,029,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and remain available through September 30, 2026, except as otherwise provided herein; together with payments received during the fiscal year pursuant to sections 231(b) and 233 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 238(b) and 238b), for services furnished by the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That funds made available to tribes and tribal organizations through contracts, grant agreements, or any other agreements or compacts authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450), shall be deemed to be obligated at the time of the grant or contract award and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2024, \$2,500,000 shall be available for grants or contracts with public or private institutions to provide alcohol or drug treatment services to Indians, including alcohol detoxification services: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2024, \$996,755,000 shall remain available until expended for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That of the total amount specified in the preceding proviso for Purchased/Referred Care, \$54,000,000 shall be for the Indian Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2024, up to \$51,000,000 shall remain available until expended for implementation of the loan repayment program under section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2024, \$58,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for costs related to or resulting from accreditation emergencies, including supplementing activities funded under the heading “Indian Health Facilities”, of which up to \$4,000,000 may be used to supplement amounts otherwise available for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Federal Government as authorized by sections 104 and 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a) during the preceding fiscal year for breach of contracts shall be deposited in the Fund authorized by section 108A of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1) and shall remain available until expended and, notwithstanding section 108A(c) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1(c)), funds shall be available to make new awards under the loan repayment and scholarship programs under sections 104 and 108 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available within this account for the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program, for Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services, for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, for the Zero Suicide Initiative, for the housing subsidy authority for civilian employees, for Aftercare Pilot Programs at Youth Regional Treatment Centers, for transformation and modernization costs of the Indian Health Service Electronic Health Record system, for national quality and oversight activities, to improve collections from public and private insurance at Indian Health Service and tribally operated facilities, for an initiative to treat or reduce the transmission of HIV and HCV, for a maternal health initiative, for the Telebehaviorial

Health Center of Excellence, for Alzheimer’s activities, for Village Built Clinics, for a produce prescription pilot, and for accreditation emergencies shall be allocated at the discretion of the Director of the Indian Health Service and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this Act may be used for annual contracts and grants that fall within 2 fiscal years, provided the total obligation is recorded in the year the funds are appropriated: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authority of title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended for the purpose of achieving compliance with the applicable conditions and requirements of titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, except for those related to the planning, design, or construction of new facilities: *Provided further*, That funding contained herein for scholarship programs under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts received by tribes and tribal organizations under title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act shall be reported and accounted for and available to the receiving tribes and tribal organizations until expended: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may collect from the Indian Health Service, and from tribes and tribal organizations operating health facilities pursuant to Public Law 93-638, such individually identifiable health information relating to disabled children as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.): *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided that become available on October 1, 2024, may be used for implementation of the Electronic Health Record System or the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act, or any other Act, to the Indian Health Service for the Electronic Health Record system shall be available for obligation or expenditure for the selection or implementation of a new Information Technology infrastructure system, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are consulted 90 days in advance of such obligation.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account: *Provided further*, That amounts obligated but not expended by a tribe or tribal organization for contract support costs for such agreements for the current fiscal year shall be applied to contract support costs due for such agreements for subsequent fiscal years.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2024, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

For construction, repair, maintenance, demolition, improvement, and equipment of

health and related auxiliary facilities, including quarters for personnel; preparation of plans, specifications, and drawings; acquisition of sites, purchase and erection of modular buildings, and purchases of trailers; and for provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians, as authorized by section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2004a), the Indian Self-Determination Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and for expenses necessary to carry out such Acts and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to environmental health and facilities support activities of the Indian Health Service, \$5,364,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2023; in addition, \$306,329,000, to remain available until expended, for Sanitation Facilities Construction and Health Care Facilities Construction; and, in addition, \$506,854,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, and remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for the planning, design, construction, renovation, or expansion of health facilities for the benefit of an Indian tribe or tribes may be used to purchase land on which such facilities will be located: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 may be used for fiscal year 2025 by the Indian Health Service to purchase TRANSAM equipment from the Department of Defense for distribution to the Indian Health Service and tribal facilities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided that become available on October 1, 2024, may be used for Health Care Facilities Construction or for Sanitation Facilities Construction: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading for fiscal year 2024 for Sanitation Facilities Construction, \$17,023,000 shall be for projects specified for Sanitation Facilities Construction (CDS) in the table titled "Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service may be used for sanitation facilities construction for new homes funded with grants by the housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Appropriations provided in this Act to the Indian Health Service shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 at rates not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior-level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of medical equipment; purchase of reprints; purchase, renovation, and erection of modular buildings and renovation of existing facilities; payments for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services; uniforms, or allowances therefor as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; and for expenses of attendance at meetings that relate to the functions or activities of the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, non-Indian patients may be extended health care at all tribally administered or Indian Health Service facilities, subject to charges, and the proceeds along with funds recovered under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651–2653) shall

be credited to the account of the facility providing the service and shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other law or regulation, funds transferred from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Indian Health Service shall be administered under Public Law 86–121, the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act and Public Law 93–638: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service in this Act, except those used for administrative and program direction purposes, shall not be subject to limitations directed at curtailing Federal travel and transportation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used for any assessments or charges by the Department of Health and Human Services unless such assessments or charges are identified in the budget justification and provided in this Act, or approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations through the reprogramming process: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds previously or herein made available to a tribe or tribal organization through a contract, grant, or agreement authorized by title I or title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), may be deobligated and reobligated to a self-determination contract under title I, or a self-governance agreement under title V of such Act and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used to implement the final rule published in the Federal Register on September 16, 1987, by the Department of Health and Human Services, relating to the eligibility for the health care services of the Indian Health Service until the Indian Health Service has submitted a budget request reflecting the increased costs associated with the proposed final rule, and such request has been included in an appropriations Act and enacted into law: *Provided further*, That with respect to functions transferred by the Indian Health Service to tribes or tribal organizations, the Indian Health Service is authorized to provide goods and services to those entities on a reimbursable basis, including payments in advance with subsequent adjustment, and the reimbursements received therefrom, along with the funds received from those entities pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act, may be credited to the same or subsequent appropriation account from which the funds were originally derived, with such amounts to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That reimbursements for training, technical assistance, or services provided by the Indian Health Service will contain total costs, including direct, administrative, and overhead costs associated with the provision of goods, services, or technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the Indian Health Service may provide to civilian medical personnel serving in hospitals operated by the Indian Health Service housing allowances equivalent to those that would be provided to members of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service serving in similar positions at such hospitals: *Provided further*, That the appropriation structure for the Indian Health Service may not be altered without advance notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in

carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, \$79,714,000.

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

For necessary expenses for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in carrying out activities set forth in sections 104(i) and 111(c)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and section 3019 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, \$81,619,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, in lieu of performing a health assessment under section 104(i)(6) of CERCLA, the Administrator of ATSDR may conduct other appropriate health studies, evaluations, or activities, including, without limitation, biomedical testing, clinical evaluations, medical monitoring, and referral to accredited healthcare providers: *Provided further*, That in performing any such health assessment or health study, evaluation, or activity, the Administrator of ATSDR shall not be bound by the deadlines in section 104(i)(6)(A) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for ATSDR to issue in excess of 40 toxicological profiles pursuant to section 104(i) of CERCLA during fiscal year 2024, and existing profiles may be updated as necessary.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For necessary expenses to continue functions assigned to the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, and Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1977, and not to exceed \$750 for official reception and representation expenses, \$4,629,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, the Council shall consist of one member, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, serving as chairman and exercising all powers, functions, and duties of the Council.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, including hire of passenger vehicles, uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, \$14,400,000: *Provided*, That the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (Board) shall have not more than three career Senior Executive Service positions: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the individual appointed to the position of Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall, by virtue of such appointment, also hold the position of Inspector General of the Board: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of the Board shall utilize personnel of the Office of Inspector General of EPA in performing the duties of the Inspector General of the Board,

and shall not appoint any individuals to positions within the Board.

OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN
RELOCATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation as authorized by Public Law 93-531, \$5,024,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading: *Provided*, That funds provided in this or any other appropriations Act are to be used to relocate eligible individuals and groups including evictees from District 6, Hopi-partitioned lands residents, those in significantly substandard housing, and all others certified as eligible and not included in the preceding categories: *Provided further*, That none of the funds contained in this or any other Act may be used by the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation to evict any single Navajo or Navajo family who, as of November 30, 1985, was physically domiciled on the lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe unless a new or replacement home is provided for such household: *Provided further*, That no relocatee will be provided with more than one new or replacement home: *Provided further*, That the Office shall relocate any certified eligible relocatees who have selected and received an approved homesite on the Navajo reservation or selected a replacement residence off the Navajo reservation or on the land acquired pursuant to section 11 of Public Law 93-531 (88 Stat. 1716).

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA
NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

PAYMENT TO THE INSTITUTE

For payment to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development, as authorized by part A of title XV of Public Law 99-498 (20 U.S.C. 4411 et seq.), \$13,482,000, which shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history; development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections; presentation of public exhibits and performances; collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications; conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs; maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches; not to exceed \$100,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees, \$892,855,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$28,000,000 for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, National Museum of the American Latino, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended; and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to independent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations: *Provided further*, That the Smithsonian Institution may expend Federal appropriations designated in this Act for lease or rent payments, as rent payable to the Smithsonian Institution, and such rent payments may be deposited into the general trust

funds of the Institution to be available as trust funds for expenses associated with the purchase of a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, to the extent that federally supported activities will be housed there: *Provided further*, That the use of such amounts in the general trust funds of the Institution for such purpose shall not be construed as Federal debt service for, a Federal guarantee of, a transfer of risk to, or an obligation of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That no appropriated funds may be used directly to service debt which is incurred to finance the costs of acquiring a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, or of planning, designing, and constructing improvements to such building: *Provided further*, That any agreement entered into by the Smithsonian Institution for the sale of its ownership interest, or any portion thereof, in such building so acquired may not take effect until the expiration of a 30 day period which begins on the date on which the Secretary of the Smithsonian submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report, as outlined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 2536) on the intended sale.

FACILITIES CAPITAL

For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623), and for construction, including necessary personnel, \$197,645,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$10,000 shall be for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the upkeep and operations of the National Gallery of Art, the protection and care of the works of art therein, and administrative expenses incident thereto, as authorized by the Act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Public Resolution 9, 76th Congress), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; payment in advance when authorized by the treasurer of the Gallery for membership in library, museum, and art associations or societies whose publications or services are available to members only, or to members at a price lower than to the general public; purchase, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for guards, and uniforms, or allowances therefor, for other employees as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902); purchase or rental of devices and services for protecting buildings and contents thereof, and maintenance, alteration, improvement, and repair of buildings, approaches, and grounds; and purchase of services for restoration and repair of works of art for the National Gallery of Art by contracts made, without advertising, with individuals, firms, or organizations at such rates or prices and under such terms and conditions as the Gallery may deem proper, \$174,760,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$3,875,000 for the special exhibition program shall remain available until expended.

REPAIR, RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF
BUILDINGS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of repair, restoration, and renovation of buildings, grounds

and facilities owned or occupied by the National Gallery of Art, by contract or otherwise, for operating lease agreements of no more than 10 years, that address space needs created by the ongoing renovations in the Master Facilities Plan, as authorized, \$34,480,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$24,574,000 shall be available for design and construction of an off-site art storage facility in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and may be transferred to the Smithsonian Institution for such purposes: *Provided further*, That contracts awarded for environmental systems, protection systems, and exterior repair or renovation of buildings of the National Gallery of Art may be negotiated with selected contractors and awarded on the basis of contractor qualifications as well as price.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

For necessary expenses for the operation, maintenance, and security of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, including rent of temporary office space in the District of Columbia during renovations of such Center, \$32,293,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for capital repair and restoration of the existing features of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, \$12,633,000, to remain available until expended.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
SCHOLARS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary in carrying out the provisions of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 1356) including hire of passenger vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE
HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$207,000,000 shall be available to the National Endowment for the Arts for the support of projects and productions in the arts, including arts education and public outreach activities, through assistance to organizations and individuals pursuant to section 5 of the Act, for program support, and for administering the functions of the Act, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$207,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$192,000,000 shall be available for support of activities in the humanities, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Act and for administering the functions of the Act; and \$15,000,000 shall be available to carry out the matching grants program pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Act, including \$13,000,000 for the purposes of section 7(h): *Provided*, That appropriations for carrying out section 10(a)(2) shall be available for obligation only in such amounts as may be equal to the total amounts of gifts, bequests, devises of money, and other property accepted by the chairman or by grantees of the National Endowment for the Humanities under the provisions of sections 11(a)(2)(B) and 11(a)(3)(B) during the current and preceding fiscal years for which

equal amounts have not previously been appropriated.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

None of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used to process any grant or contract documents which do not include the text of 18 U.S.C. 1913: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That funds from nonappropriated sources may be used as necessary for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts may approve grants of up to \$10,000, if in the aggregate the amount of such grants does not exceed 5 percent of the sums appropriated for grantmaking purposes per year: *Provided further*, That such small grant actions are taken pursuant to the terms of an expressed and direct delegation of authority from the National Council on the Arts to the Chairperson.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts under chapter 91 of title 40, United States Code, \$3,661,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to charge fees to cover the full costs of its publications, and such fees shall be credited to this account as an offsetting collection, to remain available until expended without further appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Commission is authorized to accept gifts, including objects, papers, artwork, drawings and artifacts, that pertain to the history and design of the Nation's Capital or the history and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of artistic display, study, or education: *Provided further*, That one-tenth of one percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses as authorized by Public Law 99-190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), \$5,000,000: *Provided*, That the item relating to "National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs" in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1986, as enacted into law by section 101(d) of Public Law 99-190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), shall be applied in fiscal year 2024 in the second paragraph by inserting ". calendar year 2020 excluded" before the first period: *Provided further*, That in determining an eligible organization's annual income for calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023, funds or grants received by the eligible organization from any supplemental appropriations made available in 2020 and 2021 in connection with the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 31, 2020 (including renewals thereof) shall be counted as part of the eligible organization's annual income.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Public Law 89-665), \$8,585,000.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Capital Planning Commission under chapter 87 of title 40, United States Code, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$8,750,000: *Provided*, That one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided under this

heading may be used for official reception and representational expenses associated with hosting international visitors engaged in the planning and physical development of world capitals.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

For expenses of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, as authorized by Public Law 106-292 (36 U.S.C. 2301-2310), \$65,231,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, for the Museum's equipment replacement program; and of which \$4,000,000 for the Museum's repair and rehabilitation program and \$1,264,000 for the Museum's outreach initiatives program shall remain available until expended.

PRESIDIO TRUST

The Presidio Trust is authorized to issue obligations to the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to section 104(d)(3) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333), in an amount not to exceed \$90,000,000.

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan and coordinate observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as authorized by Public Law 116-282, the technical amendments to Public Law 114-196, \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

TITLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which Congressional action is not complete other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 402. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks, including working capital fund charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

MINING APPLICATIONS

SEC. 404. (a) LIMITATION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Interior determines that, for the claim concerned: (1) a patent application was filed with the Sec-

retary on or before September 30, 1994; and (2) all requirements established under sections 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30) for vein or lode claims, sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35, 36, and 37) for placer claims, and section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) for mill site claims, as the case may be, were fully complied with by the applicant by that date.

(c) REPORT.—On September 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208).

(d) MINERAL EXAMINATIONS.—In order to process patent applications in a timely and responsible manner, upon the request of a patent applicant, the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the applicant to fund a qualified third-party contractor to be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a mineral examination of the mining claims or mill sites contained in a patent application as set forth in subsection (b). The Bureau of Land Management shall have the sole responsibility to choose and pay the third-party contractor in accordance with the standard procedures employed by the Bureau of Land Management in the retention of third-party contractors.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 405. Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year 2024.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2024 LIMITATION

SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2024 under the headings "Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Contract Support Costs" and "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Contract Support Costs" are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year 2024 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 407. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the National Forest System. Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary from any other requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) or any other law: *Provided*, That if the Secretary is not acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding available, to revise a plan for a unit of the National Forest System, this section shall be void with respect to such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SEC. 408. No funds provided in this Act may be expended to conduct preleasing, leasing

and related activities under either the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) within the boundaries of a National Monument established pursuant to the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) as such boundary existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing such monument.

LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

SEC. 409. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes.

PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

SEC. 410. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to executive branch agencies may be used to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 33 of title 41, United States Code, or Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless—

(1) Federal law specifically authorizes a contract to be entered into without regard for these requirements, including formula grants for States, or federally recognized Indian tribes;

(2) such contract is authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or by any other Federal laws that specifically authorize a contract within an Indian tribe as defined in section 4(e) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)); or

(3) such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

POSTING OF REPORTS

SEC. 411. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

SEC. 412. Of the funds provided to the National Endowment for the Arts—

(1) The Chairperson shall only award a grant to an individual if such grant is awarded to such individual for a literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.

(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.

(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs or projects.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

SEC. 413. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “underserved population” means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.

(2) The term “poverty line” means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.

(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—

(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;

(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);

(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and

(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 414. The Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Indian Health Service shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of appropriations including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds in each program and activity within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS

SEC. 415. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108-108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year 2024.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 416. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or

establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

HUMANE TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

SEC. 417. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary concerned”), may transfer excess wild horses and burros that have been removed from land administered by the Secretary concerned to other Federal, State, and local government agencies for use as work animals.

(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under subsection (a) immediately on the request of a Federal, State, or local government agency.

(c) An excess wild horse or burro transferred under subsection (a) shall lose status as a wild free-roaming horse or burro (as defined in section 2 of Public Law 92-195 (commonly known as the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act”)) (16 U.S.C. 1332)).

(d) A Federal, State, or local government agency receiving an excess wild horse or burro pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) destroy the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro into a commercial product;

(2) sell or otherwise transfer the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro for processing into a commercial product; or

(3) euthanize the horse or burro, except on the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian in a case of severe injury, illness, or advanced age.

(e) Amounts appropriated by this Act shall not be available for—

(1) the destruction of any healthy, unadopted, and wild horse or burro under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned (including a contractor); or

(2) the sale of a wild horse or burro that results in the destruction of the wild horse or burro for processing into a commercial product.

FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 418. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109-54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, 2024” for “September 30, 2019”.

USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL

SEC. 419. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel” products means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”) finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

LOCAL COOPERATOR TRAINING AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR WILDFIRES

SEC. 420. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with volunteer fire departments, rural fire departments, rangeland fire protection associations, and similar organizations to provide for wildland fire training and equipment, including supplies and communication devices. Notwithstanding section 121(c) of title 40, United States Code, or section 521 of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary is further authorized to transfer title to excess Department of the Interior firefighting equipment no longer needed to carry out the functions of the Department's wildland fire management program to such organizations.

RECREATION FEES

SEC. 421. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) shall be applied by substituting “October 1, 2025” for “September 30, 2019”.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

SEC. 422. None of the funds made available in this Act, in this and prior fiscal years, may be reprogrammed without the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

LOCAL CONTRACTORS

SEC. 423. Section 412 of division E of Public Law 112-74 shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2019”.

SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEE AUTHORITY AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 424. Section 422 of division F of Public Law 110-161 (121 Stat 1844), as amended, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2019”.

INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 425. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, 2024” for “September 30, 2019”.

FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 426. Section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note), as amended by section 335(6) of Public Law 108-108 and section 432 of Public Law 113-76, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2019”.

CHACO CANYON

SEC. 427. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to accept a nomination for oil and gas leasing under 43 CFR 3120.3 et seq., or to offer for oil and gas leasing, any Federal lands within the withdrawal area identified on the map of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and dated April 2, 2019, prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260).

TRIBAL LEASES

SEC. 428. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(1)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

(b) The Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services shall, jointly or separately, during fiscal year 2024 consult with tribes and tribal organizations through public solicitation and other means regarding the requirements for leases under section 105(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(1)) on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for the payment of such leases.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND

SEC. 429. The authority provided under the heading “Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund” in title I of Public Law 111-88, as amended by section 117 of division F of Public Law 113-235, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2024” for “fiscal year 2020” each place it appears.

ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

SEC. 430. (a)(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall allocate amounts made available from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, and as provided in subsection (e) of such section of such title, to the agencies of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture specified, in the amounts specified, for the stations and unit names specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled “Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the agencies and accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the

table titled “Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2024” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this section, neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, or subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, other than in amounts and for projects and activities that are allocated by subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund or the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may reallocate amounts from each agency's “Contingency Fund” line in the table titled “Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024” to any project funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund within the same agency, from any fiscal year, that experienced a funding deficiency due to unforeseen cost overruns, in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) “Contingency Fund” amounts may only be reallocated if there is a risk to project completion resulting from unforeseen cost overruns;

(2) “Contingency Fund” amounts may only be reallocated for cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund; and

(3) The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture must provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations 30 days before taking any actions authorized by this subsection if the amount reallocated from the “Contingency Fund” line for a project is projected to be 10 percent or greater than the following, as applicable:

(A) The amount allocated to that project in the table titled “Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year 2024” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); or

(B) The initial estimate in the most recent report submitted, prior to enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 431(e) of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328).

(d)(1) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets for the projects in the “Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress” required by section 200402(h) of title 54, United States Code: *Provided*, That the “Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress” must include a “Contingency Fund” line for each agency within the allocations defined in subsection (e) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund are no longer needed to complete a specified project, such amounts may

be reallocated in such submission to that agency's "Contingency Fund" line: *Provided further*, That any proposals to change the scope of or terminate a previously approved project must be clearly identified in such submission.

(2)(A) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy Projects at the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service that are in addition to the "Submission of Cost Estimates" required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total no less than half the full amount allocated to each account for that land management Agency under the allocations submitted under section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code: *Provided*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code are no longer needed because a project has been completed or can no longer be executed, such amounts must be clearly identified if proposed for reallocation in the annual budget submission.

(B) The Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy projects in the "Submission of Cost Estimates" required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and on the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A) shall be comprised only of projects for which a willing seller has been identified and for which an appraisal or market research has been initiated.

(C) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets in the Budget Justifications annually submitted by the Department of the Interior with the President's Budget for the projects in the "Submission of Cost Estimates" required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets submitted to the Committees pursuant to section 427 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) for the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A).

(e) The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds, and, for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section, National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund amounts reallocated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY

SEC. 431. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in address-

ing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use;

(B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in—

- (i) working forests;
 - (ii) harvesting operations;
 - (iii) forest improvement operations;
 - (iv) forest bioenergy production;
 - (v) wood products manufacturing; or
 - (vi) paper manufacturing;
- (C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and
- (D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

SMALL REMOTE INCINERATORS

SEC. 432. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement or enforce the regulation issued on March 21, 2011 at 40 CFR part 60 subparts CCCC and DDDD with respect to units in the State of Alaska that are defined as "small, remote incinerator" units in those regulations and, until a subsequent regulation is issued, the Administrator shall implement the law and regulations in effect prior to such date.

TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 433. No timber sale in Alaska's Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service's appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

SEC. 434. Funds made available or allocated in this Act to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture that are subject to the allocations and limitations in 54 U.S.C. 200402(e) and prohibitions in 54 U.S.C. 200402(f) may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in 54 U.S.C. 200401(2).

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 435. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water

vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS

SEC. 436. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 437. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to regulate the lead content of ammunition, ammunition components, or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) or any other law.

FIREFIGHTER PAY CAP

SEC. 438. Section 1701 of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note), as amended by Public Law 117-103, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking the last sentence and inserting "Any Services during a given calendar year that generate payments payable in the subsequent calendar year shall be disregarded in applying this subsection"; and

(2) in subsections (a), (b), and (c) by inserting "or 2024" after "or 2023" each place it appears.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION

SEC. 439. In the table entitled "Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of Public Law 117-328 and in the table under the heading "Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items" in such explanatory statement, the project relating to "Historic Campbell Chapel Restoration Committee for the Restoration of Historic Campbell Chapel" is deemed to be amended by striking "Historic Preservation Fund—Save America's Treasures Grants" and inserting "Historic Preservation Fund—Historic Preservation Fund Grants".

ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES

AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 440. Section 424(a) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) shall be applied by substituting "October 1, 2024" for "December 24, 2022".

LAVA RIDGE WIND PROJECT

SEC. 441. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project, unless or until the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, has analyzed, in consultation with local elected officials and stakeholders, action alternatives designed to reduce impacts to wildlife, cultural resources, transportation, hunting, wetlands and the connected surface and ground waters. The Secretary shall complete such consultations, and seek feedback regarding action alternatives, not later than September 30, 2024, and no funds made available in this Act shall be used for granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project while such consultations and efforts are ongoing.

(b) Prior to granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of

1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project, the Secretary shall periodically report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of consultations required under subsection (a) and, once such consultations are complete, provide a briefing to the Committees on the action alternatives and the feedback of local elected officials and stakeholders.

LIMITATION

SEC. 442. If requested by the claimant of any mining claim located within the area covered by Public Land Order 7921, the Bureau of Land Management shall prioritize completion of a validity determination for such claim. The Bureau of Land Management shall strive to complete any such validity determination not later than 3 years of receipt of the request.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

SEC. 443. Section 8206 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), as amended by section 8624 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by adding before the period “; or”

“(iii) National Park System land; or
“(iv) National Wildlife Refuge Land”;

(2) in subsection (a)(4)(B)(i), by striking “or” after “National Forest System” and inserting “;”;

(3) in subsection (a)(4)(B)(i), by inserting “, National Park Service, or National Wildlife Refuge” after “Bureau of Land Management”;

(4) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(ii), by striking “2023” and inserting “2024”;

(5) in subsection (b)(4) by striking “land or” and inserting “;”;

(6) in subsection (b)(4) by inserting “, National Park System, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” after “Bureau of Land Management”.

FOREST SERVICE NONRECURRING EXPENSE FUND

SEC. 444. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Forest Service Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” (the Fund); *Provided*, That unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds, and discretionary no-year funds at least four years old and deemed by the Chief of the Forest Service no longer needed for their intended purpose, appropriated for this or any succeeding fiscal year from the general fund of the Treasury to the Forest Service by this or any other Act may be transferred into the Fund; *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, and in addition to such other funds as may be available, for information technology; administrative expenses such as, but not limited to, utility and lease payments; facilities infrastructure maintenance, improvements, and construction; and roads infrastructure maintenance, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget; *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund may not be obligated without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in this Act.

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SEC. 445. In addition to the authority provided by section 6(g) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act, as authorized by the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272) and the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), the World War I Commission may accept money, in-kind personnel serv-

ices, contractual support, or any appropriate support from any executive branch agency for activities of the Commission.

RESCISSION

SEC. 446. Of the unobligated balances from discretionary amounts made available for fiscal year 2020 or prior fiscal years and derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the following are hereby permanently rescinded—

(1) \$89,000,000 from National Park Service grant programs with unobligated carryover balances; and

(2) \$5,000,000 from the Bureau of Land Management;

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESCISSION

SEC. 447. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available by section 11001 of Public Law 117-2, \$350,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

RESCISSION

SEC. 448. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for fiscal year 2023 or prior fiscal years under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services” for costs related to or resulting from accreditation emergencies, \$90,000,000 are hereby rescinded; *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

This division may be cited as the “Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION F—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$191,295,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025; *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$3,770,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary;

(2) \$1,370,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary;

(3) \$32,272,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel;

(4) \$20,064,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, of which \$2,000,000 is for the Office for Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy; *Provided*, That the Secretary must obtain reprogramming approval from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations under section 405 of this Act prior to executing the authorities of section 118(g)(2)–(3) of title 49, United States Code;

(5) \$22,724,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs;

(6) \$7,138,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs;

(7) \$43,284,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration;

(8) \$6,244,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs and Public Engagement;

(9) \$2,515,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat;

(10) \$16,506,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response;

(11) \$33,879,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer; and

(12) \$1,529,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Government Affairs;

Provided further, That the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this title as the “Secretary”) is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary; *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 7 percent by all such transfers; *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 7 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$70,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine; *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, \$49,040,000, of which \$22,500,000 shall remain available until expended; *Provided*, That of such amounts that are available until expended, \$10,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Infrastructure (ARPA-I) as authorized by section 119 of title 49, United States Code; *Provided further*, That within the funds made available under the preceding proviso, not less than \$8,000,000 shall be available for research on durability, resiliency, and sustainability of bridges and other infrastructure and shall be directed to an accredited university of higher education in the northeast United States that has experience leading a regional university transportation center and a proven record of developing, patenting, deploying, and commercializing innovative composite materials and technologies for bridge and other transportation applications, as well as conducting research and developing prototypes using very large-scale polymer-based additive manufacturing; *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training; *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out a local and regional project assistance grant program under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code, \$345,000,000, to remain available until expended; *Provided*, That section 6702(f)(2) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading in this Act; *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, not less than 5 percent shall be awarded to projects in historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty as defined under section 6702(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code; *Provided further*, That grants awarded under this heading in this Act for eligible projects for planning, preparation, or design shall not be subject to a minimum grant size; *Provided*

further, That in distributing amounts made available under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds, an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas, including Tribal areas, and the investment in a variety of transportation modes: *Provided further*, That for amounts made available under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That section 6702(f)(1) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts awarded under this heading in this Act, not more than 50 percent shall be allocated for eligible projects located in rural areas and not more than 50 percent shall be allocated for eligible projects located in urbanized areas: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of determining if an award for planning, preparation, or design under this heading in this Act is an urban award, the project location is the location of the project being planned, prepared, or designed: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to 2 percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, and may transfer portions of such amounts to the Administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Maritime Administration to fund the award and oversight of grants and credit assistance made under the program authorized under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That for amounts made available under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall consider and award projects based solely on the selection criteria as identified under section 6702(d)(3) and (d)(4) of title 49, United States Code.

NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU

For necessary expenses of the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 116, \$9,558,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to other amounts made available for such purposes and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

RURAL AND TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT

For necessary expenses to carry out rural and Tribal infrastructure advancement as authorized in section 21205 of Public Law 117–58, \$25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, non-profit organizations, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, Indian Tribes, or other technical assistance providers, to provide such technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to State, local, or Tribal governments, United States territories, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, or other political subdivisions of State or local governments.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, and such authority shall exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, \$5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of identity management and authentication capabilities, securing and protecting data, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives, and implementation of enhanced security controls on agency computers and mobile devices, \$49,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$18,228,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, \$24,369,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$5,436,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the Interagency Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center (IIPIC): *Provided further*, That there may be transferred to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, amounts transferred from other Federal agencies for expenses incurred under this heading for IIPIC activities not related to transportation infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the tools and analysis developed by the IIPIC shall be available to other Federal agencies for the permitting and review of major infrastructure projects not related to transportation only to the extent that other Federal agencies provide funding to the Department in accordance with the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$3,443,000 shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$522,165,000, shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the limitation in the preceding proviso on operating expenses shall not apply to entities external to the Department of Transportation or for funds provided in Public Law 117–58: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be

levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity, or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION AND OUTREACH

For necessary expenses for small and disadvantaged business utilization and outreach activities, \$5,330,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 332 of title 49, United States Code, such amounts may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation: *Provided further*, That appropriations made available under this heading shall be available for any purpose consistent with prior year appropriations that were made available under the heading "Office of the Secretary—Minority Business Resource Center Program".

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under sections 41731 through 41742 of title 49, United States Code, \$348,554,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under section 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts authorized to be distributed for the essential air service program under section 41742(b) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made available immediately from amounts otherwise provided to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration: *Provided further*, That the Administrator may reimburse such amounts from fees credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 41733 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2024, the requirements established under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 4173(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, and the subsidy cap established by section 332 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, shall not apply to maintain eligibility under section 41731 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available by this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the operating administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall post on the web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Council on Credit and Finance, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Council on Credit and Finance to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

SEC. 103. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code,

the Department's Working Capital Fund is authorized to provide partial or full payments in advance and accept subsequent reimbursements from all Federal agencies from available funds for transit benefit distribution services that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order No. 13150 and section 3049 of SAFETEA-LU (5 U.S.C. 7905 note): *Provided*, That the Department shall maintain a reasonable operating reserve in the Working Capital Fund, to be expended in advance to provide uninterrupted transit benefits to Government employees: *Provided further*, That such reserve shall not exceed 1 month of benefits payable and may be used only for the purpose of providing for the continuation of transit benefits: *Provided further*, That the Working Capital Fund shall be fully reimbursed by each customer agency from available funds for the actual cost of the transit benefit.

SEC. 104. Receipts collected in the Department's Working Capital Fund, as authorized by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, for unused transit and van pool benefits, in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of fiscal year 2024 collections, shall be available until expended in the Department's Working Capital Fund to provide contractual services in support of section 189 of this Act: *Provided*, That obligations in fiscal year 2024 of such collections shall not exceed \$1,000,000.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this title may be obligated or expended for retention or senior executive bonuses for an employee of the Department of Transportation without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

SEC. 106. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Administrative Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to transfer information technology equipment, software, and systems from departmental sources or other entities and collect and maintain a reserve at rates which will return full cost of transferred assets.

SEC. 107. None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 108. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for "Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program" in section 109 of division L of Public Law 117-103, \$8,948,237.30 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 109. The Secretary of Transportation may transfer amounts awarded to a federally recognized Tribe under a funding agreement entered into under part 29 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, from the Department of Transportation's Operating Administrations to the Office of Tribal Government Affairs: *Provided*, That any amounts retroceded or reassumed under such part may be transferred back to the appropriate Operating Administration.

SEC. 109A. (a) Amounts made available to the Secretary of Transportation or the De-

partment of Transportation's operating administrations in this Act for the costs of award, administration, or oversight of financial assistance under the programs identified in subsection (c) may be transferred to the account identified in section 801 of division J of Public Law 117-58, to remain available until expended, for the necessary expenses of award, administration, or oversight of any financial assistance programs in the Department of Transportation.

(b) Amounts transferred under the authority in this section are available in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

(c) The program from which funds made available under this Act may be transferred under subsection (a) are—

(1) the local and regional project assistance program under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) the university transportation centers program under section 5505 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 109B. Of the amounts made available under the heading "National Infrastructure Investments", up to \$35,000,000 shall be available—

(1) First, to fully fund the projects at the amounts for which they applied under section 109B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (division L of Public Law 117-328) and were not fully funded; and

(2) Second, to fund highway infrastructure projects for which the initial grant agreement was executed between January 14, 2021 and February 14, 2021 for awards made from the national infrastructure investments program under title I of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6): *Provided*, That sponsors of projects eligible for funds made available under subsection shall provide sufficient written justification describing, at a minimum, the current project cost estimate, why the project cannot be completed with the obligated grant amount, and any other relevant information, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this subsection shall be allocated to projects eligible to receive funding under this section in order of the date the grant agreements were initially executed: *Provided further*, That the allocation under the previous proviso will be for the amounts necessary to cover increases to eligible project costs since the grant was obligated, based on the information provided: *Provided further*, That section 200.204 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply to amounts made available under this section: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this section shall not be subject to limitations under section 6702(c) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this section shall not be part of the Federal share of total project costs under section 6702(e)(1) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That section 6702(f) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this section: *Provided further*, That the Office of the Secretary of Transportation shall provide the amounts allocated to projects under this section no later than 120 days after the date the sufficient written justifications required under this section have been submitted.

SEC. 109C. For amounts provided for this fiscal year and prior fiscal years, section 24112(c)(2)(B) of Public Law 117-58 shall be applied by substituting "30 percent" for "40 percent".

SEC. 109D. The remaining unobligated balances, as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available for the "Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—National Infrastructure Invest-

ments" in division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) are hereby permanently rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2027, and shall be available, without additional competition, for completing the funding of awards made pursuant to the fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments program, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 109E. For amounts provided for fiscal year 2024 under the heading "National Infrastructure Investments" in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) to carry out section 6702 of title 49, United States Code, the set aside for historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty under subsection (f)(2) of such section shall be applied by substituting "5 percent" for "1 percent" in this fiscal year: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, the lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, \$12,729,627,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$12,093,150,000 to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading—

(1) not less than \$1,745,532,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities;

(2) \$9,439,068,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities;

(3) \$42,018,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities;

(4) \$948,211,000 shall be available for finance and management activities;

(5) \$67,818,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities;

(6) \$162,155,000 shall be available for security and hazardous materials safety activities; and

(7) \$324,825,000 shall be available for staff offices:

Provided further, That not to exceed 5 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation under this heading by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 5 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set

forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the submission of the budget request, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of the Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after 60 days after the submission of the budget request that such report has not been transmitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the submission of the budget request, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after the date that is 60 days after the submission of the budget request that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a nonprofit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$205,376,000 shall be used to fund direct operations of the current air traffic control towers in the contract tower program, including the contract tower cost share program, and any airport that is currently qualified or that will qualify for the program during the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the contract weather observers program at any airport.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing

of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds made available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, \$3,191,250,000, of which \$634,739,370 is for personnel and related expenses and shall remain available until September 30, 2025, \$2,496,360,630 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, and \$60,150,000 is for terminal facilities and shall remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after submission of the budget request, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress an investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That section 405 of this Act shall apply to amounts made available under this heading in title VIII of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act (division J of Public Law 117-58): *Provided further*, That the amounts in the table entitled "Allocation of Funds for FAA Facilities and Equipment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—Fiscal Year 2024" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) shall be the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (7) of such section 405 for amounts referred to in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding paragraphs (5) and (6) of such section 405, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, not to exceed 10 percent of any funding level specified for projects and activities in the table referred to in the preceding proviso may be transferred to any other funding level specified for projects and activities in such table and no transfer of such funding levels may increase or decrease any funding level in such table by more than 10 percent: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading for terminal facilities, \$15,000,000 shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, \$280,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private

sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be used in accordance with the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That not to exceed 10 percent of any funding level specified under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) may be transferred to any other funding level specified under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any funding level by more than 10 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 10 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, \$3,350,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of \$3,350,000,000, in fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Government's share of allowable project costs under paragraph (2) of such section for subgrants or paragraph (3) of such section shall be 95 percent for a project at other than a large or medium hub airport that is a successive phase of a multi-phased construction project for which the project sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011 for the construction project: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of amounts limited under this heading, not less than \$152,148,000 shall be available for administration, \$15,000,000 shall be available for the airport cooperative research program, \$41,801,000 shall be available for airport technology research, and \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to "Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses" to carry out the small community air service development program: *Provided further*, That in addition to airports eligible under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code, such

program may include the participation of an airport that serves a community or consortium that is not larger than a small hub airport, according to FAA hub classifications effective at the time the Office of the Secretary issues a request for proposals: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may provide grants to any commercial service airport, notwithstanding the requirement for the airport to be located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area or to be able to receive emission credits in section 47102(3)(K) and 47102(3)(L) of title 49, United States Code, for work necessary to construct or modify airport facilities to provide low-emission fuel systems, gate electrification, other related air quality improvements, acquisition of airport-owned vehicles or ground support equipment with low-emission technology, provided such vehicles are used exclusively on airport property or to transport passengers and employees between the airport and the airport's consolidated rental facility or an intermodal surface transportation facility adjacent to the airport.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

For an additional amount for “Grants-In-Aid for Airports”, to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by subchapter 1 of chapter 471 and subchapter 1 of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, \$532,392,074, to remain available through September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, and such funds shall not be subject to apportionment formulas, special apportionment categories, or minimum percentages under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$482,392,074 shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That funds made available under this section shall not be subject to or considered under section 47115(j)(3)(B) of title 49, United States Code;

(2) up to \$50,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary to distribute as discretionary grants to airports; and

(3) not less than \$3,000,000 shall be made available for two remaining projects under section 190 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254): *Provided*, That, notwithstanding subsection (j)(2) of section 190 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254), such grants shall be made available for conducting testing activities in support of studying the effectiveness of existing federally funded sound insulation in residential areas located within the 65 DNL noise contour of a large-hub airport that will facilitate future environmental mitigation projects in these areas: *Provided further*, That, with respect to a project funded under the previous proviso, the allowable project cost for such project shall be calculated without consideration of any costs that were previously paid by the Government:

Provided further, That the Secretary may make discretionary grants to primary airports for airport-owned infrastructure required for the on-airport distribution or storage of sustainable aviation fuels that achieve at least a 50 percent reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, using a methodology determined by the Secretary, including, but not limited to, on-airport construction or expansion of pipelines, rail lines and spurs, loading and off-loading facilities,

blending facilities, and storage tanks: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make discretionary grants with funds made available under this heading to primary or non-primary airports for the acquisition or construction costs related to airport-owned, revenue-producing aeronautical fuel farms and fueling systems, including mobile systems, that the Secretary determines will promote the use of unleaded or sustainable aviation fuels on a non-exclusive basis: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make discretionary grants for airport development improvements of primary runways, taxiways, and aprons necessary at a nonhub, small hub, medium hub, or large hub airport to increase operational resilience for the purpose of resuming commercial service flight operations following flooding, high water, hurricane, storm surge, tidal wave, tornado, tsunami, wind driven water, or winter storms: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program set forth in any Act: *Provided further*, That the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may retain up to 0.5 percent of the amounts made available under this heading to fund the award and oversight by the Administrator of grants made under this heading.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition on the use of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on “below-market” rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the Federal Aviation Administration for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, from fees credited under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code, and any amount remaining in such account at the close of any fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes as such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under section 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Admin-

istration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number, Mode S transponder code, flight identification, call sign, or similar identifying information from any ground based display to the public that would allow the real-time or near real-time flight tracking of that aircraft's movements, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 117. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than nine political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 118. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigation products and explains how such fees are consistent with Executive Order No. 13642.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds made available by or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold from consideration and approval any new application for participation in the contract tower program, or for reevaluation of cost-share program participants so long as the Federal Aviation Administration has received an application from the airport, and so long as the Administrator determines such tower is eligible using the factors set forth in Federal Aviation Administration published establishment criteria.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to open, close, redesignate as a lesser office, or reorganize a regional office, the aeronautical center, or the technical center unless the Administrator submits a request for the reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 119D. The Federal Aviation Administration Administrative Services Franchise Fund may be reimbursed after performance or paid in advance from funds available to the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies for which the Fund performs services.

SEC. 119E. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the FAA may be used to carry out the FAA's obligations under section 44502(e) of title 49, United States Code, unless the eligible air traffic system or equipment to be transferred to the FAA under section 44502(e) of title 49, United States Code, was purchased by the transferor airport—

(1) during the period of time beginning on October 5, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2021; or

(2) on or after January 1, 2022 for transferor airports located in a non-contiguous States.

SEC. 119F. Of the funds provided under the heading “Grants-in-aid for Airports”, up to \$3,500,000 shall be for necessary expenses, including an independent verification regime, to provide reimbursement to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services, or other aviation tenants, located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service, and for direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports are closed solely due to the actions of the Federal Government: *Provided*, That no funds shall be obligated or distributed to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services until an independent audit is completed: *Provided further*, That losses incurred as a result of violations of law, or through fault or negligence, of such operators and service providers or of third parties (including airports) are not eligible for reimbursements: *Provided further*, That obligation and expenditure of funds are conditional upon full release of the United States Government for all claims for financial losses resulting from such actions.

SEC. 119G. Of the unobligated balances available to the Federal Aviation Administration, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded:

(1) \$1,590,528.89 from funds made available for “Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment”, which were to remain available until expended, by title I of Public Law 104-50; and

(2) \$2,878.02 from funds made available for “Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment” by chapter 10, division B, of Public Law 108-324.

SEC. 119H. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act shall be used to facilitate the assignment of individuals from a private-sector organization to the FAA to serve on a temporary basis.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed \$483,551,671 together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated for necessary expenses for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration: *Provided*, That in addition, \$3,248,000 shall be transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$60,095,782,888 for fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That the limitation on obligations under this heading shall only apply to contract authority authorized from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), unless otherwise specified in law.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, \$60,834,782,888 shall be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

There is hereby appropriated to the Secretary \$2,224,676,687: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, shall be in addition to any funds provided for fiscal year 2024 in this or any other Act for: (1) “Federal-aid Highways” under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; (2) the Appalachian development highway system as authorized under section 1069(y) of Public Law 102-240; (3) activities eligible under the Tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code; (4) the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.); or (5) the Denali Commission, and shall not affect the distribution or amount of funds provided in any other Act: *Provided further*, That, except for the funds made available under this heading for the Northern Border Regional Commission and the Denali Commission, section 11101(e) of Public Law 117-58 shall apply to funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That unless otherwise specified, amounts made available under this heading shall be available until September 30, 2027, and shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for Federal-aid highways or highway safety construction programs set forth in any Act making annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$1,884,176,687 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That, except as otherwise provided under this heading, the funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this paragraph that are used for Tribal projects shall be administered as if allocated under chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, except that the set-asides described in subparagraph (C) of section 202(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, and subsections (a)(6), (c), and (e) of section 202 of such title, and section 1123(h)(1) of MAP-21 (as amended by Public Law 117-58), shall not apply to such funds;

(2) \$100,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses for construction of the Appalachian development highway system, as authorized under section 1069(y) of Public Law 102-240: *Provided*, That for the purposes of funds made available under this paragraph, the term “Appalachian State” means a State that contains 1 or more counties (including any political subdivision located within the area) in the Appalachian region as defined in section 14102(a) of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for construction of the Appalachian development highway system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, except as provided in the following proviso, funds made available under this heading for construction of the Appalachian development highway system shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That a project carried out with funds made available under this heading for construction of the Appalachian development highway system shall be carried out in the same manner as a project under section 14501 of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That subject to the following proviso, funds made available

under this heading for construction of the Appalachian development highway system shall be apportioned to Appalachian States according to the percentages derived from the 2012 Appalachian development highway system cost-to-complete estimate, adopted in Appalachian Regional Commission Resolution Number 736, and confirmed as each Appalachian State’s relative share of the estimated remaining need to complete the Appalachian development highway system, adjusted to exclude those corridors that such States have no current plans to complete, as reported in the 2013 Appalachian Development Highway System Completion Report, unless those States have modified and assigned a higher priority for completion of an Appalachian development highway system corridor, as reported in the 2020 Appalachian Development Highway System Future Outlook: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall adjust apportionments made under the preceding proviso so that no Appalachian State shall be apportioned an amount in excess of 30 percent of the amount made available for construction of the Appalachian development highway system under this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Appalachian Regional Commission in making adjustments under the preceding two provisos: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made for construction of the Appalachian development highway system under this heading shall be up to 100 percent;

(3) \$150,000,000 shall be for activities eligible under the Tribal transportation program, as described in section 202 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided*, That, except as otherwise provided under this heading, the funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if allocated under chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the set-asides described in subparagraph (C) of section 202(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, and subsections (a)(6), (c), and (e) of section 202 of such title shall not apply to funds made available under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That the set-aside described in section 1123(h)(1) of MAP-21 (as amended by Public Law 117-58), shall not apply to such funds;

(4) \$5,000,000 shall be transferred to the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.) to make grants, in addition to amounts otherwise made available to the Northern Border Regional Commission for such purpose, to carry out pilot projects that demonstrate the capabilities of wood-based infrastructure projects: *Provided*, That a grant made with funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered in the same manner as a grant made under subtitle V of title 40, United States Code;

(5) \$4,500,000 shall be transferred to the Denali Commission for activities eligible under section 307(e) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277): *Provided*, That funds made available under this paragraph shall not be subject to section 311 of such Act: *Provided further*, That except as otherwise provided under section 307(e) of such Act or this heading, funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if directly appropriated to the Denali Commission and subject to applicable provisions of such Act, including the requirement in section 307(e) of such Act that the local community provides a 10 percent non-Federal match in the form of any necessary land or planning and design funds: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made with funds transferred under this paragraph shall be up to 90 percent;

(6) \$13,500,000 shall be transferred to the Denali Commission to carry out the Denali access system program under section 309 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277): *Provided*, That a transfer under this paragraph shall not be subject to section 311 of such Act: *Provided further*, That except as otherwise provided under this heading, funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if directly appropriated to the Denali Commission and subject to applicable provisions of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this paragraph shall be available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made with funds transferred under this paragraph shall be up to 100 percent;

(7) \$10,000,000 shall be for the regional infrastructure accelerator demonstration program authorized under section 1441 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 601 note): *Provided*, That for funds made available under this paragraph, the Federal share of the costs shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 100 percent: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this paragraph may be transferred to the Office of the Secretary;

(8) \$7,500,000 shall be for the national scenic byways program under section 162 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided*, That, except as otherwise provided under this heading, the funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; and

(9) \$50,000,000, in addition to amounts made available in section 126 of this Act, shall be for a competitive highway bridge program for States that—

(A) have a population density of less than 115 individuals per square mile; and

(B) have—

(i) less than 26 percent of total bridges classified as in good condition; or

(ii) greater than or equal to 5.2 percent of total bridges classified as in poor condition: *Provided*, That any such State with more than 14 percent of total bridges classified as in poor condition shall receive not less than \$32,500,000 of the funds made available in this paragraph or in section 126 of this Act for grant applications for projects eligible under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that eligible applications from any such State meeting the criteria under the preceding proviso are insufficient to make awards of at least \$32,500,000, the Secretary shall use the unutilized amounts to provide other grants to States eligible under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this paragraph shall be used for highway bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects on public roads that demonstrate cost savings by bundling multiple highway bridge projects and, except as otherwise provided in this heading, shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the requirements of section 144(j)(5) of title 23, United States Code, shall not apply to funds made available under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall calculate population density figures based on the latest available data from the decennial census conducted under section 141(a) of title 13, United States Code: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall calculate the percentages of bridge counts (including the percentages of bridge counts classified as in poor and good condition) based on the national bridge inventory as of June 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under section 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(12) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, or apportioned by the Secretary under section 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the national highway performance program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(12) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid highway programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2024, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code;

(B) title VI of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act; and

(C) title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation

limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid highway programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) **RATIO.**—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) **AVAILABILITY.**—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall post on a website any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make a grant for a project under section 117 of title 23, United States Code, unless the Secretary, at least 60 days before making a grant under that section, provides written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the proposed grant, including an evaluation and justification for the project and the amount of the proposed grant award.

SEC. 124. (a) A State or territory, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may use for any project eligible under section 133(b) of title 23 or section 165 of title 23 and located within the boundary of the State or territory any earmarked amount, and any associated obligation limitation: *Provided*, That the Department of Transportation for the State or territory for which the earmarked amount was originally designated or directed notifies the Secretary of its intent to use its authority under this section and submits an annual report to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability of funds to be obligated under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary is notified. The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) In this section, the term “earmarked amount” means—

(1) congressionally directed spending, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(2) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, identified in a prior law, report,

or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) The authority under subsection (a) may be exercised only for those projects or activities that have obligated less than 10 percent of the amount made available for obligation as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and shall be applied to projects within the same general geographic area within 25 miles for which the funding was designated, except that a State or territory may apply such authority to unexpended balances of funds from projects or activities the State or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher.

(d) The Secretary shall submit consolidated reports of the information provided by the States and territories annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 125. (a) Of the unallocated and unobligated balances available to the Federal Highway Administration, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, subject to subsections (b) and (c), from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts:

(1) \$48,346,377.35 from funds available in the “Surface Transportation Priorities” account (69 X 0538);

(2) \$1,839,129.40 from funds available in the “Delta Regional Transportation Development Program” account (69 X 0551);

(3) \$11,064,579.57 from funds available in the “Appalachian Development Highway System” account (69 X 0640);

(4) \$9,264.22 from funds available in the “Highway Beautification” account (69 X 0540);

(5) \$1,375,400 from funds available in the “State Infrastructure Banks” account (69 X 0549);

(6) \$90,435 from funds available in the “Railroad-Highway Crossings Demonstration Projects” account (69 X 0557);

(7) \$5,211,248.53 from funds available in the “Interstate Transfer Grants—Highway” account (69 X 0560);

(8) \$133,231.12 from funds available in the “Kentucky Bridge Project” account (69 X 0572);

(9) \$2,887.56 from funds available in the “Highway Demonstration Project—Preliminary Engineering” account (69 X 0583);

(10) \$149,083.06 from funds available in the “Highway Demonstration Projects” account (69 X 0598); and

(11) \$68,438.40 from funds available in the “Miscellaneous Highway Projects” account (69 X 0641).

(b) No amounts may be rescinded under subsection (a) from any funds for which a State exercised its authority under section 125 of division L of Public Law 114–113, section 422 of division K of Public Law 115–31, section 126 of division L of Public Law 115–141, section 125 of division G of Public Law 116–6, section 125 of division H of Public Law 116–94, section 124 of division L of Public Law 116–260, section 124 of division L of Public Law 117–103, or section 124 of division L of Public Law 117–328.

(c) No amounts may be rescinded under subsection (a) from any amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 126. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$200,000,000 from the funds described in subsection (b), in addition to amounts made available in paragraph (9) under the heading “Highway Infrastructure Programs”, shall be available for a competitive highway bridge program for States that—

(1) have a population density of less than 115 individuals per square mile; and

(2) have—

(A) less than 26 percent of total bridges classified as in good condition; or

(B) greater than or equal to 5.2 percent of total bridges classified as in poor condition:

Provided, That any such State with more than 14 percent of total bridges classified as in poor condition shall receive not less than \$32,500,000 of the funds made available under this subsection or in paragraph (9) under the heading “Highway Infrastructure Programs” for grant applications for projects eligible under this subsection: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that eligible applications from any such State meeting the criteria under the preceding proviso are insufficient to make awards of at least \$32,500,000, the Secretary shall use the unutilized amounts to provide other grants to States eligible under this subsection: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this subsection shall be used for highway bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects on public roads that demonstrate cost savings by bundling multiple highway bridge projects and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the requirements of section 144(j)(5) of title 23, United States Code, shall not apply to funds made available under this subsection: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall calculate population density figures based on the latest available data from the decennial census conducted under section 141(a) of title 13, United States Code: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall calculate the percentages of bridge counts (including the percentages of bridge counts classified as in poor and good condition) based on the national bridge inventory as of June 2023: *Provided further*, That section 11101(e) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) shall apply to funds made available under this subsection.

(b) Funds described in this subsection are any funds that—

(1) are unobligated on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) were made available for credit assistance under—

(A) the transportation infrastructure finance and innovation program under subchapter II of chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, as in effect prior to August 10, 2005; or

(B) the transportation infrastructure finance and innovation program under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code.

(c) Funds made available under subsection (a) for a competitive highway bridge program for States shall—

(1) be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs; and

(2) unless otherwise specified in this section, remain available until September 30, 2027.

(d) The obligation limitation made available under section 120(a)(2) that is associated with funds made available under subsection (a) shall—

(1) remain available until September 30, 2027; and

(2) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND
PROGRAMS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31110 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), \$346,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution, or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of \$411,000,000, for “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs” for fiscal year 2024, of which \$14,073,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, is for the research and technology program, and of which not less than \$99,098,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, is for development, modernization, enhancement, and continued operation and maintenance of information technology and information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31103, 31104, and 31131 of title 49, United States Code, \$516,300,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$516,300,000 in fiscal year 2024 for “Motor Carrier Safety Grants”: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading—

- (1) \$406,500,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the motor carrier safety assistance program;
- (2) \$43,500,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial driver's license program implementation program;
- (3) \$60,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the high priority program;
- (4) \$1,300,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial motor vehicle operators grant program; and
- (5) \$5,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR
CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of section 385.308 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

SEC. 131. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements of section 31137 of title 49, United

States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock as defined in section 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety, authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, \$223,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of section 403 of title 23, United States Code, including behavioral research on automated driving systems and advanced driver assistance systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls, section 25024 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, \$201,200,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2024, are in excess of \$201,200,000: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

- (1) \$194,000,000 shall be for programs authorized under section 403 of title 23, United States Code, including behavioral research on automated driving systems and advanced driver assistance systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls, and section 25024 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58); and
 - (2) \$7,200,000 shall be for the national driver register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code:
- Provided further*, That within the \$201,200,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, \$57,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years: *Provided further*, That amounts for behavioral research on automated driving systems and advanced driver assistance systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls are in addition to any other funds provided for those purposes for fiscal year 2024 in this Act.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of sections 402, 404, and 405 of title 23, United States Code, and grant administration expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code, to remain available until expended, \$813,300,800, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs for which the total obligations in fiscal year 2024 are in excess of \$813,300,800 for programs authorized under sections 402, 404, and 405 of title 23, United States Code, and grant administration expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code: *Pro-*

vided further, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

- (1) \$378,400,000 shall be for highway safety programs under section 402 of title 23, United States Code;
 - (2) \$353,500,000 shall be for national priority safety programs under section 405 of title 23, United States Code;
 - (3) \$40,300,000 shall be for the high visibility enforcement program under section 404 of title 23, United States Code; and
 - (4) \$41,100,800 shall be for grant administrative expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code:
- Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds made available for national priority safety programs under section 405 of title 23, United States Code, for impaired driving countermeasures (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the “Transfers” provision under section 405(a)(10) of title 23, United States Code, any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the preceding proviso or under section 405(a)(10) of title 23, United States Code, within 5 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

SEC. 141. An additional \$130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, \$267,799,000, of which \$25,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, \$54,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, up to \$3,000,000 shall be available pursuant to section 20108(d) of title 49, United States Code, for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements at the Transportation Technology Center.

FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERCITY
PASSENGER RAIL

For necessary expenses related to Federal-state partnership for intercity passenger rail grants as authorized by section 24911 of title 49, United States Code, \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may withhold up to 2 percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under title 49, United States Code.

CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses related to consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements grants, as authorized by section 22907 of title 49, United States Code, \$198,957,997, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, \$98,957,997 shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That requirements under subsections (g) and (l) of section 22907 of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That any remaining funds available after the distribution of the Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending described in this paragraph shall be available to the Secretary to distribute as discretionary grants under this heading: *Provided further*, That for amounts made available under this heading in this Act, eligible projects under section 22907(c)(8) of title 49, United States Code, shall also include railroad systems planning (including the preparation of regional intercity passenger rail plans and state rail plans) and railroad project development activities (including railroad project planning, preliminary engineering, design, environmental analysis, feasibility studies, and the development and analysis of project alternatives): *Provided further*, That section 22905(f) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading in this Act for projects that implement or sustain positive train control systems otherwise eligible under section 22907(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act for projects selected for commuter rail passenger transportation may be transferred by the Secretary, after selection, to the appropriate agencies to be administered in accordance with chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That for amounts made available under this heading in this Act, eligible recipients under section 22907(b)(7) of title 49, United States Code, shall include any holding company of a Class II railroad or Class III railroad (as those terms are defined in section 20102 of title 49, United States Code): *Provided further*, That section 22907(e)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That section 22907(e)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading in previous fiscal years if such funds are announced in a notice of funding opportunity that includes funds made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not apply to funds made available under this heading in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (division J of Public Law 117-58): *Provided further*, That unobligated balances remaining after 6 years from the date of enactment of this Act may be used for any eligible project under section 22907(c) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may withhold up to 2 percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under title 49, United States Code.

NORTHEAST CORRIDOR GRANTS TO THE
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the Northeast Corridor as authorized by section 22101(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), \$1,141,442,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amounts made available under both this heading in this Act and the “National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” heading in this Act to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by section 22101(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58): *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 22101(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act to fund expenses associated with the Northeast Corridor Commission established under section 24905 of title 49, United States Code.

NATIONAL NETWORK GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL
RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the National Network as authorized by section 22101(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (division B of Public Law 117-58), \$1,286,321,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$3,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading in this Act to fund expenses associated with the State-Supported Route Committee established under section 24712 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading in this Act shall be used by Amtrak to give notice under subsection (a) or (c) of section 24706 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole operator on a host railroad's line and a positive train control system is not required by law or regulation, or, except in an emergency or during maintenance or construction outages impacting such routes, to otherwise discontinue, reduce the frequency of, suspend, or substantially alter the route of rail service on any portion of such route operated in fiscal year 2018, including implementation of service permitted by section 24305(a)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code, in lieu of rail service: *Provided further*, That the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may use up to \$66,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act for corridor development activities as authorized by section 22101(h) of division B of Public Law 117-58: *Provided further*, That \$40,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be for design and construction activities to improve the concourse and related infrastructure for the station at the major hub of Amtrak's National Network.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL
RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 150. The amounts made available to the Secretary or to the Federal Railroad Administration for the costs of award, administration, and project management oversight of financial assistance which are administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, in this and prior Acts, may be trans-

ferred to the Federal Railroad Administration's “Financial Assistance Oversight and Technical Assistance” account for the necessary expenses to support the award, administration, project management oversight, and technical assistance of financial assistance administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, in the same manner as appropriated for in this and prior Acts: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to amounts that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 151. None of the funds made available to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of \$35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the President of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the preceding proviso for specific employees when the President of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by Amtrak for 2023 and the three prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments Amtrak paid to employees receiving waivers for each month for 2023 and for the three prior calendar years.

SEC. 152. None of the funds made available to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under the headings “Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” and “National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” may be used to reduce the total number of Amtrak Police Department uniformed officers patrolling on board passenger trains or at stations, facilities or rights-of-way below the staffing level on May 1, 2019.

SEC. 153. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation in contravention of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.).

SEC. 154. Of the unobligated balances of funds remaining from—

(1) “Northeast Corridor Improvement Program” account totaling \$126,348 appropriated by Public Law 114-113 is hereby permanently rescinded;

(2) “Railroad Safety Grants” account totaling \$81,257.66 appropriated by Public Law 113-235 is hereby permanently rescinded;

(3) “Capital Assistance for High Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail Service” account totaling \$53,118,096.83 appropriated by Public Law 111-117 is hereby permanently rescinded;

(4) “Next Generation High-Speed Rail” account totaling \$94.94 appropriated by Public Law 108-447 is hereby permanently rescinded; and

(5) “Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” account totaling \$678.16 appropriated by Public Law 108-447 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 155. It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) long-distance passenger rail routes provide much-needed transportation access for 4,700,000 riders in 325 communities in 40 States and are particularly important in rural areas; and

(2) long-distance passenger rail routes and services should be sustained to ensure connectivity throughout the National Network (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code).

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal public transportation assistance program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5334, 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and section 3006(b) of Public Law 114-94, \$13,990,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5334, 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, and section 3006(b) of Public Law 114-94, shall not exceed total obligations of \$13,990,000,000 in fiscal year 2024.

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

For an additional amount for ferry boats grants under section 5307(h) of title 49, United States Code, Tribal technical assistance under section 5311(b)(3)(C) of such title, bus testing facilities under section 5318 of such title, accelerating the adoption of zero emission buses under section 5312 of such title, Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending for projects and activities eligible under chapter 53 of such title, and ferry service for rural communities under section 71103 of division G of Public Law 117-58, \$252,386,844, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the sums provided under this heading in this Act—

(1) \$20,000,000 shall be available for ferry boat grants as authorized under section 5307(h) of such title: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for low or zero emission ferries or ferries using electric battery or fuel cell components and the infrastructure to support such ferries;

(2) \$500,000 shall be available for technical assistance and resources to Tribes through the national rural transportation assistance program authorized under section 5311(b)(3)(C) of such title;

(3) \$1,500,000 shall be available for the operation and maintenance of the bus testing facilities selected under section 5318 of such title;

(4) \$206,817,976 shall be available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That unless otherwise specified, applicable requirements under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, shall apply to amounts made available in this paragraph, except that the Federal share of the costs for a project in this paragraph shall be in an amount equal to 80 percent of the net costs of the project, unless the Secretary approves a higher maximum Federal share of the net costs of the project consistent with administration of similar projects funded under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code;

(5) \$20,000,000 shall be available for ferry service for rural communities under section 71103 of division G of Public Law 117-58: *Provided*, That for amounts made available in this paragraph, notwithstanding section 71103(a)(2)(B), eligible service shall include passenger ferry service that serves at least two rural areas with a single segment over 15

miles between the two rural areas and is not otherwise eligible under section 5307(h) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That entities that provide eligible service pursuant to the preceding proviso may use amounts made available in this paragraph for public transportation capital projects to support any ferry service between two rural areas; and

(6) \$3,568,868 shall be available to support technical assistance, research, demonstration, or deployment activities or projects to accelerate the adoption of zero emission buses in public transit as authorized under section 5312 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be derived from the general fund: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transit programs set forth in this or any other Act.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out section 5314 of title 49, United States Code, \$7,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the assistance provided under this heading does not duplicate the activities of section 5311(b) or section 5312 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading are in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations set forth in this or any other Act.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out fixed guideway capital investment grants under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and section 3005(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 114-94), \$2,205,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading in this Act—

(1) \$2,130,950,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5309(d) of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) up to \$52,000,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 3005(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act:

Provided further, That the Secretary shall continue to administer the capital investment grants program in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and of section 3005(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act: *Provided further*, That projects that receive a grant agreement under the expedited project delivery for capital investment grants pilot program under section 3005(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act shall be deemed eligible for funding provided for projects under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, without further evaluation or rating under such section: *Provided further*, That such funding shall not exceed the Federal share under section 3005(b): *Provided further*, That for funds made available under this heading in division J of Public Law 117-58 the second through sixth provisos shall be treated as inapplicable for fiscal year 2024: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to the preceding proviso that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN
AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-432), \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL
TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the heading “Capital Investment Grants” of the Federal Transit Administration for projects specified in this Act not obligated by September 30, 2027, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2023, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be used to adjust apportionments or withhold funds from apportionments pursuant to section 9503(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9503(e)(4)).

SEC. 164. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be used to impede or hinder project advancement or approval for any project seeking a Federal contribution from the capital investment grants program of greater than 40 percent of project costs as authorized under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 165. Of the unobligated balances made available before October 1, 2013 for “Transit Research” in Treasury Account 69-X-1137, \$977,955 is hereby permanently rescinded.

GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
(HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital infrastructure activities on portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and

maintained by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, \$40,288,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238): *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$16,300,000 shall be for the seaway infrastructure program.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet as authorized under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$318,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$17,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

CABLE SECURITY FLEET

For the cable security fleet program, as authorized under chapter 532 of title 46, United States Code, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

TANKER SECURITY PROGRAM
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

For Tanker Security Fleet payments, as authorized under section 53406 of title 46, United States Code, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds appropriated for the tanker security fleet program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) shall be available as authorized under section 53406 of title 46, United States Code, and for the Secretary to timely reimburse each program participant up to \$2,500,000 for each of its vessels covered by an operating agreement under section 53403 of title 46, United States Code, for verifiable training and other costs incurred to ensure that mariners on such vessels are fully qualified to meet the specialized requirements to serve on product tank vessels: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$21,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, \$267,775,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$92,729,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for the operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(2) \$22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for facilities maintenance and repair, and equipment, at the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(3) \$70,000,000 shall remain available until expended for capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(4) \$7,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for the maritime environmental and technical assistance program authorized under section 50307 of title 46, United States Code; and

(5) \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended, for the United States marine highway program to make grants for the purposes authorized under section 55601 of title 46, United States Code:

Provided further, That the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as required pursuant to section 3510 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017 (46 U.S.C. 51318): *Provided further*, That available balances under this heading

for the short sea transportation program or America's marine highway program (now known as the United States marine highway program) from prior year recoveries shall be available to carry out activities authorized under section 55601 of title 46, United States Code.

STATE MARITIME ACADEMY OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of operations, support, and training activities for State Maritime Academies, \$125,788,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance, repair, and life extension of training ships at the State Maritime Academies;

(2) \$86,588,000 shall remain available until expended for the national security multi-mission vessel program, including funds for construction, planning, administration, and design of school ships and, as determined by the Secretary, necessary expenses to design, plan, construct infrastructure, and purchase equipment necessary to berth such ships, of which up to \$8,900,000 may be used for expenses related to the oversight and management of school ships to include the purchase of equipment and the repair and maintenance of training vessels: *Provided*, That such funds may be used to reimburse State Maritime Academies for costs incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) \$2,400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, for the student incentive program;

(4) \$8,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance; and

(5) \$6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for direct payments for State Maritime Academies.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

To make grants to qualified shipyards as authorized under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, \$8,750,000, to remain available until expended.

SHIP DISPOSAL
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under this heading, \$3,664,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI)
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$53,586,000, of which \$50,586,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for "Maritime Administration—Operations and Training".

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

To make grants to improve port facilities as authorized under section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, and section 3501(a)(9) of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), \$120,460,124, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading in this Act—

(1) \$50,000,000 shall be for projects for coastal seaports, inland river ports, or Great

Lakes ports, of which not less than \$42,000,000 shall be for coastal seaports or Great Lakes ports: *Provided*, That for grants awarded under this paragraph in this Act, the minimum grant size shall be \$1,000,000; and

(2) \$70,460,124 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for Community Project Funding included in the table entitled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to any existing authority, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: *Provided*, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 171. There is hereby appropriated \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended, for expenses necessary for the Secretary of Transportation to enter into a contract to complete the designs of ten sealift vessels for the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$31,681,000, of which \$4,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$74,556,000, of which \$12,070,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, of which \$1,000,000 shall be made available for carrying out section 5107(i) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That up to \$800,000 in fees collected under section 5108(g) of title 49, United States Code, shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY
(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

For expenses necessary to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by section 60107 of title 49, United States Code, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-380), \$218,186,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which \$30,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; of which \$180,786,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund; of which \$400,000 shall be derived from the fees collected under section 60303 of title 49,

United States Code, and deposited in the Liquefied Natural Gas Siting Account for compliance reviews of liquefied natural gas facilities; and of which \$7,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under section 60302 of title 49, United States Code, and deposited in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Safety Account for the purpose of carrying out section 60141 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That not less than \$1,058,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for the one-call state grant program: *Provided further*, That any amounts made available under this heading in this Act or in prior Acts for research contracts, grants, cooperative agreements or research other transactions agreements (OTAs) shall require written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before such research contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or research OTAs are announced by the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the report on pipeline safety testing enhancement as required pursuant to section 105 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (division R of Public Law 116-260): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may obligate amounts made available under this heading to engineer, erect, alter, and repair buildings or make any other public improvements for research facilities at the Transportation Technology Center after the Secretary submits an updated research plan and the report in the preceding proviso to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and after such plan and report in the preceding proviso are approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

For expenses necessary to carry out the Emergency Preparedness Grants program, not more than \$46,825,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, from amounts made available by section 5116(h) and subsections (b) and (c) of section 5128 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 5116(h)(4) of title 49, United States Code, not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available from this account shall be available to pay the administrative costs of carrying out sections 5116, 5107(e), and 5108(g)(2) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of section 5128 of title 49, United States Code, and the limitation on obligations provided under this heading, prior year recoveries recognized in the current year shall be available to develop and deliver hazardous materials emergency response training for emergency responders, including response activities for the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, flammable liquids, and other hazardous commodities by rail, consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards, and to make such training available through an electronic format: *Provided further*, That the prior year recoveries made available under this heading shall also be available to carry out sections 5116(a)(1)(C), 5116(h), 5116(i), 5116(j), and 5107(e) of title 49, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$116,452,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary au-

thority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. (a) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department and its operating administrations shall be available for the purchase, maintenance, operation, and deployment of unmanned aircraft systems that advance the missions of the Department of Transportation or an operating administration of the Department of Transportation.

(c) Any unmanned aircraft system purchased, procured, or contracted for by the Department prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed authorized by Congress as if this provision was in effect when the system was purchased, procured, or contracted for.

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. (a) No recipient of amounts made available by this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in section 2725(3) of title 18, United States Code) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in section 2725(1) of title 18, United States Code, except as provided in section 2721 of title 18, United States Code, for a use permitted under section 2721 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold amounts made available by this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 183. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 125 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's "Federal-Aid Highways" account and to the Federal Railroad Administration's "Safety and Operations" account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to section 20105 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 185. None of the funds made available by this Act or in title VIII of division J of Public Law 117-58 to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, letter of intent, federally funded cooperative agreement, full funding grant agreement, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of

Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, federally funded cooperative agreement, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the Department or its operating administrations: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with a comprehensive list of all such loans, loan guarantees, lines of credit, letters of intent, federally funded cooperative agreements, full funding grant agreements, and discretionary grants prior to the notification required under the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any "quick release" of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees, and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to organizational units of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided by or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of such reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and such reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days after the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 188. Funds appropriated by this Act to the operating administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable operating administration or administrations.

SEC. 189. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 190. The Department of Transportation may use funds provided by this Act, or any other Act, to assist a contract under title 49 or 23 of the United States Code utilizing geographic, economic, or any other hiring preference not otherwise authorized by law, or to amend a rule, regulation, policy or other measure that forbids a recipient of a Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration grant from imposing such hiring preference on a contract or construction project with which the Department of Transportation is assisting, only if the grant recipient certifies the following:

(1) that except with respect to apprentices or trainees, a pool of readily available but

unemployed individuals possessing the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the work that the contract requires resides in the jurisdiction;

(2) that the grant recipient will include appropriate provisions in its bid document ensuring that the contractor does not displace any of its existing employees in order to satisfy such hiring preference; and

(3) that any increase in the cost of labor, training, or delays resulting from the use of such hiring preference does not delay or displace any transportation project in the applicable statewide transportation improvement program or transportation improvement program.

SEC. 191. The Secretary of Transportation shall coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that best practices for Industrial Control Systems Procurement are up-to-date and shall ensure that systems procured with funds provided under this title were procured using such practices.

SEC. 192. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the American Security Drone Act of 2023 (subtitle B of title XVIII of division A of Public Law 118-31).

This title may be cited as the “Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2024”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, \$19,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this title as “the Secretary”) for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, \$686,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$91,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer;

(2) \$129,700,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel, of which not less than \$21,700,000 shall be for the Departmental Enforcement Center;

(3) \$239,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration;

(4) \$52,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer;

(5) \$32,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer;

(6) \$68,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management;

(7) \$4,700,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; and

(8) \$70,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer:

Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code: *Provided further*, That

notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that directly support program activities funded in this title.

PROGRAM OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Program Offices, \$1,097,164,130, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$286,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Public and Indian Housing;

(2) \$168,514,130 shall be available for the Office of Community Planning and Development;

(3) \$487,550,000 shall be available for the Office of Housing;

(4) \$41,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Policy Development and Research;

(5) \$102,900,000 shall be available for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and

(6) \$11,200,000 shall be available for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the working capital fund for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this paragraph as the “Fund”), pursuant, in part, to section 7(f) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(f)), amounts transferred, including reimbursements pursuant to section 7(f), to the Fund under this heading shall be available only for Federal shared services used by offices and agencies of the Department, and for any such portion of any office or agency’s printing, records management, space renovation, furniture, or supply services the Secretary has determined shall be provided through the Fund, and the operational expenses of the Fund: *Provided*, That amounts within the Fund shall not be available to provide services not specifically authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary that any other service (or portion thereof) authorized under this heading shall be provided through the Fund, amounts made available in this title for salaries and expenses under the headings “Executive Offices”, “Administrative Support Offices”, “Program Offices”, and “Government National Mortgage Association”, for such services shall be transferred to the Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of its plans for executing such transfers at least 15 days in advance of such transfers.

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (in this title “the Act”), not otherwise provided for, \$28,386,831,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be available on October 1, 2023 (in addition to the \$4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available on October 1, 2023), of which \$6,000,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be available on October 1, 2024: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$28,490,955,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including re-

newals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2024 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency’s authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration, which are instead governed in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency’s allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period only after the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified at least 10 business days in advance of the extension: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any, and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the preceding provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies’ calendar year 2024 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies’ net restricted assets accounts, including HUD-held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2023 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies’ calendar year 2024 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the preceding two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to \$200,000,000 shall be available only:

(A) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal

costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act;

(B) for vouchers that were not in use during the previous 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act, or an adjustment for a funding obligation not yet expended in the previous calendar year for a MTW-eligible activity to develop affordable housing for an agency added to the MTW demonstration under the expansion authority provided in section 239 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114-113);

(C) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers;

(D) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding;

(E) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies that—

(i) are leasing a lower-than-average percentage of their authorized vouchers,

(ii) have low amounts of budget authority in their net restricted assets accounts and HUD-held programmatic reserves, relative to other agencies, and

(iii) are not participating in the Moving to Work demonstration, to enable such agencies to lease more vouchers;

(F) for withheld payments in accordance with section 8(o)(8)(A)(ii) of the Act for months in the previous calendar year that were subsequently paid by the public housing agency after the agency's actual costs were validated; and

(G) for public housing agencies that have experienced increased costs or loss of units in an area for which the President declared a disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.):

Provided further, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the preceding proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) \$337,000,000 shall be available for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, relocation of witnesses (including victims of violent crimes) in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106-569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance from amounts made available under this paragraph for units assisted under a project-based subsidy contract funded under the "Project-Based Rental Assistance" heading under this title where the owner has received a Notice of Default and the units pose

an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, no less than \$5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of: (A) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (B) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (C) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such tenant protection assistance made available under the preceding proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the Act: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds;

(3) \$2,770,935,000 shall be available for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to \$30,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, HUD-VASH vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than \$2,740,935,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2024 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the preceding proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the preceding proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carry-over, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading from prior fiscal years, excluding special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any, and shall be subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) \$742,941,000 shall be available for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*, That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading: *Provided further*, That up to \$10,000,000 shall be available only—

(A) for adjustments in the allocation for public housing agencies, after applications for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in Mainstream renewal costs resulting from unforeseen circumstances; and

(B) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate the rental assistance for Mainstream families as a result of insufficient funding:

Provided further, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the preceding proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That upon turnover, section 811 special purpose vouchers funded under this heading in this or prior Acts, or under any other heading in prior Acts, shall be provided to non-elderly persons with disabilities;

(5) of the amounts provided under paragraph (1), up to \$7,500,000 shall be available for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD-VASH to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available for renewal grants to recipients that received assistance under prior Acts under the Tribal HUD-VASH program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to specify criteria for renewal grants, including data on the utilization of assistance reported by grant recipients: *Provided further*, That such assistance shall be administered in accordance with program requirements under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and modeled after the HUD-VASH program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to waive, or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such assistance: *Provided further*, That grant recipients shall report to the Secretary on utilization of such rental assistance and other program data, as prescribed by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may reallocate, as determined by the Secretary, amounts returned or recaptured from awards under the Tribal HUD-VASH program under prior Acts to existing recipients under the Tribal HUD-VASH program;

(6) \$15,000,000 shall be available for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make

such funding available, notwithstanding section 203 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to \$10,000,000 may be for additional fees established by and allocated pursuant to a method determined by the Secretary for administrative and other expenses (including those eligible activities defined by notice to facilitate leasing, such as security deposit assistance and costs related to the retention and support of participating owners) of public housing agencies in administering HUD-VASH vouchers;

(7) \$30,000,000 shall be available for the family unification program as authorized under section 8(x) of the Act: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this paragraph are provided as follows:

(A) \$5,000,000 shall be available for new incremental voucher assistance, which shall continue to remain available for family unification upon turnover; and

(B) \$25,000,000 shall be available for new incremental voucher assistance to assist eligible youth as defined by such section 8(x)(2)(B) of the Act, which shall continue to remain available for such eligible youth upon turnover: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available on a noncompetitive basis to public housing agencies that partner with public child welfare agencies to identify such eligible youth, that request such assistance to timely assist such eligible youth, and that meet any other criteria as specified by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall review utilization of such assistance and assistance originating from appropriations made available for youth under this heading in any prior Act that the Secretary made available on a noncompetitive basis, at an interval to be determined by the Secretary, and unutilized voucher assistance that is no longer needed based on such review shall be recaptured by the Secretary and reallocated pursuant to the preceding proviso:

Provided further, That any public housing agency administering new incremental voucher assistance originating from appropriations made available for the family unification program under this heading in this or any prior Act that the Secretary made available on a competitive basis that determines it no longer has an identified need for such assistance upon turnover shall notify the Secretary, and the Secretary shall recapture such assistance from the agency and reallocate it to any other public housing agen-

cy or agencies based on need for voucher assistance in connection with such specified program or eligible youth, as applicable; and

(8) the Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing” and the heading “Project-Based Rental Assistance”, for fiscal year 2024 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior fiscal years that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

PUBLIC HOUSING FUND

For 2024 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)) (the “Act”), and to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)), \$8,810,784,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$5,475,784,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to the Operating Fund formula at part 990 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, for 2024 payments;

(2) \$25,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to a need-based application process notwithstanding section 203 of this title and not subject to such Operating Fund formula to public housing agencies that experience, or are at risk of, financial shortfalls, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That after all such shortfall needs are met, the Secretary may distribute any remaining funds to all public housing agencies on a pro-rata basis pursuant to such Operating Fund formula;

(3) \$3,200,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to the Capital Fund formula at section 905.400 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations: *Provided*, That for funds provided under this paragraph, the limitation in section 9(g)(1) of the Act shall be 25 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the limitation in the preceding proviso to allow public housing agencies to fund activities authorized under section 9(e)(1)(C) of the Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies requesting waivers under the preceding proviso if the request is approved or denied within 14 days of submitting the request: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2024 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act;

(4) \$30,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs, including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity, as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, not less than \$10,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That in addition to the amount in the preceding proviso for such safety and security measures, any amounts that remain available, after all applications received on or before September 30, 2025, for emergency capital needs have been processed, shall be allocated to public housing agencies for such safety and security measures;

(5) \$65,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants to public housing agencies to evaluate and reduce residential health hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint (by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, abatement, and interim controls, as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b)), carbon monoxide, mold, radon, and fire safety: *Provided*, That not less than \$25,000,000 of the amounts provided under this paragraph shall be awarded for evaluating and reducing lead-based paint hazards, except that if such amount is undersubscribed any remaining amounts may be awarded to qualified applicants for other purposes under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grant under this paragraph shall be considered funds for projects or activities under title I of the Act for purposes of section 26 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437x) and shall be subject to the regulations implementing such section; and

(6) \$15,000,000 shall be available to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships and for competitive grants to PHAs in receivership, designated troubled or substandard, or otherwise at risk, as determined by the Secretary, for costs associated with public housing asset improvement, in addition to other amounts for that purpose provided under any heading under this title: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) of the Act regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term “obligate” means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future.

ASSISTED HOUSING INSPECTIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

For the Department’s inspection and assessment programs, including travel, training, and program support contracts, \$50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under the heading “Public Housing Fund” to support ongoing public housing financial and physical assessment activities shall be available for the purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the choice neighborhoods initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v) (the “Act”)) unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation, and access to jobs, \$75,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of amounts made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be for public housing, notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of the Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal, or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, Tribal entities, public housing agencies, and nonprofit organizations: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grantee shall be treated as a public housing agency under section 26 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437x), and grants made with amounts available under this heading shall be subject to the regulations issued by the Secretary to implement such section: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$37,500,000 shall be awarded to public housing agencies: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations, including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and leverage other appropriate Federal resources: *Provided further*, That not more than \$10,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading may be provided as grants to undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated for main street housing grants under section 24(n) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437v(n)): *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures, remaining from amounts made available under the heading “Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)” in fiscal year 2011 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall make grant awards not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act in such amounts that the Secretary determines: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 24(o) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437v(o)), the Secretary may, until September 30, 2024, obligate any available unobligated balances made available under this heading in this or any prior Act.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

For activities and assistance related to self-sufficiency programs, to remain available until September 30, 2027, \$195,500,000:

Provided, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$140,500,000 shall be available for the family self-sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u), to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency;

(2) \$40,000,000 shall be available for the resident opportunity and self-sufficiency program to provide for supportive services, service coordinators, and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts made available under this paragraph may be used to renew resident opportunity and self-sufficiency program grants to allow the public housing agency, or a new owner, to continue to serve (or restart service to) residents of a project with assistance converted from public housing to project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or assistance under section 8(o)(13) of such Act under the heading “Rental Assistance Demonstration” in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437f note); and

(3) \$15,000,000 shall be available for a jobs-plus initiative, modeled after the jobs-plus demonstration: *Provided*, That funding provided under this paragraph shall be available for competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3122), and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a, 1437d), as necessary to implement the jobs-plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the jobs-plus initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice.

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

For activities and assistance authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (in this heading “NAHASDA”) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) with respect to Indian tribes, and related training and technical assistance, \$1,344,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$1,111,000,000 shall be available for the Native American housing block grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding

NAHASDA, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify grantees of their formula allocation not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) \$150,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants under the Native American housing block grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall obligate such amount for competitive grants to eligible recipients authorized under NAHASDA that apply for funds: *Provided further*, That in awarding amounts made available in this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation of housing: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred for the necessary costs of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of such additional amounts in prior Acts may also be used for the necessary costs of administering and overseeing such additional amount;

(3) \$1,000,000 shall be available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this and prior Acts for the cost of such guaranteed notes and other obligations that are unobligated, including recaptures and carryover, may be available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025;

(4) \$75,000,000 shall be available for grants to Indian tribes for carrying out the Indian community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), not more than \$5,000,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety: *Provided*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with amounts made available in this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration; and

(5) \$7,000,000, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purpose, shall be available for providing training and technical assistance to Indian tribes, Indian housing authorities, and tribally designated housing entities, to support the inspection of Indian housing units, for contract expertise, and for training and technical assistance related to amounts made available under this heading and other headings in this Act for the needs of Native American families and Indian country: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in this paragraph, not less than \$2,000,000 shall be for a national organization as authorized under section 703 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4212): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this paragraph may be used, contracted, or competed as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977), the amounts made available in this paragraph may be used by the Secretary to enter into cooperative

agreements with public and private organizations, agencies, institutions, and other technical assistance providers to support the administration of negotiated rulemaking under section 106 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4116), the administration of the allocation formula under section 302 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4152), and the administration of performance tracking and reporting under section 407 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4167).

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a), \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this and prior Acts for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a), that are unobligated, including recaptures and carryover, may be available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$1,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

For the Native Hawaiian housing block grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.), \$22,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 812(b) of such Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may not invest grant amounts made available under this heading in investment securities and other obligations: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this and prior fiscal years may be used to provide rental assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian families both on and off the Hawaiian Home Lands, notwithstanding any other provision of law: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading may be for training and technical assistance related to amounts made available under this heading and other headings in this Act for the needs of Native Hawaiians and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE
FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans, as authorized by section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b), any part of which is to be guaranteed, shall not exceed \$28,000,000 in total loan principal, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans used for refinancing.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH
AIDS

For carrying out the housing opportunities for persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), \$505,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew or replace all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(5) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section: *Provided further*, That the process for submitting amendments and approving replacement contracts shall be established by

the Secretary in a notice: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to States and units of general local government, and other entities, for economic and community development activities, and other purposes, \$6,720,054,336, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$3,300,000,000 shall be available for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) (in this heading “the Act”): *Provided*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds made available under this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this paragraph may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits, or non-Federal considerations, but shall use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds made available under this paragraph may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 105(a)(17) unless such project has been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under subsection (e)(2) of section 105;

(2) \$100,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to award grants on a competitive basis to State and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and multi-jurisdictional entities for additional activities under title I of the Act for the identification and removal of barriers to affordable housing production and preservation: *Provided*, That eligible uses of such grants include activities to further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans, improve housing strategies, and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall prioritize applicants that are able to (A) demonstrate progress and a commitment to overcoming local barriers to facilitate the increase in affordable housing production and preservation, primarily by having enacted improved laws and regulations that the Secretary reasonably expects to preserve or produce new housing units; and (B) demonstrate an acute need for housing affordable to households with incomes below 100 percent of the area median income: *Provided further*, That grantees shall report to the Secretary regularly on their activities and outcomes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall analyze observable housing production, preservation, and cost trends in the participating jurisdictions or geographic areas: *Provided further*, That funds allocated for such grants shall not adversely affect the amount of any formula assistance received by a jurisdiction under paragraph (1) of this heading: *Provided further*, That in administering such amounts the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of such title I except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, the environment, and requirements that activities benefit persons of low- and moderate-income, upon a finding that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of such amounts;

(3) \$30,000,000 shall be available for activities authorized under section 8071 of the

SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271): *Provided*, That funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall not adversely affect the amount of any formula assistance received by a State under paragraph (1) of this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate the funds for such activities based on the notice establishing the funding formula published in 84 FR 16027 (April 17, 2019) except that the formula shall use age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths for 2021 based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(4) \$3,290,054,336 shall be available for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the table entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” included in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That eligible expenses of such grants in this and prior Acts may include administrative, planning, operations and maintenance, and other costs: *Provided further*, That such grants for the EDI shall be available for reimbursement of otherwise eligible expenses incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the date of grant execution: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this paragraph for grants for the EDI shall be used for reimbursement of expenses incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That grants for the EDI authorized under this heading in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103) shall also be available hereafter for reimbursement of otherwise eligible expenses (including those eligible expenses identified in the first proviso of this paragraph) incurred on or after the date of enactment of such Act and prior to the date of grant execution, and shall hereafter not be subject to the second proviso under such heading in such Act:

Provided further, That for amounts made available under paragraphs (1) and (3), the Secretary shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUANTEES
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), during fiscal year 2024, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of \$400,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such commitment authority funded by fees may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of such section 108: *Provided further*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment under the preceding proviso shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.), \$1,250,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 231(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12771(b)), all unobligated balances remaining from amounts recaptured pursuant to such section that remain available until expended shall be combined with amounts made available under this heading and allocated in accordance with the formula under section 217(b)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1)(A)): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocations within 60 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That section 218(g) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12748(g)) shall not apply with respect to the right of a jurisdiction to draw funds from its HOME Investment Trust Fund that otherwise expired or would expire in any calendar year from 2018 through 2026 under that section: *Provided further*, That section 231(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12771(b)) shall not apply to any uninvested funds that otherwise were deducted or would be deducted from the line of credit in the participating jurisdiction's HOME Investment Trust Fund in any calendar year from 2018 through 2026 under that section.

PRESERVATION AND REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE
FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

For competitive grants to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing and eligible manufactured housing communities (including pre-1976 mobile homes) under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That recipients of grants provided with amounts made available under this heading shall be States, units of general local government, resident-owned manufactured housing communities, cooperatives, nonprofit entities including consortia of nonprofit entities, community development financial institutions, Indian Tribes (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4103)), or other entities approved by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall reserve an amount for Indian Tribes within such competition: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may approve entities for selection that partner with one or several residents of such eligible communities or that propose to implement a grant program that would assist residents of such eligible communities: *Provided further*, That eligible uses of such grants may include infrastructure, planning, resident and community services (including relocation assistance and eviction prevention), resiliency activities, and providing other assistance to residents or owners of manufactured homes, which may include providing assistance for manufactured housing land and site acquisition: *Provided further*, That, except as determined by the Secretary, participation in this program shall not encumber the future transfer of title or use of property by the residents, owners, or communities: *Provided further*, That when selecting recipients, the Secretary shall prioritize applications that primarily benefit low- or moderately low-income residents and preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of manufactured housing or a manufactured housing community: *Provided further*, That eligible manufactured housing communities may include those that are—

(1) owned by the residents of the manufactured housing community through a resi-

dent-controlled entity, as defined by the Secretary; or

(2) determined by the Secretary to be subject to binding agreements that will preserve the community and maintain affordability on a long-term basis:

Provided further, That resiliency activities means the reconstruction, repair, or replacement of manufactured housing and manufactured housing communities to protect the health and safety of manufactured housing residents and to address weatherization and energy efficiency needs, except that for pre-1976 mobile homes, funds made available under this heading may be used only for replacement: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of amounts made available under this heading (except for requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding that such waiver or alternative requirement is necessary to facilitate the use of such amounts.

SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the self-help and assisted homeownership opportunity program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note), and for related activities and assistance, \$60,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$12,000,000 shall be available for the self-help homeownership opportunity program as authorized under such section 11;

(2) \$42,000,000 shall be available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building entities specified in section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for rural capacity building activities: *Provided*, That for purposes of awarding grants from amounts made available in this paragraph, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements, as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations; and

(3) \$6,000,000 shall be available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations having experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofit organizations, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For assistance under title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.), and for related activities and assistance, \$4,051,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) \$290,000,000 shall be available for the emergency solutions grants program authorized under subtitle B of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.): *Provided*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the emergency solutions grant program not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act;

(2) \$3,544,000,000 shall be available for the continuum of care program authorized under subtitle C of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) and the rural housing stability assistance programs authorized under subtitle D of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11408): *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize funding under the continuum of care program to continuums of care that have demonstrated a capacity to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing

projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make reasonable adjustments to renewal amounts to enable renewal projects to operate at substantially the same levels, including cost-of-living adjustments for supportive services from the prior grant: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide incentives to create projects that coordinate with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing services: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may establish by notice an alternative maximum amount for administrative costs related to the requirements described in sections 402(f)(1) and 402(f)(2) of subtitle A of such title IV of no more than 5 percent or \$50,000, whichever is greater, notwithstanding the 3 percent limitation in section 423(a)(10) of such subtitle C: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for the continuum of care program under this paragraph, \$52,000,000 shall be for grants for new rapid re-housing projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible activities that the Secretary determines to be critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, except that the Secretary may make additional grants for such projects and purposes from amounts made available for such continuum of care program: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the continuum of care program under this paragraph and any remaining unobligated balances under this heading in prior Acts may be used to competitively or non-competitively renew or replace grants for youth homeless demonstration projects under the continuum of care program, notwithstanding any conflict with the requirements of the continuum of care program;

(3) \$10,000,000 shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6301-6308), the amounts made available under this paragraph and any remaining unobligated balances under this heading for such purposes in prior Acts may be used by the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with such entities as may be determined by the Secretary, including public and private organizations, agencies, and institutions;

(4) \$107,000,000 shall be available to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under, in up to 25 communities with a priority for communities with substantial rural populations in up to eight locations, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, not less than \$25,000,000 shall be for youth homelessness system improvement grants to support communities, including but not limited to the communities assisted under the matter preceding this proviso, in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness, or for improving their existing system: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, up to \$10,000,000 shall be to provide technical assistance to communities, including but not limited to the communities assisted in the preceding proviso and the matter preceding such proviso, on improving system responses to youth homelessness, and collection, analysis, use, and reporting of data and performance measures under the comprehensive approaches to serve homeless youth, in addition to and in coordination with other technical assistance funds provided under this title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 10 percent of

the amount made available under the preceding proviso to build the capacity of current technical assistance providers or to train new technical assistance providers with verifiable prior experience with systems and programs for youth experiencing homelessness; and

(5) \$100,000,000 shall be available for one-time awards under the continuum of care program for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of new permanent supportive housing, of which not more than 20 percent of such awards may be used for other continuum of care eligible activities associated with such projects and not more than 10 percent of such awards may be used for project administration: *Provided*, That these amounts shall be awarded on a competitive basis, based on need and other factors to be determined by the Secretary, including incentives to establish projects that coordinate with housing providers, healthcare organizations and social service providers: *Provided further*, That not less than \$35,000,000 shall be awarded to applicants for projects within States with populations less than 2,500,000, except that if such amount is undersubscribed any remaining amounts may be awarded to qualified applicants for projects in any State: *Provided further*, That the grants for ongoing costs associated with such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants:

Provided further, That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to establish their eligibility under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302) to receive services: *Provided further*, That unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who are living in unsafe situations may be served by youth-serving providers funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That persons eligible under section 103(a)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act may be served by any project funded under this heading to provide both transitional housing and rapid rehousing: *Provided further*, That for all matching funds requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for this fiscal year and prior fiscal years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to provide funding for new projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that the continuum of care has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care's system performance: *Provided further*, That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading in fiscal year 2019 or prior years, except for rental assistance amounts that were recaptured and made available until expended, shall be available for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act"), not otherwise provided for, \$15,610,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2023 (in addition to the \$400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available October 1, 2023), of which \$2,000,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2024: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$468,000,000 shall be available for performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may also use such amounts in the preceding proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing", or the heading "Housing Certificate Fund", may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based housing assistance payments contract that authorizes the Department or a housing finance agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended:

Provided further, That amounts deposited pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 5-year term, for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note), and for supportive services associated with the housing, \$913,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, up to \$112,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That any funding for existing service coordinators under the preceding proviso shall be provided within 120 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: *Provided further*, That upon request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available, in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading, for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act, for project assistance contracts pursuant to subsection (h) of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as added by section 205(a) of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978 (Public Law 95-557; 92 Stat. 2090), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 5-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, \$208,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject

to a section 811 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be used for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, \$57,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including up to \$4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management or literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training: *Provided further*, That for purposes of awarding grants from amounts provided under this heading, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements, as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to \$14,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$14,000,000 shall be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund (established under section 620(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5419(e)): *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Trust Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620 of such Act, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed \$400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2024, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the preceding proviso shall be for loans to non-profit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund: *Provided further*, That for administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, \$150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That to the extent guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$200,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2024, an additional \$1,400 for administrative contract expenses shall be available for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$30,000,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(g)), during fiscal year 2024 the Secretary may insure and enter into new commitments to insure mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act only to the extent that the net credit subsidy cost for such insurance does not exceed zero.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), shall not exceed \$35,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2024, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(l), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$1,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$550,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That \$54,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for necessary salaries and expenses of the Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2024, an additional \$100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$3,000,000: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1716 et seq.) shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, \$119,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities, or colleges or universities for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the preceding proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements shall contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the preceding two provisos, the Secretary shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282; 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545(a)(4)(C)) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further*, That prior to obligation of technical assistance funding, the Secretary shall submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how the Secretary will allocate funding for this activity at least 30 days prior to obligation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program: *Provided further*, That an additional \$20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, shall be for competitive grants to nonprofit or governmental entities to provide legal assistance (including assistance related to pretrial activities, trial activities, post-trial activities and alternative dispute resolution) at no cost to eligible low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction: *Provided further*, That in awarding grants under the preceding proviso, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants that include a marketing strategy for residents of areas with high rates of eviction, have experience providing no-cost legal assistance to low-income individuals, including those with limited English proficiency or disabilities, and have sufficient capacity to administer such assistance: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the proportion of eligible tenants living in rural areas who will receive legal assistance with grant funds made available under this heading is not less than the overall proportion of eligible tenants who live in rural areas.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a), \$86,355,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to develop online courses

and provide such training: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$1,355,000 may be available to the Secretary for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND
HEALTHY HOMES
LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the lead hazard reduction program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4852), the healthy homes initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 and 1701z-2), and for related activities and assistance, \$345,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) \$200,000,000 shall be for the award of grants pursuant to such section 1011, of which not less than \$105,000,000 shall be provided to areas with the highest lead-based paint abatement need;

(2) \$140,000,000 shall be for the healthy homes initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, which shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards, and mitigating housing-related health and safety hazards in housing of low-income families, of which—

(A) \$5,000,000 shall be for the implementation of projects in communities that are served by both the healthy homes initiative and the Department of Energy weatherization programs to demonstrate whether the coordination of healthy homes remediation activities with weatherization activities achieves cost savings and better outcomes in improving the safety and quality of homes; and

(B) \$30,000,000 shall be for grants to experienced non-profit organizations, States, local governments, or public housing agencies for safety and functional home modification repairs and renovations to meet the needs of low-income seniors to enable them to remain in their primary residence, of which no less than \$10,000,000 shall be available to meet such needs in communities with substantial rural populations;

(3) \$3,000,000 shall be for the award of grants and contracts for research pursuant to sections 1051 and 1052 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4854, 4854a);

(4) up to \$2,000,000 in total of the amounts made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) may be transferred to the heading “Research and Technology” for the purposes of conducting research and studies and for use in accordance with the provisos under that heading for non-competitive agreements; and

(5) \$2,000,000 shall be for grants for a radon testing and mitigation safety demonstration program (the radon demonstration) in public housing: *Provided*, That the testing method, mitigation method, or action level used under the radon demonstration shall be as specified by applicable State or local law, if such law is more protective of human health or the environment than the method or level specified by the Secretary:

Provided further, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the healthy homes initiative, or the lead technical studies program, or other demonstrations or programs under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, or under the heading “Housing for the Elderly” under prior Appropriations Acts, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994: *Provided further*, That each applicant for a grant or cooperative agreement under this heading shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice of funding opportunity: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading, in this or prior appropriations Acts, still remaining available, may be used for any purpose under this heading notwithstanding the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed: *Provided further*, That \$49,400,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act from amounts specified in paragraph (2) shall be derived from unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, which shall continue to be available for the same time period as originally appropriated.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems and infrastructure, \$383,050,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which up to \$23,950,000 shall be for development, modernization, and enhancement projects, including planning for such projects: *Provided*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, the Secretary shall brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on all information technology modernization efforts as required in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$152,924,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with

incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a nonfrivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 204. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811–1).

SEC. 205. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 206. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2024 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 207. The Secretary shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 208. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 209. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2024

and 2025, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: The number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: The Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable, or be reasonably expected to become economically nonviable when complying with State or Federal requirements for community integration and reduced concentration of individuals with disabilities.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms “low-income” and “very low-income” shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term “multifamily housing project” means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013); or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term “project-based assistance” means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(b));

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s);

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–1);

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(c)(2)); and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2));

(4) the term “receiving project or projects” means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term “transferring project” means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) RESEARCH REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 210. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005;

(7) is not a youth who left foster care at age 14 or older and is at risk of becoming homeless; and

(8) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or from an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 211. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under paragraph (1) under the heading “Native American Programs” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005, and only such recipients shall be eligible to apply for funds made available under paragraph (2) of such heading.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2024, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or any other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government that such a multifamily property owned or having a mortgage held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (in this section “MAHRAA”) (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and

use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described in this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 213. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 214. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement, and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d), (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of section 9(g) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 9(g).

SEC. 215. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD appropriation under the accounts “Executive Offices”, “Administrative Support Offices”, “Program Offices”, “Government National Mortgage Association—Guarantees of Mortgage-Backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account”, and “Office of Inspector General” within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 216. The Secretary shall, for fiscal year 2024, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2024, the Secretary may make the NOFO available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government website or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 217. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation shall be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel salaries and expenses appropriations.

SEC. 218. The Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of funds appropriated for any office under the headings “Administrative Support Offices” or “Program Offices” to any other such office under such headings: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any such office under such headings shall be increased or decreased by more than 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide notification to such Committees 3 business days in advance of any such transfers under this sec-

tion up to 10 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less.

SEC. 219. (a) Any entity receiving housing assistance payments shall maintain decent, safe, and sanitary conditions, as determined by the Secretary, and comply with any standards under applicable State or local laws, rules, ordinances, or regulations relating to the physical condition of any property covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a contract under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or a contract for similar project-based assistance—

(1) receives a failing score under the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) or successor standard; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary within 3 days that all Exigent Health and Safety deficiencies, or those deficiencies requiring correction within 24 hours, identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but shall not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(c)(1) Within 15 days of the issuance of the Real Estate Assessment Center (“REAC”) inspection, the Secretary shall provide the owner with a Notice of Default with a specified timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary shall provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in a passing score, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default.

(2) At the end of the time period for correcting all deficiencies specified in the Notice of Default, if the owner fails to fully correct such deficiencies, the Secretary may—

(A) require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary;

(B) impose civil money penalties, which shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting safe and sanitary conditions at applicable properties, as designated by the Secretary, with priority given to the tenants of the property affected by the penalty;

(C) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(D) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, who will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract if such renewal is offered;

(E) transfer the existing section 8 contract to another project or projects and owner or owners;

(F) pursue exclusionary sanctions, including suspensions or debarments from Federal programs;

(G) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies;

(H) work with the owner, lender, or other related party to stabilize the property in an attempt to preserve the property through compliance, transfer of ownership, or an infusion of capital provided by a third-party that requires time to effectuate; or

(I) take any other regulatory or contractual remedies available as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for major threats to health and safety after written notice to the affected tenants. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of—

(1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”); and

(2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance.

(e) The Secretary shall report semi-annually on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have failing physical inspection scores or have received an unsatisfactory management and occupancy review within the past 36 months. The report shall include—

(1) identification of the enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identification of properties that have such conditions multiple times;

(2) identification of actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties; and

(3) any administrative or legislative recommendations to further improve the living conditions at properties covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

The first report shall be submitted to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, and the second report shall be submitted within 180 days of the transmittal of the first report.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act and provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, Tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices: *Provided*, That such notification shall list each grant award by State and congressional district.

SEC. 222. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal

guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 223. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

SEC. 224. Amounts made available by this Act that are appropriated, allocated, advanced on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the Office of Policy Development and Research of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and functions thereof, for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, and that are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which the amounts are made available to that Office subject to reprogramming requirements in section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 225. None of the funds provided in this Act or any other Act may be used for awards, including performance, special act, or spot, for any employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to administrative discipline (including suspension from work), in this fiscal year, but this prohibition shall not be effective prior to the effective date of any such administrative discipline or after any final decision overturning such discipline.

SEC. 226. With respect to grant amounts awarded under the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants” for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for the continuum of care (CoC) program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient’s matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipient’s CoC program.

SEC. 227. (a) From amounts made available under this title under the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants”, the Secretary may award 1-year transition grants to recipients of funds for activities under subtitle C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) to transition from one continuum of care program component to another.

(b) In order to be eligible to receive a transition grant, the funding recipient must have the consent of the continuum of care and meet standards determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 228. The promise zone designations and promise zone designation agreements entered into pursuant to such designations, made by the Secretary in prior fiscal years, shall remain in effect in accordance with the terms and conditions of such agreements.

SEC. 229. Any public housing agency designated as a Moving to Work agency pursuant to section 239 of division L of Public Law 114–113 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; 129 Stat. 2897) may, upon such designation, use funds (except for special purpose funding, including special purpose vouchers) previously allocated to any such public housing agency under section 8 or 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including any reserve funds held by the public housing agency or funds held by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, pursuant to the authority for use of section 8 or 9 funding provided under such section and section 204 of title II of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and

Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134; 110 Stat. 1321–28), notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated.

SEC. 230. None of the amounts made available by this Act may be used to prohibit any public housing agency under receivership or the direction of a Federal monitor from applying for, receiving, or using funds made available under the heading “Public Housing Fund” for competitive grants to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in this Act or that remain available and not awarded from prior Acts, or be used to prohibit a public housing agency from using such funds to carry out any required work pursuant to a settlement agreement, consent decree, voluntary agreement, or similar document for a violation of the lead safe housing or lead disclosure rules.

SEC. 231. The language under the heading “Rental Assistance Demonstration” in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (title II of division C of Public Law 112–55), as most recently amended by Public Law 117–103, is further amended—

(1) in the initial undesignated matter, by striking “and ‘Public Housing Operating Fund’” and inserting “, ‘Public Housing Operating Fund’, and ‘Public Housing Fund’”;

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “2024” and inserting “2029”;

(3) after the fourth proviso, by inserting the following new provisos: “*Provided further*, That at properties with assistance under section 9 of the Act requesting to partially convert such assistance, and where an event under section 18 of the Act occurs that results in the eligibility for tenant protection vouchers under section 8(o) of the Act, the Secretary may convert the tenant protection voucher assistance to assistance under a project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997, or assistance under section 8(o)(13) of the Act, so long as the property meets any additional requirements established by the Secretary to facilitate conversion: *Provided further*, That to facilitate the conversion of assistance under the previous proviso, the Secretary may transfer an amount equal to the total amount that would have been allocated for tenant protection voucher assistance for properties that have requested such conversions from amounts made available for tenant protection voucher assistance under the heading ‘Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ to the heading ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’: *Provided further*, That at properties with assistance previously converted hereunder to assistance under the heading ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance,’ which are also separately assisted under section 8(o)(13) of the Act, the Secretary may, with the consent of the public housing agency and owner, terminate such project-based subsidy contracts and immediately enter into one new project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997, subject to the requirement that any residents assisted under section 8(o)(13) of the Act at the time of such termination of such project-based subsidy contract shall retain all rights accrued under section 8(o)(13)(E) of the Act under the new project-based subsidy contract and section 8(o)(13)(F)(iv) of the Act shall not apply: *Provided further*, That to carry out the previous proviso, the Secretary may transfer from the heading ‘Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ to the heading ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’ an amount equal to

the amounts associated with such terminating contract under section 8(o)(13) of the Act.”;

(4) in the fourteenth proviso, as reordered above, by—

(A) inserting “‘Public Housing Fund’, ‘Self-Sufficiency Programs’, ‘Family Self-Sufficiency’” following “‘Public Housing Operating Fund’,”; and

(B) inserting “or the ongoing availability of services for residents” after “effective conversion of assistance under the demonstration”;

(5) after the twenty-fourth proviso, as reordered above, by inserting the following proviso: “*Provided further*, That owners of properties with a senior preservation rental assistance contract under section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note), shall be eligible, subject to requirements established by the Secretary as necessary to facilitate the conversion of assistance while maintaining the affordability period and the designation of the property as serving elderly families, and tenant consultation procedures, for conversion of assistance available for such assistance contracts to assistance under a long-term project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act.”;

(6) in the twenty-ninth proviso, as reordered above, by inserting “, section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000,” after “Housing Act of 1959”; and

(7) in the thirty-fourth proviso, as reordered above, by striking “any section 202 project rental assistance contract or section 811 project rental assistance contract conversions” and inserting “the conversion of assistance from section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959, section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, or section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act”.

SEC. 232. For fiscal year 2024, if the Secretary determines or has determined, for any prior formula grant allocation administered by the Secretary through the Offices of Public and Indian Housing, Community Planning and Development, or Housing, that a recipient received an allocation greater than the amount such recipient should have received for a formula allocation cycle pursuant to applicable statutes and regulations, the Secretary may adjust for any such funding error in the next applicable formula allocation cycle by (a) offsetting each such recipient’s formula allocation (if eligible for a formula allocation in the next applicable formula allocation cycle) by the amount of any such funding error, and (b) reallocating any available balances that are attributable to the offset to the recipient or recipients that would have been allocated additional funds in the formula allocation cycle in which any such error occurred (if such recipient or recipients are eligible for a formula allocation in the next applicable formula allocation cycle) in an amount proportionate to such recipient’s eligibility under the next applicable formula allocation cycle: *Provided*, That all offsets and reallocations from such available balances shall be recorded against funds available for the next applicable formula allocation cycle: *Provided further*, That the term “next applicable formula allocation cycle” means the first formula allocation cycle for a program that is reasonably available for correction following such a Secretarial determination: *Provided further*, That if, upon request by a recipient and giving consideration to all Federal resources available to the recipient for the same grant purposes, the Secretary determines that the offset in the next applicable formula allocation cycle would critically impair the recipient’s

ability to accomplish the purpose of the formula grant, the Secretary may adjust for the funding error across two or more formula allocation cycles.

SEC. 233. The Secretary may transfer from amounts made available for salaries and expenses under this title (excluding amounts made available under the heading “Office of Inspector General”) to the heading “Information Technology Fund” for information technology needs, including for additional development, modernization, and enhancement, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the total amount of such transfers shall not exceed \$5,000,000: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority shall not be used to fund information technology projects or activities that have known out-year development, modernization, or enhancement costs in excess of \$500,000: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no fewer than 3 business days in advance of any such transfer.

SEC. 234. The Secretary shall comply with all process requirements, including public notice and comment, when seeking to revise any annual contributions contract.

SEC. 235. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Department of Housing and Urban Development Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” (the Fund): *Provided*, That unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated for this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Department of Housing and Urban Development by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which they were appropriated) into the Fund: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for capital needs of the Department, including facilities infrastructure and information technology infrastructure, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund may be obligated only after the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified at least 15 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 236. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Lead Hazard Reduction” in title II of division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103), \$65,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded from the amounts specified in paragraph (1) under such heading (excluding amounts for areas with the highest lead-based paint abatement needs).

(b) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Public Housing Fund” in title II of division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), \$20,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded from the amounts specified in paragraph (7) under such heading.

(c) Any unobligated balances (including any unobligated balances of contract authority) included under Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbols 86 X 0129, 86 X 0148, 86 X 0197, 86 X 0314, 86 X 0315, 86 X 0324, 86 X 0402, 86 X 4058 and 86 X 8093 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(d) Any unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program” for the program authorized under section 1079 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Pub-

lic Law 113-291) are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 237. None of the funds made available to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in this or prior Acts may be used to issue a solicitation or accept bids on any solicitation that is substantially equivalent to the draft solicitation entitled “Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract Support Services (HAPSS)” posted to www.Sam.gov on July 27, 2022.

SEC. 238. None of the amounts made available in this Act may be used to consider family self-sufficiency performance measures or performance scores in determining funding awards for programs receiving family self-sufficiency program coordinator funding provided in this Act.

SEC. 239. (a) Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) for the “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2019 are to remain available through fiscal year 2025 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2017 through 2019.

(b) Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) for the “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2020 are to remain available through fiscal year 2026 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2018 through 2020.

(c) Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6) for the “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2021 are to remain available through fiscal year 2027 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

(d) Funds previously made available in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) for the “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2022 are to remain available through fiscal year 2028 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2020 through 2022.

(e) Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) for the “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2023 are to remain available through fiscal year 2029 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2021 through 2023.

(f) Funds previously made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) for “Lead Hazard Reduction” that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2019 are to remain available through fiscal year 2026 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2018 through 2019.

SEC. 240. Of the amounts made available for the Office of Policy Development and Research under the heading “Program Offices”, up to \$3,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, may be transferred to the heading “Information Technology Fund” to be available for the needs of the Chief Data Officer, in addition to amounts otherwise available, including for additional development, modernization, and enhancement: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no fewer than 3 business days in advance of any such transfer.

SEC. 241. Section 239 of division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) is amended by striking “2028” and inserting “2038”.

SEC. 242. For fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the Secretary may issue a 2-year notification of funding opportunity, including any alternative procedures or requirements as may be

necessary to allocate future appropriations in the second year, for the award of amounts made available for the continuum of care program under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.), notwithstanding any conflict with the requirements of the continuum of care program.

SEC. 243. The Secretary may, upon a finding that a waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for the effective delivery and administration of funds made available for new incremental voucher assistance or renewals for the mainstream program and the family unification program (including the foster youth to independence program) in this and prior Acts, waive or specify alternative requirements, other than requirements related to tenant rights and protections, rent setting, fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, for—

(1) section 8(o)(6)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(6)(A)) and regulatory provisions related to the administration of waiting lists, local preferences, and the initial term and extensions of tenant-based vouchers; and

(2) section 8(x)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)(2)) regarding the timing of referral of youth leaving foster care.

This title may be cited as the “Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2024”.

TITLE III RELATED AGENCIES ACCESS BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792), \$9,955,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 46107 of title 46, United States Code, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code, \$40,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,500 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 3), \$29,240,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in such Act, to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the Government under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code, by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be

necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2025, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2025 in similar format and substance to budget requests submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS-15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code, \$140,000,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION
PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101–8107), \$158,000,000.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$47,452,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,250,000 from fees established by the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2024, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$46,202,000.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, \$4,300,000.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursu-

ant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive Order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table accompanying the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include—

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in this Act, the table accompanying the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), accompanying reports of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, or in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations, whichever is more detailed, and shall apply to all items for which a dollar amount is specified and to all programs for which new budget (obligational) authority is provided, as well as to discretionary grants and discretionary grant allocations; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2024 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2024 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107–118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 409. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301–8305, popularly known as the “Buy American Act”).

SEC. 410. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 8301–8305).

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301–10.122 and 301–10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single

international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term “international conference” shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 413. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 414. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 415. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 416. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

SEC. 417. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not

more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 418. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or otherwise preclude the Secretary of Transportation from granting a foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

SEC. 419. (a) In the table of projects in the explanatory statement referenced in section 417 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 (division L of Public Law 117-103)—

(1) the item relating to “Midland Center for the Arts only for structural improvements” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “City of Midland” and inserting “Midland Center for the Arts”;

(2) the item relating to “Barren County Fiscal Court—Chapatcha Industrial Park Development” is deemed to be amended by striking project “Barren County Fiscal Court—Chapatcha Industrial Park Development” and inserting “Barren County Fiscal Court—Chapatcha Industrial Park or South Cooper Industrial Park Development”;

(3) the item relating to “Pasco County Board of County Commissioners—Rural Northwest Pasco Community Park Site Acquisition” is deemed to be amended by striking “Northwest” and inserting “Northeast”;

(4) the item relating to “Wood County Development Authority—Site Readiness & Redevelopment Downtown Parkersburg” is deemed to be amended by striking “Wood County Development Authority—Site Readiness & Redevelopment Downtown Parkersburg” and inserting “Redevelopment of Downtown Parkersburg”;

(5) the item relating to “Rosemary's Way Penacook Affordable Housing” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “CATCH Neighborhood Housing” and inserting “Concord Area Trust for Community Housing”;

(6) the item relating to “Lead Safe Home Fund” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition” and inserting “Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation”;

(7) the item relating to “Boys & Girls Club in Miami Gardens” is deemed to be amended by striking “Club in Miami Gardens” and inserting “Clubs within the Miami-Dade area”;

(8) the item relating to “Acquisition of new commercial space” is deemed to be amended by striking “Acquisition of new commercial space” and inserting “Renovation of community center”;

(9) the item relating to “North Commons Regional Vision” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board” and inserting “City of Minneapolis”;

(10) the item relating to “Electric school bus and associated electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Falls Church

City Public Schools” and inserting “City of Falls Church”;

(11) the item relating to “A PLACE 4 ALICE facility improvement” is deemed to be amended by striking “A PLACE 4 ALICE facility improvement” and inserting “Affordable Housing and Community Facilities”;

(b) In the table of projects entitled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement for division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Act—

(1) the item relating to “River Road Homes Affordable Housing Infrastructure” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Town of Canaan” and inserting “Falls Village Housing Trust Inc.”;

(2) the item relating to “The Star Community Family Life Center” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “The Star Community Family Life Center” and inserting “MSBC Five Star Program, Inc.”;

(3) the item relating to “Early Learning Childcare Center Construction” (recipient “The Caring Place”) is deemed to be amended by striking “Early Learning Childcare Center Construction” and inserting “CARE Center construction”;

(4) the item relating to “Upper Bucks Rail Trail” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Appalachian Mountain Club” and inserting “The County of Bucks”;

(5) the item relating to “YMCA & Albion College Initiative of the Washington Gardner Center Building Renovation and Expansion” is deemed to be amended by striking “YMCA & Albion College Initiative of the Washington Gardner Center Building Renovation and Expansion” and inserting “Site improvements”;

(6) the item relating to “Wood County Industrial Site Readiness and Redevelopment” is deemed to be amended by striking “Wood County Industrial Site Readiness & Redevelopment” and inserting “Redevelopment of Downtown Parkersburg”;

(7) the item relating to “B-360 Educational Campus” is deemed to be amended by striking “I Am Mentality, Inc.” and inserting “B-360 Baltimore, Inc.”;

(8) the item relating to “Riverbrook Regional YMCA” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Riverbrook Regional Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.” and inserting “City of Norwalk”;

(9) the item relating to “Miami Veterans Housing Project” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “United Way Miami” and inserting “CRC Leadership, Inc.”;

(10) the item relating to “Supportive Living, Community Day Services, and Housing Site Project for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” is deemed to be amended by striking “, Community Day Services, and Housing”;

(11) the item relating to “Public Library Addition” is deemed to be amended by striking “Addition” and inserting “Renovation”;

(12) the item relating to “Renovation of Snelling Motel to Affordable Housing for Veterans” is deemed to be amended by striking “Snelling Motel to” and inserting “Hotel for”;

(13) the item relating to “Indigenous Farm Hub” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Tides Center” and inserting “Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network (NISN)”;

(14) the item relating to “El Centro de la Raza—Pattison's West Community Campus Property Acquisition” is deemed to be amended by striking “El Centro de la Raza—Pattison's West Community Campus Property Acquisition” and inserting “Pattison's West Community Campus”;

(15) the item relating to “Road Raising & Flood Resiliency for Amity Harbor and American Venice Project” is deemed to be amended by striking “Road Raising & Flood Resiliency for Amity Harbor and American Venice Project” and inserting “Town of Babylon Federal Aid Roadway Improvement Project”;

(16) the item relating to “Dayton International Airport (DAY)—Northeast Logistics Access Project” is amended by striking “Dayton International Airport (DAY)—Northeast Logistics Access Project” and inserting “Infrastructure capital improvements, including street, wastewater and sewer line improvements”;

(17) the item relating to “Help Me Grow Skagit Family Resource Center Expansion” is deemed to be amended by striking recipient “Children’s Council of Skagit County” and inserting “Children’s Museum of Skagit County”; and

(18) the item relating to “Permanent Supportive Housing Properties Acquisition” is deemed to be amended by striking “Permanent Supportive Housing Properties Acquisition” and inserting “Permanent Supportive Housing Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation”.

SEC. 420. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in contravention of section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155).

SEC. 421. None of the funds made available by this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used in contravention of section 306108 of title 54, United States Code.

SEC. 422. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to require the use of inward facing cameras or require a motor carrier to register an apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor as a condition for participation in the safe driver apprenticeship pilot program.

SEC. 423. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to direct a grantee to undertake specific changes to existing zoning laws as part of carrying out the final rule entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing” (80 Fed. Reg. 42272 (July 16, 2015)) or the notice entitled “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool” (79 Fed. Reg. 57949 (September 26, 2014)).

SEC. 424. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of existing Federal law regarding non-citizen eligibility and ineligibility for occupancy in federally assisted housing or for participation in and assistance under Federal housing programs, including section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a) and title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

SEC. 425. Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(x) CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The State of Mississippi may allow, by special permit, the operation of a covered agricultural vehicle on the Interstate System in the State of Mississippi if such vehicle does not exceed—

“(A) a gross vehicle weight of 88,000 pounds; and

“(B) 110 percent of the maximum weight on any axle or axle group described in subsection (a)(2), including any enforcement tolerance.

“(2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered agricultural vehicle’ means a vehicle that is transporting unprocessed agricultural crops

used for food, feed or fiber, or raw or unfinished forest products, including logs, pulpwood, biomass or wood chips.

“(y) OPERATION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES IN WEST VIRGINIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The State of West Virginia may allow, by special permit, the operation of a vehicle that is transporting materials and equipment on the Interstate System in the State of West Virginia if such vehicle does not exceed 110 percent of the maximum weight on any axle or axle group described in subsection (a)(2), including any enforcement tolerance, provided the remaining gross vehicle weight requirements of subsection (a) are met.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘materials and equipment’ means materials and equipment that are used on a project eligible under this chapter.”.

SEC. 426. None of the funds appropriated or made available by this division for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 may be used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID-19 virus.

This division may be cited as the “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION G—OTHER MATTERS

TITLE I—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Subtitle A—Public Health Extenders

SEC. 101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(F) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(F)) is amended by striking “and \$536,986,301 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” and inserting “\$536,986,301 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and \$3,592,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

(b) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2)(I) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(I)) is amended by striking “and \$41,616,438 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” and inserting “\$41,616,438 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and \$297,013,699 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)) is amended by striking “and \$16,982,192 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” and inserting “\$16,982,192 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and \$164,136,986 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

(2) ADDITION TO CAPPED AMOUNTS.—Section 340H(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADDITION.—Notwithstanding any provision of this section, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024, the Secretary may use any amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section (including amounts recouped under subsection (f)) to make payments described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B), in addition to the total amount of funds appropriated under subsection (g).”.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on

December 31, 2024, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report specifying—

(A) the total amount of funds recouped under subsection (f) of section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h);

(B) the rationale for the funds being recouped; and

(C) the total amount of funds recouped under subsection (f) of such section 340H that were used pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(C) of such section 340H to adjust total payment amounts above the total amounts appropriated under subsection (g) of such section 340H, as amended by paragraph (3).

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117-328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 101(d) of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024” and inserting “section 101(d) of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, and section 101(d) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “and \$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” and inserting “\$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and \$130,000,000 for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “and \$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” and inserting “\$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, and \$130,000,000 for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(c) Section 319L-1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7f(b)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10b(g)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-

11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “March 8, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2024”.

Subtitle B—Medicaid

SEC. 201. REQUIREMENT FOR STATE MEDICAID PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(29), by striking “for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2025,” and inserting “beginning on October 1, 2020,”; and

(2) in subsection (ee)(2), by striking “for the period specified in such paragraph, if before the beginning of such period the State certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary” and inserting “if such State certifies, not less than every 5 years and to the satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1006(b)(4)(A) of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “, and before October 1, 2025”.

SEC. 202. COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA FOR SPECIFIED POPULATIONS ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1948. COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA FOR SPECIFIED POPULATIONS.

“(a) RECURRING ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF HEALTH CARE DATA RELATED TO TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OR A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, on an annual basis, shall link, analyze, and publish on a publicly available website data reported by States through the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) (or a successor system) relating to substance use disorder and mental health services provided to individuals enrolled under a State plan under this title or a State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder or mental health condition, including an analysis that is disaggregated by age. Such enrollee information shall be de-identified of any personally identifying information, shall adhere to privacy standards established by the Department of Health and Human Services, and shall be aggregated to protect the privacy of enrollees, as necessary.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The analysis required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following data for each State (including, to the extent available, for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa):

“(A) The number and percentage of individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) in each of the major enrollment categories (as defined in a public letter from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to the Secretary) who have been diagnosed with—

“(i) a substance use disorder;

“(ii) a mental health condition; or

“(iii) a co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health condition.

“(B) With respect to individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who have received a diagnosis described in subparagraph (A), a list of the substance use disorder and mental health treatment services, including, to the extent such data are available, spe-

cific adult and pediatric services by each major type of service, such as counseling, intensive home-based services, intensive care coordination, crisis services tailored to children and youth, peer support services, family-to-family support, inpatient hospitalization, medication-assisted treatment, residential treatment, and other appropriate services as identified by the Secretary, for which beneficiaries in each State received at least 1 service under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans).

“(C) With respect to each diagnosis described in subparagraph (A), the number and percentage of individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who have such diagnosis and received services for such diagnosis under such plan or waiver by each major type of treatment service listed under subparagraph (B) within each major setting type, such as outpatient, inpatient, residential, and other home-based and community-based settings.

“(D) The number of services provided under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) per individual enrolled under such plan or waiver who has a diagnosis described in subparagraph (A) for each such diagnosis and each major type of treatment service listed under subparagraph (B).

“(E) The number and percentage of individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) by major enrollment category, who have a diagnosis described in subparagraph (A) and received substance use disorder or mental health treatment through—

“(i) a Medicaid managed care entity (as defined in section 1932(a)(1)(B)), including the number of such individuals who received such assistance through a prepaid inpatient health plan (as defined by the Secretary) or a prepaid ambulatory health plan (as defined by the Secretary);

“(ii) a fee-for-service payment model; or

“(iii) an alternative payment model, to the extent available.

“(F) The number and percentage of individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who have a diagnosis described in subparagraph (A) and received services for a mental health condition or a substance use disorder in an outpatient or community-based or home-based setting after receiving mental health or substance use disorder services in an inpatient or residential setting, and the number of mental health or substance use disorder services received by such individuals in the outpatient or community-based or home-based setting.

“(G) The number and percentage of inpatient admissions in which services for a mental health condition or substance use disorder were provided to an individual enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) that occurred within 30 days after discharge from a hospital or residential facility in which services for a mental health condition or substance use disorder previously were provided to such individual, disaggregated by each diagnosis described in subparagraph (A) and type of facility, to the extent such information is available.

“(H) The number of emergency department visits by an individual enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who has a diagnosis de-

scribed in subparagraph (A) within 7 days of such individual being discharged from an inpatient stay at a hospital during which services for a mental health condition or substance use disorder were provided, or from a mental health facility, an independent psychiatric wing of an acute care hospital, an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, or a residential treatment facility, disaggregated by each diagnosis described in subparagraph (A) and type of facility, to the extent such information is available.

“(I) The number and percentage of individuals who are enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) and received an assessment for a mental health condition.

“(J) The number and percentage of individuals who are enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) and received an assessment for a substance use disorder.

“(K) The number of mental health services provided to individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who received an assessment described in subparagraph (I) in the 30 days post-assessment.

“(L) The number of substance use disorder treatment services provided to individuals enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) who received an assessment described in subparagraph (I) in the 30 days post-assessment.

“(M) Prescription National Drug Code codes, fill dates, and number of days supply of any covered outpatient drug (as defined in section 1927(k)(2)) that was dispensed to an individual enrolled under the State plan under this title or the State child health plan under title XXI (or under a waiver of such plans) with an episode described in subparagraph (G) or (H) during any period that occurs after the individual's discharge date defined in subparagraph (G) or (H) (as applicable), and before the admission date applicable under subparagraph (G) or the date of the emergency department visit applicable under subparagraph (H) that were—

“(i) to treat a mental health condition; or

“(ii) to treat a substance use disorder.

“(b) PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall make publicly available the first analysis required by subsection (a).

“(2) ANNUAL UPDATES.—The Secretary shall issue an updated version of the analysis required under subsection (a) not later than January 1 of each calendar year.

“(3) USE OF T-MSIS DATA.—The analysis required under subsection (a) and updates required under paragraph (4) shall—

“(A) use data and definitions from the T-MSIS data set that is no more than 12 months old on the date that the analysis or update is published; and

“(B) as appropriate, include a description with respect to each State of the quality and completeness of the data and caveats describing the limitations of the data reported to the Secretary by the State that is sufficient to communicate the appropriate uses for the information.

“(4) REVISED PUBLICATION.—Beginning not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary annually shall publish a revised publication of the analysis required by subsection (a) that allows for a research-ready and publicly accessible interface of the publication and is developed after consultation with stakeholders

on the usability of the data contained in the publication.

“(5) MAKING T-MSIS DATA ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH SYSTEM OF RECORDS NOTICE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a system of records notice for the data specified in clause (ii) for the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System, in accordance with section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code. The notice shall outline policies that protect the security and privacy of the data that, at a minimum, meet the security and privacy policies of SORN 09-70-0541 for the Medicaid Statistical Information System.

“(ii) REQUIRED DATA.—The data covered by the systems of records notice required under clause (i) shall be sufficient for researchers and States to analyze the prevalence of conditions described in subsection (a)(2)(A) in the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program beneficiary population and the treatment of such conditions under Medicaid across all States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa), forms of treatment, and treatment settings.

“(iii) INITIATION OF DATA-SHARING ACTIVITIES.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary shall initiate the data-sharing activities outlined in the notice required under clause (i).

“(B) SATISFACTION OF REQUIREMENT THROUGH EXISTING SYSTEM OF RECORDS NOTICE.—The Secretary shall not be required to publish a new system of records notice as required under subparagraph (A) if, not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary determines that the system of records notice published by the Secretary in the Federal Register on February 6, 2019 (84 Fed. Reg. 2230), satisfies the requirements described in subparagraph (A).”.

SEC. 203. MONITORING PRESCRIBING OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(o)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(o)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “BY CHILDREN”;

(2) by striking “children enrolled” and inserting “children generally, children in foster care specifically, individuals over the age of 18 receiving home and community-based services (as defined in section 9817(a)(2)(B) of Public Law 117-2), and individuals over the age of 18 residing in institutional care settings (including nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, institutions for mental diseases, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, and other such institutional care settings) enrolled”;

(3) by striking “not more than the age of 18 years” through the period at the end and inserting “subject to the program, including information with respect to each such category of children and individuals over the age of 18.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

(a) MAKING PERMANENT STATE PLAN AMENDMENT OPTION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PATIENTS IN CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASES.—Section 1915(l)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(1)) is

amended by striking “With respect to calendar quarters beginning during the period beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2023,” and inserting “With respect to calendar quarters beginning on or after October 1, 2019.”.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REVISION.—Section 1915(l)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “other than under this title from non-Federal funds” and all that follows through “subparagraph (B))” and inserting “from non-Federal funds for items and services (including services described in subparagraph (B))”;

(B) by striking “such items and services” and all that follows through the period and inserting “such items and services for, at the option of the State—

“(i) fiscal year 2018; or

“(ii) the most recently ended fiscal year as of the date the State submits a State plan amendment to the Secretary to provide such medical assistance in accordance with this subsection.”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) APPLICATION OF MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN STATES.—In the case of a State with a State plan amendment in effect on September 30, 2023, for the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the provisions of subparagraph (A) shall be applied as if the amendments to such subparagraph made by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 had never been made.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1915(l)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(4)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “through (D)” and inserting “through (F)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “Prior to approval of a State plan amendment under this subsection, the State shall notify the Secretary of how the State will ensure” and inserting “The State shall have in place evidence-based, substance use disorder-specific individual placement criteria and utilization management approaches to ensure placement of eligible individuals in an appropriate level of care, including criteria and approaches to ensure”;

(II) by adding at the end the following sentence: “The State shall notify the Secretary at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary shall require of such criteria and utilization management approaches.”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) REVIEW PROCESS.—The State shall, using nationally recognized substance use disorder-specific program standards, have in place a process to review the compliance of eligible institutions for mental diseases with such program standards specified by the State.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall apply with respect to States providing medical assistance for items and services pursuant to a State plan amendment under section 1915(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)) in calendar quarters beginning on or after October 1, 2025.

(2) ONE-TIME ASSESSMENT.—Section 1915(l)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(4)), as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall, not later than 12 months after the approval of a State plan amendment described in this subsection (or, in the case of a State that has such an amendment approved as of September 30, 2023, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this subparagraph), commence an assessment of—

“(I) the availability of treatment for individuals enrolled under a State plan under this title (or waiver of such plan) in each level of care described in subparagraph (C), including how such availability varies by region of the State; and

“(II) the availability of medication-assisted treatment and medically supervised withdrawal management services for such individuals, including how such availability varies by region of the State.

“(ii) REQUIRED COMPLETION.—The State shall complete an assessment described in clause (i) not later than 12 months after the date the State commences such assessment.”.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF LEVELS OF CARE.—Section 1915(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(C)(ii), by striking “problems in Dimensions 1, 2, or 3” each place it appears and inserting “conditions”;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking subparagraph (A) and redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively.

(d) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN STATES.—Notwithstanding section 430.20 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may approve a request to renew a State plan amendment under section 1915(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)) with an effective date of October 1, 2023, if the State making such request—

(1) had approval for a State plan amendment under such section as of September 30, 2023; and

(2) submits the request to renew such amendment not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT DUE TO INCARCERATION.

(a) MEDICAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(84)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(A)), as amended by section 5122(a)(2) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended—

(A) by striking “under the State plan” and inserting “under the State plan (or waiver of such plan)”;

(B) by striking “who is an eligible juvenile (as defined in subsection (nn)(2))”;

(C) by striking “because the juvenile” and inserting “because the individual”;

(D) by striking “during the period the juvenile” and inserting “during the period the individual”;

(E) by inserting “such an individual who is an eligible juvenile (as defined in subsection (nn)(2)) and” after “or in the case of”;

(F) by striking “paragraph (31)” and inserting “the last numbered paragraph”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by—

(A) subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (1) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

(b) CHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(d)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or pregnancy-related” after “child health”;

(B) by inserting “or targeted low-income pregnant woman” after “targeted low-income child”;

(C) by inserting “or pregnant woman” after “because the child”; and

(D) by inserting “or pregnant woman” after “during the period the child”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply beginning January 1, 2026.

(c) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—

(1) Section 1902(nn)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395a(a)(nn)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “State plan” and inserting “State plan (or waiver of such plan)”.

(2) Section 1902(nn)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(nn)(3)), is amended by striking “paragraph (31)” and inserting “the last numbered paragraph”.

(3) Section 5122(a)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) is amended by striking “after” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “after ‘or in the case of an eligible juvenile described in section 1902(a)(84)(D) with respect to the screenings, diagnostic services, referrals, and targeted case management services required under such section’.”.

(4) The fifth sentence of section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended by striking “paragraph (30)” and inserting “the last numbered paragraph”.

SEC. 206. ADDRESSING OPERATIONAL BARRIERS TO PROMOTE CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP BENEFICIARIES FOLLOWING INCARCERATION.

(a) **STATE PLANNING GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award grants to States for the purpose of developing operational capabilities to promote continuity of care for individuals who are inmates of a public institution and are eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program or are eligible for child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under the State CHIP.

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—A State may use funds awarded under a grant under this subsection for activities and expenses related to complying with the requirement described in section 1902(a)(84)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(A)) that a State shall not terminate eligibility for medical assistance, complying with the requirements of sections 1902(a)(84)(D) and 2102(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(D), 1397bb(d)), or adopting the State plan options described in the subdivision (A) following the last numbered paragraph of section 1905(a) and 2110(b)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a), 1397jj(b)(7)), or other activities and expenses to promote continuity of care for individuals described in paragraph (1). Such activities and expenses may include—

(A) identifying and addressing operational gaps with respect to complying with such requirements or adopting such options, in collaboration with public institutions, State human services agencies, Medicaid managed care plans, providers, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders;

(B) establishing standardized processes and automated systems for activities that may include, but are not limited to—

(i) determining whether an individual is enrolled in a State Medicaid program or State CHIP at the time such individual becomes an inmate of a public institution;

(ii) allowing an individual who is an inmate of a public institution to submit an ap-

plication to enroll or renew coverage in a State Medicaid program or State CHIP prior to the individual's release from such public institution;

(iii) facilitating the delivery of medical assistance under the State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under the State CHIP to an individual who is eligible for such assistance while the individual is an inmate of a public institution, such as by establishing claims processing and prior authorization request protocols; and

(iv) in the case of an eligible individual whose coverage under a State Medicaid program or State CHIP was suspended while the individual was an inmate of a public institution, restoring such coverage upon such individual's release from the public institution;

(C) investing in information technology to—

(i) enable bi-directional information sharing between public institutions, the State Medicaid and CHIP agencies, and other entities such as managed care plans and providers (in a manner consistent with applicable State and Federal privacy laws), to support care transitions and coordination of treatment (including access to care in the community after release from a public institution); and

(ii) develop indicators to ensure Federal financial participation for medical assistance furnished under a State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance furnished under a State CHIP is available only for medical assistance or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance for items and services for which such participation is permitted while an individual is an inmate of a public institution; and

(D) establishing oversight and monitoring processes to ensure public institutions and entities with which they contract are compliant with any applicable Medicaid and CHIP requirements.

(3) **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.**—A State shall not use funds from a grant awarded under this subsection to—

(A) provide medical assistance under a State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under a State CHIP to an individual, or otherwise directly administer health care services for an individual; or

(B) build prisons, jails, or other carceral facilities, or pay for prison, jail, or other carceral facility-related improvements other than those improvements that are for the direct and primary purpose of meeting the health care needs of individuals who are incarcerated and who are eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under the State CHIP.

(4) **ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS.**—In determining the amount of a grant to award to a State that applies for a grant under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the following factors, relative to other States applying for grants under this subsection:

(A) The number of individuals in the State who were inmates of non-Federal public institutions (such as State prisons, local and county jails, tribal jails, and youth correctional or detention facilities) and were eligible for medical assistance under a State Medicaid program at any time in calendar year 2022.

(B) The number of non-Federal public institutions in the State (such as State prisons, local and county jails, tribal jails, and youth correctional or detention facilities).

(C) The State's progress in developing, implementing, and operating initiatives to promote continuity of care for individuals who are inmates of a public institution and are

eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program or are eligible for child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under the State CHIP (with favorable consideration given to States with less progress in promoting continuity of care for such individuals).

(5) **APPROPRIATION.**—There is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2024, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$113,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of awarding and administering grants to States under this subsection.

(b) **GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT STATE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue detailed guidance to States that addresses common implementation and operational challenges States face in ensuring access to authorized high-quality, timely, accessible care before, during, and after incarceration for individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under a State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under a State CHIP.

(2) **CONTENT.**—

(A) **COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS.**—The guidance required under paragraph (1) shall address challenges States face, or are likely to face, in complying with the requirement described in section 1902(a)(84)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(A)) that a State shall not terminate eligibility for medical assistance, complying with the requirements of sections 1902(a)(84)(D) and 2102(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(D), 1397bb(d)), adopting the State plan options described in the subdivision (A) following the last numbered paragraph of section 1905(a) and section 2110(b)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a), 1397jj(b)(7)), and carrying out other activities that are approved by the Secretary to promote continuity of care for individuals who are inmates of a public institution and are eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid program or are eligible for child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under the State CHIP.

(B) **BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES.**—The guidance required under paragraph (1) shall include best practices and strategies States can use to address implementation and operational challenges related to the requirements described in subparagraph (A), including those related to the following:

(i) Implementing modifications to improve eligibility and enrollment processes, including, but not limited to, completing applications for assistance under the State Medicaid program or the State CHIP on behalf of inmates, transmitting such applications to State Medicaid and CHIP agencies, and screening individuals who are inmates of public institutions for eligibility for medical assistance that is authorized to be furnished to the individual while the individual is such an inmate.

(ii) Clarifying the availability of relevant Federal financial participation, including the administrative match under sections 1903 and 2105 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b, 1397ee), for activities that directly support efforts to identify and enroll eligible individuals in State Medicaid programs and State CHIPs and that directly support the provision of authorized medical assistance, child health assistance, or pregnancy-related assistance, including, but not limited to, data sharing and exchange, and other necessary functions.

(iii) Expediently conducting screening for eligibility under State Medicaid programs and State CHIPs for individuals who are inmates of a public institution, providing

application and renewal assistance for those who are not yet enrolled in such programs or whose eligibility needs to be renewed, and coordinating reinstatement of coverage under such programs with managed care enrollment.

(iv) Ensuring that an individual who is an inmate of a public institution and is eligible for medical assistance under a State Medicaid program or for child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under a State CHIP receives, in a timely fashion, any such assistance for which Federal financial participation is authorized, such as, a supply of medications or prescription refill upon release and the services required under sections 1902(a)(84)(D) and 2102(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(84)(D), 1397bb(d)).

(v) Establishing community-based provider networks, including those comprised of case managers, for purposes of providing continuity of care to individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under a State Medicaid program or child health assistance or pregnancy-related assistance under a State CHIP before, during, and after incarceration.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PUBLIC INSTITUTION.—The term “public institution” has the meaning given that term in section 1902(nn)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(nn)(3)).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given that term in section 1101(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301(a)(1)) for purposes of titles XIX and XXI of such Act.

(4) STATE CHIP.—The term “State CHIP” means a State child health plan for child health assistance under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), and includes any waiver of such a plan.

(5) STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM.—The term “State Medicaid program” means a State plan for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), and includes any waiver of such a plan.

SEC. 207. GUIDANCE RELATING TO IMPROVING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INTEGRATION OF CARE UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

(a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall issue guidance to States regarding the following:

(1) Opportunities to increase access to the mental health and substance use disorder care providers that participate in Medicaid or CHIP, which may include education, training, recruitment and retention of such providers, with a focus on improving the capacity of this workforce in rural and underserved areas by increasing the number, type, and capacity of providers. The guidance relating to such opportunities shall include the following:

(A) Best practices from States that have used authorities under titles XI, XIX, or XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq., 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.), including initiatives States have implemented under waivers under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315), for such purposes.

(B) Opportunities States can leverage to finance, support, and expand the availability of providers of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services who participate in Medicaid and CHIP across the continuum of care, including through the participation of paraprofessionals with behavioral health expertise, such as clinicians with baccalaureate degrees and peer support

specialists and including best practices especially pertinent to pediatric care. The guidance shall include examples of innovative policies states have adopted to expand access to behavioral health services; for example, by establishing more expansive and diverse behavioral health workforce roles such as certified wellness coaches.

(C) Best practices related to financing, supporting, and expanding the education and training of providers of mental health and substance use disorder services in order to increase the workforce of such providers who participate in Medicaid and CHIP across the continuum of care, including innovative public-private partnerships and including such practices that are especially pertinent to pediatric care.

(2) Opportunities to promote the integration of mental health or substance use disorder services with primary care services. The guidance relating to such opportunities shall include the following:

(A) An overview of State options for adopting and expanding value-based payment arrangements and alternative payment models, including accountable care organization-like models and other shared savings programs.

(B) A description of opportunities for States to use and align existing authorities and resources to finance the integration of mental health or substance use disorder services with primary care services, including with respect to the use of electronic health records in mental health care settings and in substance use disorder care settings.

(C) Strategies to support integration of mental health or substance use disorder services with primary care services through the use of non-clinical professionals and paraprofessionals, including peer support specialists.

(D) Examples of specific strategies and models designed to support integration of mental health or substance use disorder services with primary care services for differing age groups, including children and youth and individuals over the age of 65, which may include the collaborative care model or primary care behavioral health model for behavioral health integration.

(b) INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES WITH PRIMARY CARE SERVICES.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), the term “integration of mental health or substance use disorder services with primary care services” means any of the following:

(1) The delivery of mental health or substance use disorder services in a setting that is physically located in the same practice or building as a primary care setting, or when at least 1 provider of mental health or substance use disorder services is available in a primary care setting via telehealth.

(2) The use of behavioral health integration models primarily intended for pediatric populations with non-severe mental health needs that are focused on prevention and early detection and intervention methods through a multidisciplinary collaborative behavioral health team approach co-managed with primary care, to include same-day access to family-focused mental health treatment services.

(3) Having providers of mental health or substance use disorder services physically co-located in a primary care setting with same-day visit availability.

(4) Implementing or maintaining enhanced care coordination or targeted case management which includes regular interactions between and within care teams.

(5) Providing mental health or substance use disorder screening and follow-up assessments, interventions, or services within the

same practice or facility as a primary care or physical service setting.

(6) The use of assertive community treatment that is integrated with or facilitated by a primary care practice.

(7) Delivery of integrated primary care and mental health care or substance use disorder care in the home or in community-based settings for individuals who are recipients of Medicaid home and community-based services.

SEC. 208. FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS.

There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2024, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until expended—

(1) \$5,000,000, for the purpose of carrying out section 203 and the amendments made by such section, and sections 206, and 207; and

(2) \$10,000,000 for the recurring collection, analysis, and publication of health care data under section 1948 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 202.

SEC. 209. CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID.

(a) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (30), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (31) as paragraph (32); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (30) the following new paragraph:

“(31) certified community behavioral health clinic services, as defined in subsection (jj); and”;

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

“(jj) CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘certified community behavioral health services’ means any of the following services when furnished to an individual as a patient of a certified community behavioral health clinic (as defined in paragraph (2)), in a manner reflecting person-centered care and which, if not available directly through a certified community behavioral health clinic, may be provided or referred through formal relationships with other providers:

“(A) Crisis mental health services, including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention services, and crisis stabilization.

“(B) Screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment.

“(C) Patient-centered treatment planning or similar processes, including risk assessment and crisis planning.

“(D) Outpatient mental health and substance use services.

“(E) Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk.

“(F) Intensive case management services.

“(G) Psychiatric rehabilitation services.

“(H) Peer support and counselor services and family supports.

“(I) Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans who are eligible for medical assistance, particularly such members and veterans located in rural areas, provided the care is consistent with minimum clinical mental health guidelines promulgated by the Veterans Health Administration, including clinical guidelines contained in the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook of such Administration.

“(2) CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC.—The term ‘certified community behavioral health clinic’ means an organization that—

“(A) has been certified by a State as meeting the criteria established by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act as of January 1, 2024, and any subsequent updates to such criteria, regardless of whether the State is carrying out a demonstration program under this title under subsection (d) of such section;

“(B) is engaged in furnishing all of the services described in paragraph (1); and

“(C) agrees, as a condition of the certification described in subparagraph (A), to furnish to the State or Secretary any data required as part of ongoing monitoring of the organization’s provision of services, including encounter data, clinical outcomes data, quality data, and such other data as the State or Secretary may require.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to medical assistance furnished on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 210. ELIMINATING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL PAYMENT CUTS.

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(7)(A)), as amended by section 121 of subtitle B of title I of division B of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-35), is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “For the period beginning March 9, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and for each of fiscal years 2025” and inserting “For the period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025, and for each of fiscal years 2026”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “March 9, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and for each of fiscal years 2025” and inserting “January 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025, and for each of fiscal years 2026”.

SEC. 211. PROMOTING VALUE IN MEDICAID MANAGED CARE.

Section 1903(m)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)(9)(A)) is amended by striking “(and before fiscal year 2024)”.

SEC. 212. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(3)(A)), as amended by section 122 of subtitle B of title I of division B of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-35), is further amended by striking “\$5,140,428,729” and inserting “\$0”.

Subtitle C—Medicare

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—
(A) by striking “and \$20,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”; and

(B) by inserting the following before the period at the end: “, and \$9,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024”; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “and 2023” and inserting “2023, and 2024 and the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note), as amended by section 3306 of

the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), section 610 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240), section 1110 of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67), section 110 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), section 208 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-10), section 50207 of division E of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), section 1402 of division B of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-59), section 1402 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-69), section 103 of division N of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94), section 3803 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), section 2203 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-159), section 1102 of the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-215), and section 103 of division CC of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended—

(1) in clause (xii), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by inserting after clause (xiii) the following new clause:

“(xiv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024, \$18,750,000.”

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (xii), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by inserting after clause (xiii) the following new clause:

“(xiv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024, \$18,750,000.”

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (xii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xiii), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xiii) the following new clause:

“(xiv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024, \$6,250,000.”

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (xii), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by inserting after clause (xiii) the following new clause:

“(xiv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2024, \$18,750,000.”

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “March 9, 2024” and inserting “January 1, 2025”.

SEC. 304. EXTENDING INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(z) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(z)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking “with 2025” and inserting “with 2026”; and

(B) by inserting “, or, with respect to 2026, 1.88 percent” after “3.5 percent”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”; and

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “2026” and inserting “2027”; and

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2026” and inserting “2027”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and 2025” and inserting “2025, and 2026”; and

(3) in paragraph (4)(B), by inserting “, or, with respect to 2026, 1.88 percent” after “3.5 percent”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1848(q)(1)(C)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(q)(1)(C)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking “2026” and inserting “2027”.

SEC. 305. TEMPORARY PAYMENT INCREASE UNDER THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE TO ACCOUNT FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND ATYPICAL TIMING OF ENACTMENT.

Section 1848(t)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(t)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking “January 1, 2025” and inserting “March 9, 2024”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) such services furnished on or after March 9, 2024, and before January 1, 2025, by 2.93 percent.”

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “in fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “during the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, and in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—
(i) by inserting “or portion of a fiscal year” after “for a fiscal year”; and

(ii) by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024” after “through 2024”; and

(B) in subclause (III), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024” after “through 2024”; and

(C) in subclause (IV), by striking “fiscal year 2025” and inserting “the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, and fiscal year 2026”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or during the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024” after “through 2024”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024” after “through 2024”.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the provisions of, including the amendments made by, this section by program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2024” and inserting “January 1, 2025”; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “October 1, 2024” and inserting “January 1, 2025”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.**—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2024” and inserting “January 1, 2025”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024,” after “through fiscal year 2024”.

(2) **PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.**—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking “or fiscal year 2000” and all that follows through “the Secretary” and inserting “fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2024, or the portion of fiscal year 2025 beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, the Secretary”.

SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF ADJUSTMENT TO CALCULATION OF HOSPICE CAP AMOUNT UNDER MEDICARE.

Section 1814(i)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “2032” and inserting “2033”; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking “2032” and inserting “2033”.

SEC. 309. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$2,197,795,056” and inserting “\$0”.

Subtitle D—Human Services

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

Activities authorized by part A of title IV (other than under section 403(c) or 418) and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act shall continue through September 30, 2024, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2023, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS.

Activities authorized by part B of title IV of the Social Security Act shall continue through December 31, 2024, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2023, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

SEC. 403. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710), as amended by section 142 of subtitle D of title I of division B of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–35), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “and” after “January 19, 2024”; and

(ii) by inserting “for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September

30, 2024, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024,” after “March 8, 2024.”; and

(iii) by inserting “or 2025” after “for fiscal year 2024”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or 2025” after “with respect to fiscal year 2024” each place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) by striking “and” before “for the period beginning on January 20, 2024.”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2024.”.

SEC. 404. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713), as amended by section 143 of subtitle D of title I of division B of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–35), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking “and” after “January 19, 2024.”; and

(ii) by inserting “for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024,” after “March 8, 2024.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by striking “and” after “January 19, 2024.”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “or 2025” after “fiscal year 2024”; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “and” before “for the period beginning on January 20, 2024.”; and

(B) by striking “fiscal year 2023.” and inserting “fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2024.”.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

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

(3) by inserting after clause (vii), the following new clause:

“(viii) \$1,500,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2025 before January 1, 2025.”.

TITLE II—AMENDING COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States (in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United

Nations Charter, and the objectives of the international trusteeship system of the United Nations) fulfilled its obligations to promote the development of the people of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence, as appropriate, to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and the people of the Trust Territory and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned.

(2) The United States, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99–239) and the United States and the Republic of Palau entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99–658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note) to create and maintain a close and mutually beneficial relationship.

(3) The “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia”, the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands”, and related agreements were signed by the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and approved, as applicable, by section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108–188).

(4) The “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”, was signed by the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010, and amended on September 19, 2018.

(5) On May 22, 2023, the United States signed the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”.

(6) On May 23, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement and on September 28, 2023, the United States signed a Federal Programs and Services agreement related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association.

(7) On October 16, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements relating to the U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **1986 COMPACT.**—The term “1986 Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99–239).

(2) **2003 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.**—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia” set

forth in section 201(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(3) 2003 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands” set forth in section 201(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(4) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to Amend the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(5) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Amend the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(6) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact.

(7) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(8) 2023 U.S.-FSM FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement” means the 2023 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Washington September 28, 2023.

(9) 2023 U.S.-FSM FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance provided in the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(10) 2023 U.S.-FSM TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(11) 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review, done at Port Moresby May 22, 2023.

(12) 2023 U.S.-RMI FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(13) 2023 U.S.-RMI TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the

Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(14) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(15) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(C) the Republic of Palau.

(16) SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT.—The term “subsidiary agreement” means any of the following:

(A) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(B) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(C) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement.

(D) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(E) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement.

(F) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(G) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of Palau.

(H) Any other agreement that the United States may from time-to-time enter into with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of Palau, or the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in accordance with—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(iii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(17) U.S.-PALAU COMPACT.—The term “U.S.-Palau Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

SEC. 204. APPROVAL OF 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT, 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT, 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT, AND SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.

(a) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to—

(A) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023; and

(B) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact and the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement, as sub-

mitted to Congress on October 17, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on October 17, 2023.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, is approved.

(2) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—The President is authorized to bring into force and implement the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) AMENDMENTS, CHANGES, OR TERMINATION TO COMPACTS AND CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amendment to, change to, or termination of all or any part of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or the U.S.-Palau Compact, by mutual agreement or unilateral action of the Government of the United States, shall not enter into force until the date on which Congress has incorporated the applicable amendment, change, or termination into an Act of Congress.

(2) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.—In addition to the Compacts described in paragraph (1), the requirements of that paragraph shall apply to—

(A) any action of the Government of the United States under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact, including an action taken pursuant to section 431, 441, or 442 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(B) any amendment to, change to, or termination of—

(i) the agreement described in section 462(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the agreement described in section 462(a)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(iv) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(v) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 177 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(vi) Articles III and IV of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(vii) Articles III, IV, and X of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(viii) the agreement described in section 462(h) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(ix) Articles VI, XV, and XVII of the agreement described in section 462(b)(7) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and section 462(i) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(e) ENTRY INTO FORCE OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.—An agreement between the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau that would amend, change, or terminate any subsidiary agreement or portion of a subsidiary agreement (other than an amendment to, change to, or termination of an agreement described in subsection (d)) shall not enter into force until the date that is 90 days after the date

on which the President has transmitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives—

(1) the agreement to amend, change, or terminate the subsidiary agreement;

(2) an explanation of the amendment, change, or termination;

(3) a description of the reasons for the amendment, change, or termination; and

(4) in the case of an agreement that would amend, change, or terminate any agreement described in section 462(b)(3) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, a statement by the Secretary of Labor that describes—

(A) the necessity of the amendment, change, or termination; and

(B) any impacts of the amendment, change, or termination.

SEC. 205. AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

(a) LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Federated States of Micronesia; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 209(j)) may be used in accordance with section 102(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(a)).

(b) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management Committee established under section 213 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section 208(d)(1).

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 United States members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant adminis-

tration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member of the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement prepared by the Secretary of the Interior attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section 208(d)(1) on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(c) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration,

program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member to the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

(a) LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Marshall Islands; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 209(j)) may be used in accordance with section 103(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(a)).

(b) ESPOUSAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(g)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(1)) and section 103(e)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48

U.S.C. 1921b(e)(1)) provided that “It is the intention of the Congress of the United States that the provisions of section 177 of the Compact of Free Association and the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) constitute a full and final settlement of all claims described in Articles X and XI of the Section 177 Agreement, and that any such claims be terminated and barred except insofar as provided for in the Section 177 Agreement.”; and

(B) section 103(g)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(2)) and section 103(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(e)(2)) provided that “In furtherance of the intention of Congress as stated in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Section 177 Agreement is hereby ratified and approved. It is the explicit understanding and intent of Congress that the jurisdictional limitations set forth in Article XII of such Agreement are enacted solely and exclusively to accomplish the objective of Article X of such Agreement and only as a clarification of the effect of Article X, and are not to be construed or implemented separately from Article X.”.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact affects the application of the provisions of law reaffirmed by paragraph (1).

(c) CERTAIN SECTION 177 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) Article IX of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact of Free Association, done at Majuro June 25, 1983, provided that “If loss or damage to property and person of the citizens of the Marshall Islands, resulting from the Nuclear Testing Program, arises or is discovered after the effective date of this Agreement, and such injuries were not and could not reasonably have been identified as of the effective date of this Agreement, and if such injuries render the provisions of this Agreement manifestly inadequate, the Government of the Marshall Islands may request that the Government of the United States provide for such injuries by submitting such a request to the Congress of the United States for its consideration. It is understood that this Article does not commit the Congress of the United States to authorize and appropriate funds.”; and

(2) section 3(a) of Article XIII of the agreement described in paragraph (1) provided that “The Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands shall consult at the request of either of them on matters relating to the provisions of this Agreement.”.

(d) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 2 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 1 other member from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee established under section 214 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 2 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—At least 1 United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be an individual who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possesses not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A), in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(e) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 5 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States Member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the appointee described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(f) FOUR ATOLL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) section 103(j)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(1)) and section 103(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(1)) provided that services “provided by the United States Public Health Service or any other United States agency pursuant to section 1(a) of Article II of the Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) shall be only for services to the people of the Atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik who were affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program, pursuant to the program described in Public Law 95-134 and Public Law 96-205 and their descendants (and any other persons identified as having been so affected if such identification occurs in the manner described in such public laws).

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prejudicial to the views or policies of the Government of the Marshall Islands as to the persons affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program.”;

(2) section 103(j)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(2)) and section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(2)) provided that “at the end of the first year after the effective date of the Compact and at the end of each year thereafter, the providing agency or agencies shall return to the Government of the Marshall Islands any unexpended funds to be returned to the Fund Manager (as described in Article I of the Section 177 Agreement) to be covered into the Fund to be available for future use.”; and

(3) section 103(j)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(3)) and section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(3)) provided that “the Fund Manager shall retain the funds returned by the Government of the Marshall Islands pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, shall invest and manage such funds, and at the end of 15 years after the effective date of the Compact, shall make from the total amount so retained and the proceeds thereof annual disbursements sufficient to continue to make payments for the provision of health services as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection to such extent as may be provided in contracts between the Government of the Marshall Islands and appropriate United States providers of such health services.”;

(g) **RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on the request of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the President (through an appropriate department or agency of the United States) shall continue to provide special medical care and logistical support for the remaining members of the population of Rongelap and Utrik who were exposed to radiation resulting from the 1954 United States thermonuclear “Bravo” test, pursuant to Public Law 95-134 (91 Stat. 1159) and Public Law 96-205 (94 Stat. 84).

(h) **AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2)) and section 103(f)(2)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(A)) provided that notwithstanding “any other provision of law, upon the request of the Government of the Marshall Islands, for the first fifteen years after the effective date of the Compact, the President (either through an appropriate department or agency of the United States or by contract with a United States firm or by a grant to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands which may further contract only with a United States firm or a Republic of the Marshall Islands firm, the owners, officers and majority of the employees of which are citizens of the United States or the Republic of the Marshall Islands) shall provide technical and other assistance without reimbursement, to continue the planting and agricultural maintenance program on Enewetak; without reimbursement, to continue the food programs of the Bikini, Rongelap, Utrik, and Enewetak people described in section 1(d) of Article II of the Subsidiary Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact and for continued waterborne transportation of agricultural products to Enewetak including operations and maintenance of the vessel used for such purposes.”;

(B) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2))

and section 103(f)(2)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(B)) provided that “The President shall ensure the assistance provided under these programs reflects the changes in the population since the inception of such programs.”; and

(C) section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(3)) and section 103(f)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(3)) provided that “payments under this subsection shall be provided to such extent or in such amounts as are necessary for services and other assistance provided pursuant to this subsection. It is the sense of Congress that after the periods of time specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, consideration will be given to such additional funding for these programs as may be necessary.”.

(2) **PLANTING AND AGRICULTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of the Interior may provide grants to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to carry out a planting and agricultural maintenance program on Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik.

(3) **FOOD PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide, without reimbursement, food programs to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

SEC. 207. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) **BILATERAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS.**—United States participation in the annual economic consultations referred to in Article 8 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement shall be by officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(b) **ECONOMIC ADVISORY GROUP.**—

(1) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—A member of the Economic Advisory Group described in Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement (referred to in this subsection as the “Advisory Group”) who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior shall be an individual who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in private sector business development, economic development, or national development.

(2) **FUNDS.**—With respect to the Advisory Group, the Secretary of the Interior may use available funds for—

(A) the costs of the 2 members of the Advisory Group designated by the United States in accordance with Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(B) 50 percent of the costs of the 5th member of the Advisory Group designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Article described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the costs of—

(i) technical and administrative assistance for the Advisory Group; and

(ii) other support necessary for the Advisory Group to accomplish the purpose of the Advisory Group.

(3) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Advisory Group receives or completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau submits a report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 208. OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS.

(a) **AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States (including any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General of the United States) shall have the authorities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Comptroller General of the United States under—

(A) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 102(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(b));

(B) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 103(k) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(k)); and

(C) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, related subsidiary agreements, and the authorities described in appendix D of the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review” signed by the United States and the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report with respect to the Freely Associated States, including addressing—

(A) the topics described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 104(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(h)(1)), except that for purposes of a report submitted under this paragraph, the report shall address those topics with respect to each of the Freely Associated States; and

(B) the effectiveness of administrative oversight by the United States of the Freely Associated States.

(b) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior by section 211(a) to carry out—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(4) subsidiary agreements.

(c) **POSTMASTER GENERAL OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Postmaster General shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) of section 211(b) and deposited in the Postal Service Fund under paragraph (2)(A) of that section to carry out—

(1) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(4) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) INTERAGENCY GROUP ON FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an Interagency Group on Freely Associated States (referred to in this subsection as the “Interagency Group”).

(2) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Interagency Group are—

(A) to coordinate development and implementation of executive branch policies, programs, services, and other activities in or relating to the Freely Associated States; and

(B) to provide policy guidance, recommendations, and oversight to Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities with respect to the implementation of—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(iii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Group shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary of State, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(E) the heads of relevant Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out obligations under—

(i) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) sections 131 and 132 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(iv) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(v) any applicable subsidiary agreement; and

(vi) section 209; and

(F) the head of any other Federal agency, department, or instrumentality that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

(4) DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of State (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of State) and the Secretary of the Interior (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of the Interior) shall—

(A) co-lead and preside at a meeting of the Interagency Group not less frequently than annually;

(B) determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the agenda for meetings of the Interagency Group; and

(C) facilitate and coordinate the work of the Interagency Group.

(5) DUTIES OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP.—The Interagency Group shall—

(A) provide advice on the establishment or implementation of policies relating to the Freely Associated States to the President, acting through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in the form of a written report not less frequently than annually;

(B) obtain information and advice relating to the Freely Associated States from the Presidents, other elected officials, and members of civil society of the Freely Associated States, including through the members of

the Interagency Group (including senior official designees of the members) meeting not less frequently than annually with any Presidents of the Freely Associated States who elect to participate;

(C) at the request of the head of any Federal agency (or a senior official designee of the head of a Federal agency) who is a member of the Interagency Group, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting 1 or more of the Freely Associated States proposed by the Federal agency, department, or instrumentality; and

(D) facilitate coordination of relevant policies, programs, initiatives, and activities involving 1 or more of the Freely Associated States, including ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication between programs, initiatives, and activities conducted pursuant to a Compact with a Freely Associated State and non-Compact programs, initiatives, and activities.

(6) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and each year thereafter in which a Compact of Free Association with a Freely Associated State is in effect, the President shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Group during the applicable year.

(e) FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.—The head of any Federal agency providing programs and services to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State regarding the provision of the programs and services.

(f) FOREIGN LOANS OR DEBT.—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) the foreign loans or debt of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau shall not constitute an obligation of the United States; and

(2) the full faith and credit of the United States Government shall not be pledged for the payment and performance of any foreign loan or debt referred to in paragraph (1) without specific further authorization.

(g) COMPACT COMPILATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes a compilation of the Compact of Free Association with the Federated State of Micronesia, the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, and the Compact of Free Association with Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(h) PUBLICATION; REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.—

(1) PUBLICATION.—In publishing this title in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of—

(A) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(2) REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel is directed to revise—

(A) the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

SEC. 209. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR VETERANS' SERVICES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—In this subsection, the term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(2) HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE ABROAD.—Section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c), and (f)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(f)(1)(A) The Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services in the Freely Associated States, subject to agreements the Secretary shall enter into with the governments of the Freely Associated States as described in section 209(a)(4)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024, and subject to subparagraph (B), to a veteran who is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical services.

“(B) The agreements described in subparagraph (A) shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the applicable laws of the Freely Associated States and define the care and services that can be legally provided by the Secretary in the Freely Associated States.

“(2) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services through—

“(A) contracts or other agreements;

“(B) reimbursement; or

“(C) the direct provision of care by health care personnel of the Department.

“(3) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services for any condition regardless of whether the condition is connected to the service of the veteran in the Armed Forces.

“(4)(A) A veteran who has received hospital care or medical services in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible, to the extent determined advisable and practicable by the Secretary, for hospital care or medical services in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(B) If the Secretary determines it is no longer advisable or practicable to allow veterans described in subparagraph (A) to remain eligible for hospital care or medical services pursuant to such subparagraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide direct notice of that determination to such veterans; and

“(ii) publish that determination and the reasons for that determination in the Federal Register.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled ‘Joint Resolution to approve the “Compact of Free Association” between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes’ (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”

(3) **BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**—Section 111 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may make payments to or for any person traveling in, to, or from the Freely Associated States for receipt of care or services authorized to be legally provided by the Secretary in the Freely Associated States under section 1724(f)(1) of this title.

“(2) A person who has received payment for travel in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible for payment for such travel in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled ‘Joint Resolution to approve the “Compact of Free Association” between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes’ (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”

(4) **LEGAL ISSUES.**—

(A) **AGREEMENTS TO FURNISH CARE AND SERVICES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Before delivering hospital care or medical services under subsection (f) of section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall enter into agreements with the governments of the Freely Associated States to—

(I) facilitate the furnishing of health services, including telehealth, under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans in the Freely Associated States, such as by addressing—

(aa) licensure, certification, registration, and tort issues relating to health care personnel;

(bb) the scope of health services the Secretary may furnish, as well as the means for furnishing such services; and

(cc) matters relating to delivery of pharmaceutical products and medical surgical products, including delivery of such products through the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the Freely Associated States;

(II) clarify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay for tort claims as set forth under subparagraph (C); and

(III) clarify authority and responsibility on any other matters determined relevant by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the governments of the Freely Associated States.

(ii) **SCOPE OF AGREEMENTS.**—The agreements described in clause (i) shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the applicable laws of the Freely Associated States and define the care and services that can be legally provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States.

(iii) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after entering into an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit the agreement to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(II) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this clause, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(aa) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(bb) the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) **LICENSURE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—Section 1730C(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any State” and inserting “any State or any of the Freely Associated States (as defined in section 1724(f) of this title).”

(C) **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in the Freely Associated States in connection with furnishing hospital care or medical services or providing medical consultation or medical advice to a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary, including through a remote or telehealth program.

(5) **OUTREACH AND ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS.**—During the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) conduct robust outreach to, and engage with, each government of the Freely Associated States;

(B) assess options for the delivery of care through the use of authorities provided pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection; and

(C) increase staffing as necessary to conduct outreach under subparagraph (A).

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Government of the United States shall—

(A) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, grants for services to individuals eligible for such services under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20

U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) to the extent that those services continue to be available to individuals in the United States;

(B) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and make available to the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1450 et seq.), to the extent that those grants continue to be available to State and local governments in the United States;

(C) continue to make grants available to the Republic of Palau under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

(D) continue to make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Republic of Palau and make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and to students enrolled in those institutions of higher education, and to students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau and enrolled in institutions of higher education in the United States and territories of the United States, grants under—

(i) subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.);

(ii) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); and

(iii) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.);

(E) require, as a condition of eligibility for a public institution of higher education in any State (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)) that is not a Freely Associated State to participate in or receive funds under any program under title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), that the institution charge students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau tuition for attendance at a rate that is not greater than the rate charged for residents of the State in which such public institution of higher education is located; and

(F) continue to make available, to eligible institutions of higher education, secondary schools, and nonprofit organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(2) **OTHER FORMULA GRANTS.**—Except as provided in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Education shall not make a grant under any formula grant program administered by the Department of Education to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau.

(3) **GRANTS TO THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**—Section 611(b)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) **FUNDS RESERVED.**—From the amount appropriated for any fiscal year under subsection (i), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent, which shall be used as follows:

“(i) To provide assistance to the outlying areas in accordance with their respective populations of individuals aged 3 through 21.

“(ii)(I) To provide each freely associated State a grant so that no freely associated State receives a lesser share of the total funds reserved for the freely associated State than the freely associated State received of those funds for fiscal year 2023.

“(II) Each freely associated State shall establish its eligibility under this subparagraph consistent with the requirements for a State under section 612.

“(III) The funds provided to each freely associated State under this part may be used to provide, to each infant or toddler with a disability (as defined in section 632), either a free appropriate public education, consistent with section 612, or early intervention services consistent with part C, notwithstanding the application and eligibility requirements of sections 634(2), 635, and 637.”

(4) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of section 1121(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6331(b)(1)) and inserting the following:

“(A) first reserve \$1,000,000 for the Republic of Palau, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish, except that Public Law 95-134, permitting the consolidation of grants, shall not apply; and”;

(B) in section 8101 (20 U.S.C. 7801), by amending paragraph (36) to read as follows:

“(36) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’—

“(A) means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

“(B) for the purpose of any discretionary grant program under this Act, includes the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, to the extent that any such grant program continues to be available to State and local governments in the United States.”

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003.—Section 105(f)(1)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking clause (ix).

(6) HEAD START PROGRAMS.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended, in the paragraph defining the term “State”, by striking the second sentence and inserting “The term ‘State’ includes the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

(B) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—Section 640(a)(2)(B) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(i) in clause (iv), by inserting “the Republic of Palau,” before “and the Virgin Islands”; and

(ii) by amending clause (v) to read as follows:

“(v) if a base grant has been established through appropriations for the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to provide an amount for that jurisdiction (for Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency’s base grant for the prior fiscal year; and”.

(7) COORDINATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the 3 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management Committee described in section 205(b)(1) and the 2 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee described in section 206(d)(1) to avoid duplication of economic assistance for education provided under section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact of activities or services provided under—

(A) the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(B) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); or

(C) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087-51 et seq.).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall make available, on a space available and reimbursable basis, the medical facilities of the Department of Defense for use by citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, who are properly referred to the facilities by government authorities responsible for provision of medical services in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the affected jurisdictions (as defined in section 104(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)(2))).

(2) PARTICIPATION BY SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY STUDENT TESTING PROGRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense may extend the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Student Testing Program and the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to selected secondary schools in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the extent such programs are available to Department of Defense dependent secondary schools established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, and located outside the United States.

(d) JUDICIAL TRAINING.—In addition to amounts provided under section 261(a)(4) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and under subsections (a) and (b) of Article 1 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the amounts made available to the Secretary of the Interior under section 211(c) to train judges and officials of the judiciary in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Committee of the judicial council of the ninth judicial circuit of the United States.

(e) ELIGIBILITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make the services of the National Health Service Corps available to the residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the same extent, and for the same duration, as services are authorized to be provided to persons residing in any other areas within or outside the United States.

(2) ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.—The Republic of Palau shall be eligible for the programs and services made available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands under section 108(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921g(a)).

(3) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF CERTAIN AGENCIES.—In addition to the programs and services set forth in the operative Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, the programs and services of the following agencies shall be made available to the Republic of Palau:

(A) The Legal Services Corporation.

(B) The Public Health Service.

(C) The Rural Housing Service.

(f) COMPACT IMPACT FAIRNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end the following:

“(N) EXCEPTION FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—With respect to eligibility for benefits for any specified Federal program, paragraph (1) shall not apply to any individual who lawfully resides in the United States in accordance with section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(G)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “MEDICAID EXCEPTION FOR” and inserting “EXCEPTION FOR”; and

(ii) by striking “the designated Federal program defined in paragraph (3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)” and inserting “any designated Federal program”.

(2) EXCEPTION TO 5-YEAR WAIT REQUIREMENT.—Section 403(b)(3) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(b)(3)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C)”.

(3) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ALIEN.—Section 431(b)(8) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)(8)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)”.

(g) CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consult with appropriate officials of the Asian Development Bank and relevant international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c))), as appropriate, with respect to overall economic conditions in, and the activities of other providers of assistance to, the Freely Associated States.

(h) CHIEF OF MISSION.—Section 105(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) Pursuant to section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927), all United States Government executive branch employees in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau fall under the authority of the respective applicable chief of mission, except for employees identified as excepted from the authority under Federal law or by Presidential directive.”.

(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT FOR THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES IN THE BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND INCREASING PERSONNEL FOCUSED ON OCEANIA.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) assign additional full-time equivalent personnel to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State, including to the unit established under subparagraph (B), as the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate, in accordance with paragraph (4)(A); and

(B) establish a unit in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).

(3) FUNCTIONS OF UNIT.—The unit established under paragraph (2)(B) shall be responsible for the following:

(A) Managing the bilateral and regional relations with the Freely Associated States.

(B) Supporting the Secretary of State in leading negotiations relating to the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(C) Coordinating, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and other interagency partners as appropriate, implementation of the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(4) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, assign to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including to the unit established under paragraph (2)(B), not less than 4 additional full-time equivalent staff, who shall not be dual-hatted, including by considering—

(i) the use of existing flexible hiring authorities, including Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETOs); and

(ii) the realignment of existing personnel, including from the United States Mission in Australia, as appropriate;

(B) reduce the number of vacant foreign service positions in the Pacific Island region by establishing an incentive program within the Foreign Service for overseas positions related to the Pacific Island region; and

(C) report to the appropriate congressional committees on progress toward objectives outlined in this subsection beginning 1 year from the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 5 years.

(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Technical assistance may be provided pursuant to section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or section 222 of the U.S.-Palau Compact (as those terms are defined in section 203 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024) by Federal agencies and institutions of the Government of the United States to the extent the assistance shall be provided to States, territories, or units of local government.

“(2) HISTORIC PRESERVATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any technical assistance authorized under paragraph (1) that is provided by the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Coast Guard, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Department of the Interior, or any other Federal agency providing assistance under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, may be provided on a nonreimbursable basis.

“(B) GRANTS.—During the period in which the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (as so defined) and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (as so defined) are in force, the grant programs under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, shall continue to apply to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the same manner and to the same extent as those programs applied prior to the approval of the U.S.-FSM Compact and U.S.-RMI Compact.

“(3) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Any funds provided pursuant to this subsection, subsections (c), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l), and (m), section 102(a), and subsections (a), (b), (f), (g), (h), and (j) of section 103 shall be in addition to, and not charged against, any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands pursuant to—

“(A) the U.S.-FSM Compact;

“(B) the U.S.-RMI Compact; or

“(C) any related subsidiary agreement.”.

(k) CONTINUING TRUST TERRITORY AUTHORIZATION.—The authorization provided by the Act of June 30, 1954 (68 Stat. 330, chapter 423), shall remain available after the effective date of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact with respect to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for transition purposes, including—

(1) completion of projects and fulfillment of commitments or obligations;

(2) termination of the Trust Territory Government and termination of the High Court;

(3) health and education as a result of exceptional circumstances;

(4) ex gratia contributions for the populations of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik; and

(5) technical assistance and training in financial management, program administration, and maintenance of infrastructure.

(l) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT DEFINITION.—Section 2(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201(f)) is amended by striking “and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau”.

(2) COMPACT IMPACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 104(e) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “beginning in fiscal year 2003” and inserting “during the period of fiscal years 2003 through 2023”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “after fiscal year 2003” and inserting “for the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2023”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively.

SEC. 210. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations to carry out the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2) shall be made di-

rectly to the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out the obligations, services and programs.

(2) OBLIGATIONS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The obligations, services, and programs referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) are the obligations, services, and programs under—

(A) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(B) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(C) sections 131 and 132 and paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) of section 221(a) of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(D) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(E) section 209.

(3) AUTHORITY.—The heads of the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities to which appropriations are made available under paragraph (1) as well as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall—

(A) have the authority to carry out any activities that are necessary to fulfill the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2); and

(B) use available funds to carry out the activities under subparagraph (A).

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Any assistance provided pursuant to section 105(j) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(j)) (as amended by section 209(j)) and sections 205(a), 206(a), 207(b), and 209 shall be in addition to and not charged against any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau pursuant to—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(4) any related subsidiary agreement.

(c) REMAINING BALANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 109 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 212(b), 215, and 217 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article IX of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement; and

(2) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 213(b), 216, and 218 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article XI of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(d) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) contributions under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact may be provided as grants for purposes of implementation of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact under the laws of the United States; and

(2) funds appropriated pursuant to section 211 may be deposited in interest-bearing accounts and any interest earned may be retained in and form part of those accounts for use consistent with the purpose of the deposit.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title amends the following:

(1) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

(2) Title I of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 et seq.).

(3) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.).

(4) Section 1259C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note; Public Law 115-91).

(5) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 635).

(f) **CLARIFICATION RELATING TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding section 109 of the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the RMI Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement;

(2) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the FSM Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement;

(3) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 211(b) of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement;

(4) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(5) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-FSM Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

SEC. 211. COMPACT APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—For the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, there are appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until expended, the amounts described in and to carry out the purposes of—

(1) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(3) Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(b) **FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.**—

(1) **APPROPRIATION.**—There is appropriated to the United States Postal Service, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, \$31,700,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the costs of the following provisions that are not otherwise funded:

(A) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact.

(B) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(C) Section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(D) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(2) **DEPOSIT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The amounts appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) shall be deposited into the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39, United States Code, to carry out the provisions described in that paragraph.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—Any amounts deposited into the Postal Service Fund under subparagraph (A) shall be the fiduciary, fiscal, and audit responsibility of the Postal Service.

(C) **FUNDING FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING.**—There is appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out section 209(d) out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$550,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, to remain available until expended.

(d) **TREATMENT OF PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED AMOUNTS.**—The total amounts made available to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands under subsection (a) shall be reduced by amounts made available to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as applicable, under section 2101(a) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 118-15; 137 Stat. 81) (as amended by section 101 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-22; 137 Stat. 114) and section 201 of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-35; 138 Stat. 7)).

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS ACT OF 1988.

Section 2(f)(2) of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 (18 U.S.C. 922 note; Public Law 100-649) is amended by striking “35 years after the effective date of this Act” and inserting “on March 8, 2031”.

SEC. 302. UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “United States Parole Commission Additional Extension Act of 2024”.

(b) **AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984.**—For purposes of section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, each reference in such section to “36 years and 129 days” or “36-year and 129-day period” shall be deemed a reference to “36 years and 335 days” or “36-year and 335-day period”, respectively.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS.

Section 251A(6)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “7” and inserting “8”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “5” and inserting “4”.

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained

for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) **CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman from Connecticut opposed?

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am not opposed.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) will control the 20 minutes in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GRANGER. 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 the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the six-bill appropriations package. I am glad we are here considering full-year bills, and I thank everyone who participated in this process.

With the odds stacked against us, House Republicans made progress in how we fund the government. We drafted the most conservative bills in history. Members submitted over 1,000 amendments. We considered House bills individually on the floor and we avoided a massive omnibus measure.

In total, we increased Defense funding and made target cuts. We also maintained our legacy riders that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted to remove.

Overall, this bill honors our commitment to our veterans, strengthens our energy security, holds agencies accountable, supports our farmers and ranchers, and makes our transportation systems safer.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that I must rise in opposition

to the measure before us. I am anguished over it for one simple reason: Veterans' lives are on the line.

I have the greatest respect for my colleague, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, and I know it was a difficult road to get to this point. I also appreciate the work of our Democratic leader to try and find consensus. There are many good things in this bill, things that will benefit everyday Americans, but as ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, this bill comes at the expense of our most vulnerable veterans and, therefore, I cannot support it.

However, I will be clear that I am not asking my colleagues to oppose the bill.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee and dean of the House of Representatives.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, I rise in support of the appropriations act that we are considering today.

The fiscal situation facing the Nation requires Congress to make significant spending reductions while maintaining strong commitments to the safety, security, and well-being of the American people.

After tough but fair bipartisan negotiations, we have produced a strong bill that prioritizes everyday Americans while rightsizing the bureaucracy.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, many agencies with important missions face reductions under this legislation. We believe it is important to reverse the out-of-control growth of the Federal Government and that is reflected in this agreement.

The CJS bill scales back spending by holding most agencies to '23 levels or lower. Agencies must refocus on their core missions and responsibilities.

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Despite limited resources, we maintain robust funding that prioritizes the fight against fentanyl, support for local law enforcement, and efforts to counter China by supporting innovation, space exploration, and scientific research.

We do this while also utilizing the power of the purse to address the weaponization of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the overreach of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. To that end, the FBI and ATF will be receiving less money than last year.

In addition, the CJS bill contains two new policy riders to protect the American people. One prohibits the Department of Justice from targeting parents who exercise their right to free speech

at local school board meetings. The other prohibits the Department of Justice from investigating churches on the basis of their religious beliefs.

The bill supports local law enforcement by including critical funding for Byrne Justice grants and COPS hiring grants.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. This assistance will help empower our local police departments and ensure they have the resources they need to safeguard our neighborhoods. Law enforcement plays an important role in the well-being of every American in every congressional district. Passage of this bill today sends a strong message: We have their backs.

In closing, I thank Chairwoman GRANGER for being a trouper in tough circumstances and has done a wonderful job. I congratulate her. I also thank the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. He has been a valued partner and colleague in this effort. I also thank all the members of the subcommittee for their help and assistance, as well as Ranking Member DELAURO.

This legislation is a product of good-faith, bipartisan negotiations. It is a win for the American people. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which provides funding for domestic programs that curb the rising cost of living, create higher-paying jobs, confront the climate crisis, honor our commitments to America's veterans, and protect women's rights.

In a divided country, I am pleased that Democrats and Republicans in the House and in the Senate united and produced this legislation to make government work for the people. Democrats are doing what we always do: put people over politics, follow the law, and reach a bipartisan compromise to grow the middle class and to deliver for the American people.

This bill includes a billion dollars to fully fund the Women, Infants, and Children program. It prevents 5 million people from losing their housing. It increases our investments in our infrastructure and creates jobs. It restores funding for rail and transit systems.

These funding bills, the product of bipartisan negotiations, help keep our communities safe and healthy. We are keeping government open, protecting the people in need, and moving our country forward.

This legislation does not have everything either side may have wanted, but I am pleased that many of the extreme cuts in policies proposed by House Re-

publicans were excluded. House Democrats rejected outright their archaic restriction on women's reproductive healthcare.

I am proud that this bill protects the progress we previously made to reverse underinvestment in domestic programs that empower and protect middle-class families.

To help Americans contending with an elevated cost of living, this bill fights inflation and fully supports key lifelines such as food assistance, ensuring people in this great country of ours do not go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of this package, and I look forward to finalizing and passing the remaining 2024 funding bills in due time.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024.

I commend Chairwoman GRANGER for her leadership of the Appropriations Committee and for getting the first six bills across the finish line. I also thank the Interior Subcommittee Ranking Member PINGREE for her partnership on this bill.

Together, we have negotiated a reasonable compromise to avoid a government shutdown that fails to respond to our Nation's needs and maintain our public lands.

The Interior and Environment division provides nondefense top-line resources totaling \$38.9 billion, nearly 4 percent below the FY 2023 level.

Cutting funding is never easy, but with the national debt in excess of \$34 trillion, we make tough choices in this bill to rein in Federal spending. Last Congress alone, \$3 trillion was spent outside the normal appropriation process. That is 3 trillion additional dollars. As I have said repeatedly, simply holding funding flat is not enough. We must curb out-of-control spending and get our budget back on track. I am pleased that this bill does that and leads us in the right direction.

We reduced funding across most agencies and bureaus, and the Environmental Protection Agency is cut by nearly 10 percent.

Despite the reduced allocation, the bill provides an additional \$34 million for healthcare, law enforcement, and related programs across Indian Country, and for the Indian Health Service, the bill continues advance appropriations, totaling \$5.2 billion. The advance appropriation is a program that was started by Ranking Member PINGREE when she was chairman of this committee, and we have continued that.

The bill also fully funds the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. Let me explain that that program is vitally important to public land States. Because we can't collect taxes on Federal lands within those States, this is supposed to make up for the taxes that would come

from those lands if they were held in private lands. This is vitally important to public land States. It is not enough, but we fully funded it in this program.

It also provides an additional \$260 million to maintain wildland firefighter pay without irresponsible budget gimmicks.

In terms of policy, the bill maintains longstanding legacy riders to prevent the ESA listing of sage-grouse and to exempt farmers and livestock producers from burdensome greenhouse gas permitting requirements.

The bill bolsters our energy independence by encouraging domestic production of critical and rare earth minerals and rejects administration proposals to increase offshore energy inspection fees and authorize onshore inspection fees.

For my constituents in Idaho, I am especially pleased that the bill blocks the Lava Ridge Wind Project until the Secretary of the Interior analyzes, in consultation with local officials and stakeholders, and they look at alternate plans to reduce the harmful impacts of this project.

In closing, I thank all the Members for their work on this bill. It is hard to reduce spending, yet we have been able to do that. I congratulate the staff on both sides of the aisle who worked very hard on this. While we were home, they were here working on this bill all night long. I include the staff on the other side of the rotunda. These bills are hard to compromise on, but we were able to get it done.

It represents a fair compromise that allows us to meet the spending levels agreed to in the Fiscal Responsibility Act and manage our public lands. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this piece of legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

The fiscal year 2024 Energy and Water bill ushers in new horizons for jobs and progress for our region and Nation. Our bill assures investments in modernized energy production, vital water infrastructure, and nuclear national security, all essential for American independence inside our borders.

This bipartisan Energy and Water bill funds the U.S. Department of Energy, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and regional commissions and authorities impacting every corner of our Nation. This includes the Appalachian, Delta, Denali, Northern Border, Southeast Crescent, Southwest Border, and the Great Lakes.

U.S. energy independence in perpetuity is our consistent, paramount, strategic goal, and each year our Nation makes significant progress toward it.

This bill also assures that our Nation's nuclear security assets, includ-

ing the nuclear Navy, are modern and ready, both as a deterrent and to safeguard our national security. With Vladimir Putin's recent reckless threats about launching nuclear weapons in Europe and former President Donald Trump's appeasing reaction, this bill is needed as an affirmation of American will to protect and defend our people and assure our Nation's security posture against all enemies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill. I thank our able chair, CHARLES FLEISCHMANN, for his dutiful and responsible service to our Nation.

I include in the RECORD this Proposal for the 2024 Energy and Water bill.

Proposal: A Great Lakes Authority

For the consideration of: Joseph R. Biden, Jr. President, United States of America. From: Rep. MARCY KAPTUR (D-OH), Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force; Rep. DEBBIE DINGELL (D-MI), Co-Chair, Great Lakes Task Force; Rep. PAUL TONKO (D-NY), Chair, Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee; Rep. BOBBY BUSH (D-IL), Chair, Energy Subcommittee; Rep. HALEY STEVENS (D-MI), Co-Chair, House Manufacturing Task Force

1. SUMMARY

The eight states that comprise the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes watershed contain the core of America's commercial and defense industrial base.

The Department of Homeland Security defines these industries as “America's Critical Manufacturing Sector”. Failure or disruption within these industries would result in cascading disruptions in other critical sectors of the economy, in multiple regions, and have significant national economic impact.

This existing industrial base contains the nation's largest pool of skilled and experienced production workers. The Region has an almost inexhaustible supply of fresh water. These 8 States do 25 percent of all U.S. trade with Canada, which is this nation's largest export market. In 2020, Canada imported more than \$255 billion of U.S. goods and services.

This base provides a solid foundation for creating a unique 21st Century regional development strategy—one that can enable the United States to (1) build back its manufacturing base, (2) create millions of new and better jobs within the Region, and (3) restore an assured, U.S. defense industrial sector and a resilient energy platform sufficient to power U.S.-based production.

Franklin D. Roosevelt created the model for such a strategy in 1933 with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—a unique institution brought into being to control the raging waters of the 3 Tennessee River, provide low-cost electricity, and advance the economic development of the under-invested seven states in that Basin.

Our times require a 21st Century version of such an Authority in the Great Lakes Region—one that can protect and wisely use the fresh waters of the Great Lakes, build back better the Region's economy and be a necessary exemplar for climate change remediation.

The GLA's mission would be to:

Restore and protect America's principal source of fresh water.

Foster innovation, commercialize it, and by that create more and better jobs.

Strengthen and expand the core U.S. manufacturing and defense industrial jobs base, and the required energy systems to sustain/power production.

Create world-class worker education, training and adjustment institutions.

Work with the Government and Provinces of Canada on our mutual Great Lakes challenges including the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Seaway Corporation.

The Chair of the Great Lakes Authority would be a Cabinet level official appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Chair would represent the U.S. Government. A five person board lead by the Chair would be joined by four bipartisan board members appointed by the U.S. House and Senate leadership.

The GLA would be governed by a five-person, bipartisan Board, each of whom serves for a five-year term. The Chair would be a Cabinet level official appointed by the President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and be a full-time position. The other four members of the Board would be appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Each would be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Eligible appointees would be limited to residents of the Region who are currently active as a corporate manufacturing CEO, head of a major financial institution, President of a Land Grant University, or CEO of a major distribution company. These four positions would be part-time and compensated as is normal with private corporations.

The Great Lakes Authority would be funded by the same ways and means as was, and is now, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and include both federally appropriated funds and revenues generated by GLA projects, with the same annual financing similar to that of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Great Lakes Authority would be authorized and funded to:

Create and administer a regional infrastructure bank that could finance domestic civil works that have a dedicated revenue stream such as water and wastewater systems,

Create and finance other domestic civil works from appropriated funds,

Create and operate a business development fund to assist in the establishment and expansion of regional-based manufacturers,

Create university-based research, development, and technical consortiums,

Create the 18th National Laboratory, with satellites as necessary in GLA states, and dedicate it to advancing applied science, the manufacturing arts, and the commercialization of advanced technology products,

Create a patent hub that will aggressively invest and develop new clean energy inventions, technologies and industries, and

Create and fund world-class remedial, transition and advanced education and training institutions and programs that invest in the workers of the Region.

The United States has long dealt with regional challenges with regional solutions. The TVA is an example. The purpose of this proposal is to outline why a Great Lakes Authority is needed and identify how it can make a major contribution to building back better this vital region of the United States.

Today, alone of the U.S.'s major economic regions, the Great Lakes states do not have such a vital development institution.

2. THE CHALLENGE

Manufacturing and Job Losses:

The United States has closed 91,000 factories and lost 5 million manufacturing jobs since NAFTA was enacted in 1993 and China joined the World Trade Organization in 2000. The 8-state Great Lakes Region lost 1.5 millions of those jobs—that is, 30 percent. Many of the Region's people were unable to adapt and have responded with addiction, suicide, conspiracy fantasies, and political radicalization

Weakened Finances:

These losses of factories and jobs, in turn, have greatly weakened the fiscal capacity of the Region's state and local governments. A measure of this fiscal crisis is found in the high municipal indebtedness of the Region's cities. Detroit and Cleveland each have a municipal bonded indebtedness of more than two billion dollars. Toledo owes \$1.6 billion and Milwaukee almost \$1.4 billion. Faced with the high costs of operation, repairs, rehabilitation and replacement, coupled with unavoidable federal mandates that come with only 50 percent funding, these municipalities are forced to increase utility rates on customers who are already in economic trouble.

The On-Going Great Lakes Ecological Catastrophe:

The Region's five Great Lakes—Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior—are the source of 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 84 percent of North America's. These Lakes undergird life, work and recreation for tens of millions of people. Yet, before our eyes they are succumbing to an ecological disaster of epic proportions.

Dan Egan in *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* writes: The Great Lakes are now home to 186 non-native species. None has been more devastating than the Junior Mint-sized zebra and quagga mussels . . . leaving trillions upon trillions of filter-feeding quagga mussels sucking the life out of the lake itself . . . native fish populations have been decimated. Bird-killing botulism outbreaks plague lakeshores. Poisonous algae slick capable of shutting down public water supplies have become a routine summertime threat. A virus that causes deadly hemorrhaging in dozens of species of fish, dubbed by some scientists the "fish Ebola" has become endemic in the lakes and threatens to spread across the continent. Yet, invasive species are only one of many threats to what in fact is the largest inland sea in the world. Researchers at the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan have created a "threat map" that analyzes 34 distinct threats that affect these five lakes. The composite stresses include not only invasive species but also toxic algae, erosion, development, waste plastics and toxic pollutants among other sources.

Cumulative Stress in the Great Lakes Today:

The state and local governments of the region are themselves so economically strapped that they are fiscally incapable of making the remediations that the Lakes require. Major fiscal help and institutional leadership from the Federal Government is essential if this ecological catastrophe is to be stopped and then reversed. Innovation—Regarding innovation in the Great Lakes region, a telling measure of the region's innovation decline is found by comparing whether these eight states have kept pace with the rest of the United States in devising inventions that are sufficiently new, non-obvious and useful that inventors and companies file and receive a patent from the United States Patent Office (USPTO).

The Great Lakes states have not kept pace with innovation. Specifically, in 1990, 51,000 U.S. patents were issued and in 2020 the USPTO granted 188,000—an increase of 265 percent. 8 In 2020, California residents were granted 571 percent more patents than they were in 1990. Oregon residents got 553 percent more. Washington State residents were awarded a whopping 901 percent more. Not a single Great Lake State even reached the national average by 2020. All fell behind the pace of U.S. invention.

The Nuclear Power Issue:

Heavy power demands across the region require a dependable baseload energy supply with a highly skilled workforce.

Today, the Region has 17 nuclear reactors at 15 sites in operation. Nuclear power provides 15 percent of the electricity for Ohio and Wisconsin, 23 percent for Minnesota, 29 percent for Michigan, 33 percent for New York, 41 percent for Pennsylvania, and 53 percent for Illinois. Competition pressures from massive, new natural gas supplies have created financial pressures that make nuclear power more expensive. These zero net carbon nuclear plants have become financially uncompetitive. Yet, thousands of companies and hundreds of thousands of workers depend on this nuclear base load.

For the foreseeable future, nuclear energy must be a key segment of electricity generation or neither economic development nor climate change goals can be attained. Ways are means are required to extend the operation of these nuclear facilities and, working with all stakeholders, increase electric production beyond what private enterprise appears to be able to facilitate in a quickly changing and uncertain market.

The Brookings Study:

A decade ago, the Great Recession and the collapse of the U.S. auto industry highlighted the manufacturing decline in the Region. Regional leaders engaged the Brookings Institute to help identify a consensus among private-sector and public stakeholders as to what to do to create the next economy. The result was a report: "The Next Economy: Economic Recovery and Transformation in the Great Lakes Region."

The report called for the federal, state, metropolitan leaders to join with the private and philanthropic sectors to:

Invest in the assets that matter—innovation, infrastructure and human capital.

Devise new public-private institutions that are market-oriented and performance-driven. Reimagine metros' form and governance structures to set the right conditions for economic growth.

The report was issued in September 2010. The unstated expectation was that the report and leadership consensus would guide the Obama Administration's second round of recovery actions post-2010. It never happened. In November 2010, control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives changed. What happened next is that the U.S. devolved into ten years of national political gridlock. Neither the state, nor local governments, nor the industries, nor the companies, nor the people of the region could meet the magnitude of this challenge alone. Nor could they form a joint regional strategy because there was no regional institution through which the leaders of the Region could define, advocate and create such a truly regional strategy.

What the Great Lakes Region needed then, and needs even more now, is a 21st Century Great Lakes Authority—an institution that can help the Region innovate, create jobs and confront the compounding environmental and climate challenges. This proposed Great Lakes Authority can be that Institution. By its structure, focus, coherence, funding and leadership it can help the Region and nation envision, implement and sustain an aggressive Great Lakes strategic development agenda.

This proposed Authority can be an institutional anchor to aid the Region to sustain a long-term effort through the storms, calms and vagaries of national policy making.

A Great Lakes Authority:

The United States has always supported regional solutions to regional development and regional challenges. The principal of these efforts is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, which traces its roots to 1812 and was formed, in part, to serve arid parts of the nation with regional water resources and power generation.

Then, in 1933 during the economic depression, FDR created the 7-state TVA. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson created the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission. Their successors have created regional commissions in other parts of the U.S. These regional instrumentalities were created to strengthen the economies of these Regions and help those states achieve economic equality with the rest of the Nation. Additional regional efforts have been proposed in other states. Two of these Regional Commissions (Delta and Northern Border) have been provided miniscule funding.

The Southeast Crescent Region and Southwest Border Regional Commissions have not been activated. Strikingly, the Great Lakes Region has neither a Regional Authority, such as TVA, nor even a lesser-funded regional commission. Simply put, building back better the Great Lakes Region is a challenge that requires an empowered and well-financed Great Lakes Authority.

Lessons from the TVA:

Now, almost nine decades after its founding, some lessons from TVA's experiences provide clear guidance for this proposed Great Lakes Authority.

1. Many environmental and economic problems are not bound by state boundaries. Regional approaches are required to solve regional challenges.

2. The development institutions and capacities of any Region are so atomized as to be ineffectual when dealing with broader issues of mutual concern. The 2010 Brookings report highlighted that: "The metropolitan areas of the Great Lakes are ruled by a byzantine network of cities, counties, towns, townships, villages, school boards, fire districts, library districts, workforce boards, industrial development authorities, water and sewer districts and a host of other entities." The Brookings scholars concluded that the metropolitan areas of the Great Lakes need to begin speaking with a unified voice on economic development and design and implement a unified strategy. A Regional Authority can facilitate such coherence.

3. The TVA has a 200-person unit devoted to the economic development of the 7-state TVA region. It is far larger, better funded and more effective than any of the 7 state efforts in the Region. The TVA provides; (a) an international capacity to identify and source private capital investment, (b) secure domestic finance through state, municipal, banking and venture funds, as well as (c) the guidance required to select sites and coordinate infrastructure and agreements at low, long-term interest rates. With these capacities, TVA has created a powerful supplement to state and local efforts to attract capital investment and jobs into the Tennessee Valley. It works well. The Great Lakes basin would benefit from this TVA approach.

Conclusion:

When conceiving the TVA, President Franklin D. Roosevelt focused on equity. What FDR challenged was an inequality that was out of control between capital and labor and also between the regions of the United States, particularly the Southern and Appalachian regions. FDR closed much of this inequality—both between people and between regions. Since the early 1980s, the inequalities between the few and the many, the coasts and the interior, and the developed and underdeveloped regions of the U.S. have widened.

Now, it appears that a new era has opened with the Administration of President Joseph Biden. The new balance between economic efficiency and economic equity now appears to be once again emphasizing a more equitable distribution of economic growth and opportunities for both people and regions. The Great Lakes region has been falling behind by almost every measure and needs substantial attention to reverse economic and

environmental challenges. A Great Lakes Authority is as vital a development tool for the Biden-Harris Era of today as TVA was for the Roosevelt Era of the 1930s.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the chairman of the Committee on Rules and the chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I begin with some much-deserved thank yous. I thank the Speaker of the House. This deal would not have come together without his leadership and support.

I particularly thank Chair GRANGER and Ranking Member DELAURO for their work and their leadership in putting a package together they can get across this floor in a bipartisan manner.

I would be remiss not to thank my negotiating counterparts, Ranking Member QUIGLEY and Senator SCHATZ and Ranking Member HYDE-SMITH on the Senate side of the rotunda. They were just terrific to work with in every way.

Finally and always, we have outstanding staff. We all know that. This bill wouldn't be here without their hard work.

Obviously, I focus my remarks, Mr. Speaker, very quickly on the portion of the bill that I had the most to do with, and that is the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development portion. There are four areas in that bill I am especially proud of.

First, Members of both parties on both sides of the rotunda worked really hard on safety first: safety for people who are flying, safety for people who are traveling by rail, and safety for men and women on the highways. We met the requirement there and fully funded all those agencies.

Second, this is probably the most robust funding that the Federal Aviation Administration has ever received. We have money in there for 1,800 new air traffic controllers who are desperately needed. We have additional money for technology and infrastructure programs and simulators to make sure they get the most up-to-date training we can possibly provide for them. That was a real accomplishment, and it marries up very nicely with the FAA reauthorization bill that I hope we pass later this Congress.

Third, we maintained the safety net for people in public housing. We all know what has happened to the cost of rents and housing; and, frankly, we didn't want to put anybody out of their home, and we avoided doing that.

□ 1330

Finally, and particularly important to me personally, we have historic gains for Indian housing programs and Indian road programs in this bill.

Again, none of that could have happened without the people I thanked earlier: the Speaker and particularly the chairwoman and ranking member

of the subcommittee and my negotiating partners.

I urge passage of this legislation, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to be associated and very proud that it will come to and move across this floor, as it should, in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this six-bill package, including the section on Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA.

The ag bill affects the lives of every single American—rural, urban, and suburban—every single day and ensures that Americans have access to abundant, safe, and affordable food, fiber, medicine, and medical devices.

The bill takes care of our families, helps prevent hunger, and fully funds SNAP as well as WIC. The bill is free from almost all the extreme policy riders in the previous versions, and it rejects interference with Americans' healthcare and reproductive freedom, as well as attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

It protects the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to use the CCC, and it blocks cuts to distressed Farm Service Agency borrowers to help the farmers who feed our country.

It rejects severe cuts to rural electric co-ops and the REAP program, which helps rural businesses save on energy costs and helps make rural energy grids more sustainable and resilient.

It protects small meat and poultry producers and promotes industry competition to reduce the cost of food.

It makes crucial investments in rural housing and rental assistance as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

While the bill is not the best, it brings us closer than the earlier versions to meeting the essential needs of the American people.

I commend President Biden and the bipartisan leadership and staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his important contribution to this bill. He has been wonderful to work with side by side, and I appreciate that very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our wonderful chair for yielding the time to me, and I really appreciate her kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, particularly the

Energy-Water Development appropriations bill. As chairman of that subcommittee, I worked hard to ensure the bill includes many House Republican priorities.

At a total of \$58.2 billion, the bill advances our national security, energy security, and economic competitiveness in a fiscally responsible manner.

To support our nuclear deterrent, the bill funds the National Nuclear Security Administration at \$24.1 billion, an increase of almost \$2 billion above fiscal year 2023. Specifically, the bill fully funds all major weapons and infrastructure modernization activities, including the W93 warhead, the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile, which is a variant of the B61 gravity bomb, and the restart of plutonium pit production capability.

On the nondefense side of the bill, I was very pleased to be able to secure increases for the funding of the Department of Energy Office of Science, including fusion energy science. This funding will enhance America's role as the global leader of scientific discovery and lay the foundation for future scientific breakthroughs.

The programs funded in the Energy-Water Development bill also help improve our Nation's energy security. To reduce our reliance on foreign sources of critical materials, the bill provides strong support for the full spectrum of production technologies.

Remaining a leader in nuclear technologies will ensure reliable energy here at home and will help allies across the globe.

The bill sustains the Department of Energy's nuclear energy base program and also redirects previously appropriated funds to higher priorities, specifically: \$2.8 billion to develop domestic capability for producing low-enriched uranium, including high-assay low-enriched uranium that will be necessary for upcoming advanced reactors, and \$910 million to support advanced modular reactor design and deployment activities.

There are many other important provisions in this Energy-Water Development bill, but before my time is up, I congratulate Chairwoman GRANGER on bringing together this appropriations package. I also acknowledge the efforts of our colleagues across the aisle, especially my ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, and our colleagues across the Capitol.

Finally, I thank the staff for all of their hard work throughout this past year: our majority staff, Angie, Perry, Nora, Richie, Scott, Angelina, and Janet; in my personal office, Daniel and Ian; and on the minority side, Scott, Jocelyn, and Adam.

Mr. Speaker, this is a strong bill for America with many House Republicans' priorities, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished ranking member of the

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the MILCON-VA subcommittee ranking member, I support this minibus not only because we blocked nearly all poison pill policy riders but also because it includes major Democratic priorities.

We restored military construction funding to \$2 billion above the budget request, dedicated resiliency and PFAS remediation funding, and boosted DOD housing oversight.

We held strong on our commitment to veterans by providing \$121 billion for VA medical care, increased and protected funding for gender-specific care for women, and blocked Republican attempts to further restrict women's abortion access and counseling.

I am so pleased my friend, Chairman CARTER, and I joined forces to end harmful VA research on dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates within 2 years.

President Biden and Congress built a minibus that lowers costs, creates jobs, funds food and housing lifelines, and fortifies America's energy independence with cutting-edge climate research.

In other parts of this bill, I am proud we fully fund Everglades restoration at the President's budget request of \$415 million. President Biden has delivered time and time again for Florida's environment and Everglades restoration specifically. This funding allows restoration projects like the EAA Reservoir to continue to move forward so that we can save America's Everglades.

Finally, these bills provide millions of dollars for community project funding back home. I secured more than \$15 million in local projects headed toward Broward County, and communities across America will see similar assistance.

In my community, that means funding to house veterans and help raise local streets in Hollywood to mitigate climate change. It means vital help for law enforcement to conduct more detailed investigations of human trafficking cases. I was able to secure support for local reef preservation; genetic disease research; water, sewer, and drainage upgrades; as well as help to fix nagging local infrastructure repairs that my constituents navigate every day.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this minibus.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

I, too, rise to support the fiscal year 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act. I

particularly thank Ranking Member DELAURO for her leadership and perseverance in working on this. I also thank my chair on the committee, Chairman SIMPSON, who is a pleasure to work with. I appreciate his collaboration and partnership throughout this process.

I thank Chairwoman GRANGER for her work on this and to all the staff who have made all the difference in us being able to put this together.

As my colleague, Chairman SIMPSON, said, this wasn't necessarily an easy bill. It is never easy to make cuts to programs that I consider vital and particularly important to what we do, but I am pleased that this bill continues our investments to care for our planet, fight the climate emergency, and meet our trust obligations to Tribal nations.

This bill rejects the \$13 billion in devastating cuts imposed in the House Republican bill originally and does not include more than 100 poison pill policy riders.

The bill provides necessary resources to deal with the threat of wildfires in the West and additional funding to continue the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's pay supplement for wildland firefighters.

The bill also protects arts and humanities, maintaining the enacted funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, supporting arts in communities across this country.

Finally, this bill supports Native American families by investing in a strong and resilient Indian Country, including through education and healthcare programs.

Mr. Speaker, these are important investments to all Americans, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time, and I rise in support of this bill.

The Commerce-Justice-Science division of this bill preserves solid funding for an array of important public investments.

For example, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program is level funded at \$175 million. That is so important. The bill provides strong and continued level funding for NOAA climate research and NASA Earth science.

Before I go on, I have some thank-yous to hand out. We have an incredibly hardworking staff. Bob Bonner, Shannon McCully, Faye Cobb, and Nora Faye spent countless sleepless nights working on this enormous project for this bill.

We can't leave out Chris Bigelow, Raquel Spencer, Adam Wilson, and

Jason Gray. These people have been indispensable in putting together this monumental piece of legislation.

I am thankful for the very hard work of Chair KAY GRANGER and Chairman HAL ROGERS, my counterpart on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

I am also thankful for the members of my subcommittee on the Democratic side: GRACE MENG of New York, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER and DAVID TRONE of Maryland, and JOE MORELLE of New York. They have all worked hard on this, Mr. Speaker, and I am thankful for the very hard work put in by Ranking Member DELAURO and especially by our leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES. These people together forced the removal of nearly 70 bad policy riders covering environmental policy, immigration, women's health, culture war issues, and more, including the removal of more than a dozen harmful gun riders.

This bill provides robust funding for community policing and local justice assistance grants. It rejects the GOP's proposed cut of \$400 million from the FBI—the FBI which protects us from all sorts of murder and mayhem, the elite police force of our Nation. We couldn't cut it like that, and we wouldn't let it happen.

This bill provides \$13 million in increases for programs under the Violence Against Women Act, continued level funding for grants under the community violence intervention and prevention program, the STOP School Violence Act, and the Victims of Child Abuse Act grants.

Its level funding for correctional officers in the Bureau of Prisons is so important.

It provides a solid increase of \$8 million for the DOJ Antitrust Division to help keep prices low in this country because they will get away from us if we don't enforce our antitrust laws.

I am also proud that we secured continued level funding for the Legal Services Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the CJS appropriations agreement represents a solid effort to preserve these priorities, and I urge our fellow Members to support it.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague and friend from the State of Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I note that we have only really had now two people speak in opposition to the bill out of the 40 minutes it has been on the floor, and that is just the reality of what we deal with here.

The fact of the matter is all of this is a shell game. Last year, Republicans were presented with a bill. It was supposed to cap spending at \$1.59 trillion. Now, we have legislation that will do no such thing.

Republicans will go around and talk about how they scored major wins, how they somehow delivered for the American people. The fact of the matter is we did no such thing.

We signed up for caps at \$1.59 trillion. We could have had \$1.56 trillion if we would have passed a CR this year that would have triggered the caps.

□ 1345

The Limit, Save, Grow Act that we passed is 1.471 trillion, but we are not doing that. We are going to blow the lid off of caps of \$1.66 trillion. That is what we are actually going to do, while my Republican colleagues are going to run around and say that they somehow delivered cuts by saying \$24 billion of cuts off of a CR that not one Member of this body could come down to the floor and explain.

I would take that challenge. If any Member of the body can come down and explain to the American people in terms that they can understand, explain it. Explain exactly what the cuts look like.

What you will get are things like, oh, we cut 7 percent out of the FBI. What they won't tell you is 95 percent of that cut is eliminating an earmark from Richard Shelby because Richard Shelby is no longer here to defend his pet project building back in Alabama.

They are going to say, oh, look, we are cutting the Department of Justice and the FBI. The truth of the matter is, we didn't get any of the major wins that we worked all last year to get—all of these things like defunding the sanctuary cities refusing to report criminal aliens. That is gone. All of these measures are not in the bill.

I rise in opposition to this legislation. I hope my Republican colleagues will oppose it. We deserve to deliver for the American people the way we said we would to cut spending and secure the border of the United States.

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

Mr. Speaker, I need to shine a light on an ugly truth buried deep in section 413 of this bill. What is this section all about?

When a veteran applies for benefits they have earned, they are screened to make sure that they are competent to use those benefits to not take advantage of. If a veteran is determined to be mentally incompetent, they are appointed a fiduciary, and by law, they are reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, otherwise known as the NICS list.

A determination of mental competency is typically based on very serious mental health conditions like schizophrenia and dementia, and there are various serious reasons why a person with those conditions should not be able to purchase a firearm.

It is also the case that firearms are used in 68 percent of veterans' death by suicide. Suicide is a serious problem among veterans, and since I have had the honor to be on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have fought to prevent the scourge of veteran suicide.

So why on Earth would this Congress cede one more important safeguard against a veteran's death? I personally

cannot, and that is why I cannot support this bill.

Republicans have pushed this type of provision for over a decade. I know because I have fought every year against this provision. They have done so with misinformation and fearmongering. Democrats have successfully fought this legislation in committee, which is why Republicans did not have the courage to bring this to the floor in the light of day and to have this body consider it through the normal process through regular order.

Instead, they crammed it into this must-pass bill, enacting policy through the back door of a spending bill. They have abandoned all of their other so-called priorities because they wanted this so badly. They wanted so badly to make sure that vulnerable veterans could access more firearms.

This is wrong. Lives are on the line. Veterans' lives are on the line, and I will not agree to legislation that will cause more people's lives to be lost to gun violence.

House Democrats have been working to put people over politics, but it is clear that the Republican majority is content to put politics over veterans, including prioritizing politics over veterans' lives.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 4366 and a statement from the Giffords organization, which both speak to the harm of this provision.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 4366—CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—REP. GRANGER, R-TX)

The Administration strongly urges swift passage of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes. This bipartisan legislation represents a compromise and neither side got everything it wanted, but it would prevent a damaging shutdown of several key agencies, protect key priorities and make progress for the American people.

H.R. 4366 includes important investments that advance a range of key national priorities, building on the progress that has been made over the past three years both in annual appropriations and through legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The bill fully funds the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, protecting essential benefits for millions of women and children across the Nation. The bill also maintains rental assistance for millions of families, and expands assistance to an additional 3,000 households. The bill also sustains critical infrastructure programs, maintains pay raises for Federal wildland fire fighters, and fully funds veterans' medical care. In addition, the bill also increases funding for rural housing assistance, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Violence Against Women Act, and science investments at the Department of Energy.

The Administration applauds the inclusion of other key priorities, including the Compacts of Free Association, which represents the bedrock of America's broader strategic interests and engagements in the Indo-Pacific. The Administration also appreciates the extension of several vital health care programs, including the Special Diabetes Program, as well as a seven-year extension of the Undetectable Firearms Act.

While the Administration is pleased that hundreds of poison pill provisions and extreme funding cuts were rejected, the Administration opposes the language included in the bill that would potentially undermine the ability of the Veterans' Affairs Department to report a beneficiary to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to keep guns out of the hands of those prohibited under Federal law from purchasing or possessing firearms. The Administration remains committed to exploring every possible pathway to keep guns out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them and ensure the safety of these individuals and their communities.

The Administration urges the Congress to send this critical legislation to the President's desk for signature without delay and to quickly act on the remaining funding bills as well as the bipartisan national security supplemental.

[From GIFFORDS, Mar. 5, 2024]

Contact: Mary Yatrousis.

SPENDING BILLS MAKE AMERICANS LESS SAFE

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, GIFFORDS, the national gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, condemned the FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The funding bill makes cuts to law enforcement agencies essential to curbing gun violence and weakens the country's gun safety laws.

The legislation includes a harmful provision that will enable veterans who have been deemed "incompetent" by the Department Veterans Affairs (VA) to purchase a firearm by withholding information from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Currently, veterans with this designation, who are often at elevated risk of suicide, are prohibited from having guns and data is submitted to NICS in order to prevent these veterans from purchasing firearms. According to the latest National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report from the Veterans Administration, more than 17 veterans died by suicide each day in 2021.

Vanessa N. Gonzalez, GIFFORDS Vice President of Government and Political Affairs:

"These flawed funding bills gut critical law enforcement agencies and public safety programs, undermining the historic gun safety progress made in the last few years. After increased investment in gun violence prevention and the landmark passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which included support from key Republican leaders, this country saw a drop in homicides in 2023 for the first time in years. But with these dangerous policies enabling easier access to firearms for those most at risk and significant funding cuts, our families and communities will be endangered.

"Republicans and Democrats alike failed to prioritize public safety in this bill by including a dangerous gun lobby provision to block the VA from protecting veterans who may be at risk of suicide. Republicans duck the issue of gun violence and instead blame mental illness, then fight to allow individuals with diminished mental capacity unfettered access to guns. We need leaders in Congress who will stand up for the families and the communities they represent and fight to save lives—even when it's hard."

The FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act contains six funding bills including Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Act and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The legislation includes major cuts to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the FBI, as well as to major public safety programs like grants to states to

upgrade criminal and mental health records in NICS, and the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act grants.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I will not rest until this rider is gone from any future appropriations bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in that effort.

For now I must oppose this bill. There are a lot of good things in this bill, and I don't ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill. I have a great deal of respect for my good friend, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. DELAUNO, and the significant amount of work that went into this, but I must follow my conscience because of my responsibilities to veterans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I sadly must oppose the bill, but I do not urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2024 Consolidated Appropriation Act and the inclusion of language from the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act. As a Member of Congress who has lived my personal as well as my civic life among the peoples and leaders of the Pacific Island nations and territories, I want first to recognize here the inclusive leadership of Speaker JOHNSON, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman WESTERMAN, and House Foreign Affairs Chairman McCLEURE. Each of these leaders in our current House Majority reached out for my insights and perspectives as a House member who comes from the Pacific, regarding this legislation approving renewal of the Compact of Free Association.

I also join all stakeholders in the future success of America's relations with the U.S. aligned nations of the Pacific, as well as our American territories, in expressing deep gratitude for the bipartisan and bicameral coordination and cooperation in Congress on COFA renewal from 2020 to 2024. As House and Senate committee members we provided necessary policy guidance to the President, National Security Council, State Department, and Interior Department, making clear Congressional interests and expectations that would need to be addressed before statutory ratification by both Houses of terms included in COFA renewal agreements.

This bipartisan cooperation included the support of House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member GRIJALVA and House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member MEEKS. Both colleagues cosponsored H.J. Res. 96 with Chairman WESTERMAN and Chairman McCLEURE. Thereby endorsing the original COFA renewal bill that has been inserted in the bill we approve today, which was developed through the bicameral and bipartisan cooperation with the leadership and staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources

Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in conjunction with House and Senate hearings on COFA renewal.

Of equal importance, all stakeholders in the COFA success story should recognize the national leaders and peoples of our COFA partner nations for strong commitment to the future success of the COFA alliance. Our closest allies in the Pacific acted with wisdom and patience during delays in the COFA renewal process due to initial U.S. negotiating positions that were not feasible in the COFA nations or in Congress. When ill-advised U.S. positions resulted in failure to conclude negotiations and approve COFA III before COFA II expired, the island government heads of state, ministers and chief negotiators worked with U.S. negotiators and Congress to sustain the COFA II framework until the job approving COFA III was done.

The Special Presidential Envoy appointed on the bipartisan and bicameral recommendation from many of us in Congress managed to salvage the COFA negotiations. Ambassador Yun overcame resistance in some dark corners of the Executive Branch bureaucracy sufficiently for the COFA nations to accept and for Congress to approve the package we are ratifying today.

The PRC communist dictatorship used its presence in the COFA nations to exploit the delay in COFA approval, attempting to influence elections, disrupt political and economic processes, and spread corruption. The dedication of these nations to the COFA alliance prevailed, and renewal of our 75-year relationship represents the success of self-determination and self-government over PRC political warfare and imperialism. That makes what we do today a success for democracy and freedom as well as the strategic national security capabilities COFA provides so the U.S. can continue to lead and defend a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The lesson of history in the Pacific is that funding our Compact of Free Association with the U.S. aligned Pacific Island nations of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands could make a difference between peace and war in the Pacific. The COFA alliances secure vital U.S. national security interests and redeem promises of friendship between America as a pacific nation and the peoples of these strategically located islands first forged in the tragedy and misery of WWII.

From 1947 to 1986 under a U.N. trusteeship administered by America the U.S. Congress provided for governance of the islands in Palau, Micronesia and Marshall Islands under both international self-determination law and the domestic model of territorial law and self-government. From 1986 to 2003 under COFA I, the U.S. Congress continued the policy combining international political status of the Free-Associated States (FAS) consistent with the domestic territorial model economic assistance and federal programs.

In 2003, the U.S. renewed COFA for RMI and FSM, but established COFA trust funds that contemplated reliance on proceeds of investment in lieu of continued direct U.S. economic assistance in 2023. Section 354(c) of the 2003 COFA created asymmetry between the certainty of U.S. defense rights and uncertainty about whether trust fund proceeds would be sufficient to sustain a politically feasible balance of burdens and benefits for the

FAS established under the U.N. trusteeship and COFA I.

That same uncertainty was created by terms the U.S. offered to renew Palau's COFA I in 2010. What seemed to emerge was a U.S. State Department policy seeking to reduce and inevitably phase out all or most of the domestic economic and federal program features of COFA. U.S. ambassadors in the FAS and region openly explained that closure of the Office of Freely Associated State Affairs was due to U.S. plans to ratchet down COFA economic cost so those nations would have relations with American more like all Pacific Island Forum nations.

Until reversed after Congress objected, in the 2020–2023 period, the U.S. position in COFA renewal negotiations continued the 2003 State Department policy scaling back U.S. economic assistance and federal programs. Beginning in 2020 leaders in Congress on COFA renewal oversight called for revision and reform of U.S. negotiating playbook to restore the balance of special U.S. defense rights and special economic assistance and programs under the trusteeship and COFA I.

That restoration of sustainable balance of burdens and benefits will be attained by approval of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 (COFA) pursuant to Division G, Title II of the legislation we approve today will bring to culmination a successful bi-partisan and bicameral Congressional process for statutory ratification of international agreements renewing our Compacts with the FSM, RMI and Palau. This effort included the House Natural Resources Committee report to the full House approved by unanimous consent on November 8, 2023, supporting approval of the H.J. Res. 96, the original bipartisan bill to approve the COFA amendment agreement package completed for all three COFA partner nations on October 16, 2023.

This was not merely a parliamentary feat for the Chairman or Committee majority, because HNRC approval set in motion timely confirmation by all relevant House and Senate committees that H.J. Res. 96 was ready for floor action in both chambers. This reflects responsible bipartisan and bicameral recognition by our leadership in both Houses that the U.S. gets no better return on investment of taxpayer dollars than we do on international security and defense alliances under COFA. Specifically, COFA entails obligations of \$7.1 billion for exclusive strategic control for 20 years over military access to the vast and vital mid-Pacific Sea lanes, islands and airspace of the COFA nations that straddle the equator across the western and northern Pacific.

Still, even after the strategic and foreign policy necessity of COFA approval was recognized, the pathway to authorization and appropriation of funding for mostly mandatory economic assistance grants and discretionary programs for the COFA nations—over 20 years from FY 2004 through 2043—was not certain until application of budget rules for Congressional disposition of the 2024 national security emergency appropriations legislation to which COFA had been linked were determined.

We now have in the legislation before us an agreed framework for approving ways and means to meet fiscally responsible economic assistance commitments that sustain the COFA alliances with the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. However, the real

work of defending democracy, rule of law and political as well as economic freedom in the American aligned Pacific nations does not end but rather begins anew with approval of the three bilateral COFA agreements we renew with this legislation.

The threat of PRC and its surrogate regimes to the U.S. homeland from Guam and Northern Mariana Islands to Hawaii is matched by aggressive PRC political warfare in the Pacific Island COFA ally nations of Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia. Destabilizing our COFA partner nations is a primary goal of the PRC in its menacing plan to surround and subjugate Taiwan through economic, political and if necessary, military coercion. U.S. failure to sustain the COFA firewall protecting democracy in the region will expose U.S. territories, our COFA allies and our western border states to impacts of political aggression, economic coercion and destabilization that will accelerate migration from the COFA countries in the decades ahead.

Just as it was during the first half of the 20th century in the era of Japanese imperialism leading to WWII in the Pacific, in the third decade of the 21st century PRC imperialism seeks domination and control of the Micronesian region as a platform to gain strategic control of the greater Oceanic region. Now referred to as the Blues Continent, the islands and archipelagoes of the mid-Pacific can join and unite Asia and the Americas to promote freedom and prosperity or descend into conflict and confrontation. COFA comparably is to peace and security in the Pacific what we hope NATO will continue to be in Europe.

That is why on September 18, 2023, as Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee Task Force on the Indo-Pacific, I wrote to the Chair and Ranking Member of that House Committee and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, urging approval of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) between the U.S. and our three closest strategic allies in the Indo-Pacific, Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia. At that time, the 2003 COFA II agreement was set to expire and regrettably did so at the end of FY 2023.

Inclusion of some but not all of the COFA agreement funding for FY 2024 proposed in the COFA renewal agreements under the temporary spending measures after October 1 did not send the strong signal of strategic stability and continuity of U.S. commitment our COFA alliance partner nations needed to counter PRC political warfare threatening America's seven-decade success preserving peace in a free and open Indo-Pacific. That initial failure to provide funding in the Pacific to sustain partnership with our closest allies in the Pacific for the next two decades at this juncture was a miscalculation and self-defeating U.S. policy that we are correcting and ending today.

We supported our leadership in finding a path forward, replacing delay and misdirection caused by initially failed U.S. negotiating positions on COFA renewal agreements with approvals and funding authorization also will end political jousting and gambling with our strategic interests in the Pacific. As noted, Congress will need to exercise oversight of COFA III implementation to ensure provisions of this new COFA III package enacted as federal statute not as a Senate ratified treaty are implemented as statutory mandate by all federal

authorities, not as merely policies to be modified or altered in implementation at discretion of federal officials.

That is particularly true as to the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Veteran Affairs programs, the operations of the State Department office responsible for COFA implementation under direction of the Interagency Group on Free Associated States Affairs, fiscal accountability standards applied by the Secretary of the Interior to monitor and manage economic assistance grants and coordinate federal programs, and the procedures and practices of the RMI and FSM Trust Fund Committee. The latter includes Congressional oversight to ensure that funding for extraordinary or exceptional circumstances in the RMI under Article 18 of the RMI COFA Trust Fund Agreement are used to address the legacy of U.S. nuclear testing in the RMI. That means that such funds shall be applied for the benefit and to meet needs of the people of the atolls specified and named in Article 18 related to the effect of the nuclear testing program on the people and environment in those similarly situated island peoples.

As confirmed by the President's Special Envoy in testimony on this COFA renewal package before Senate and House committees, the unique "political and moral" responsibilities and commitments of the U.S. to the RMI related to the nuclear testing legacy now continuing under Article 18 of the COFA Trust Fund Agreement includes not only past and present but future measures that further implement the Section 177 Agreement. The provisions of the Section 177 Agreement incorporated into this legislation confirm that the entirety of the agreement remains in full effect, and that all provisions of that settlement continue to apply according to the terms of COFA I, COFA II and COFA III.

That continuity of law regarding the Section 177 Agreement includes the relevant provisions of Section 103 of COFA I pursuant to P.L. 99-239 and Section 103 of COFA II pursuant to P.L. 108-188, as well as the still authoritative jurisprudence of *Juda v. U.S.*, 13 Claims Court 667 (1987) relating to retained jurisdiction of federal courts. That specifically ensures that in accordance with Section 177(b) of the U.S.-RMI COFA, when measures taken under the Section 177 agreement end the amounts provided—under mutually agreed and/or ex gratia terms—the outcome of U.S. actions under the settlement must constitute just and adequate compensation.

Reversing the miscalculations of the 2003 COFA acts for FSM and RMI and the 2010 Palau COFA agreement that created uncertainty about post-2023 COFA economic assistance terms is achieved under the COFA III terms we approve today, which anticipate continuity in the COFA alliance not only for 20 years but continuing after 2043. That is imperative because COFA security rights for America and the COFA nations of the Pacific are imperative. Just as our southern border must be secured, our homeland borders and strategic boundaries in the Pacific, including Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, American Samoa and west coast, must be secured consistent with America's leadership of the free world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1061.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. GRANGER. 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 motion will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1052;

Adoption of House Resolution 1052; if ordered; and

Motions to suspend the rules and;

Adopt H. Res. 1061; and

Pass H.R. 3821.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2799, EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023; and PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7511, LAKEN RILEY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1052) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7511) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 205, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 62]

YEAS—215

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Aderholt | Gallagher | Miller (WV) |
| Alford | Garbarino | Miller-Meeks |
| Allen | Garcia, Mike | Mills |
| Amodei | Gimenez | Molinaro |
| Armstrong | Gonzales, Tony | Moolenaar |
| Arrington | Good (VA) | Mooney |
| Babin | Gooden (TX) | Moore (AL) |
| Bacon | Granger | Moore (UT) |
| Baird | Graves (LA) | Moran |
| Balderson | Graves (MO) | Murphy |
| Banks | Green (TN) | Newhouse |
| Barr | Greene (GA) | Norman |
| Bean (FL) | Griffith | Nunn (IA) |
| Bentz | Grothman | Obernolte |
| Bergman | Guest | Ogles |
| Bice | Guthrie | Owens |
| Biggs | Hageman | Palmer |
| Bilirakis | Harris | Pence |
| Boebert | Harshbarger | Perry |
| Bost | Hern | Pfuger |
| Brecheen | Higgins (LA) | Posey |
| Buchanan | Hill | Reschenthaler |
| Buck | Hinson | Rodgers (WA) |
| Burchett | Houchin | Rogers (AL) |
| Burgess | Hudson | Rogers (KY) |
| Burlison | Huizenga | Rose |
| Calvert | Hunt | Rosendale |
| Cammack | Issa | Rouzer |
| Carey | Jackson (TX) | Roy |
| Carl | James | Rutherford |
| Carter (GA) | Johnson (LA) | Salazar |
| Carter (TX) | Johnson (SD) | Scalise |
| Chavez-DeRemer | Jordan | Schweikert |
| Ciscomani | Joyce (OH) | Scott, Austin |
| Cline | Joyce (PA) | Self |
| Cloud | Kean (NJ) | Sessions |
| Clyde | Kelly (MS) | Simpson |
| Cole | Kelly (PA) | Smith (MO) |
| Collins | Kiggans (VA) | Smith (NE) |
| Comer | Kiley | Smith (NJ) |
| Crane | Kim (CA) | Smucker |
| Crawford | Kustoff | Spartz |
| Crenshaw | LaHood | Stauber |
| Curtis | LaLota | Steel |
| D'Esposito | LaMalfa | Stefanik |
| Davidson | Lamborn | Steil |
| De La Cruz | Langworthy | Steube |
| DesJarlais | Latta | Strong |
| Diaz-Balart | LaTurner | Tenney |
| Donalds | Lawler | Thompson (PA) |
| Duarte | Lee (FL) | Tiffany |
| Duncan | Lesko | Timmons |
| Dunn (FL) | Letlow | Turner |
| Edwards | Loudermilk | Valadao |
| Ellzey | Lucas | Van Drew |
| Emmer | Luetkemeyer | Van Dwyne |
| Estes | Luna | Van Orden |
| Ezell | Luttrell | Wagner |
| Fallon | Mace | Walberg |
| Feenstra | Malliotakis | Waltz |
| Ferguson | Maloy | Weber (TX) |
| Finstad | Mann | Webster (FL) |
| Fischbach | Massie | Wenstrup |
| Fitzgerald | Mast | Westerman |
| Fitzpatrick | McCaul | Williams (NY) |
| Fleischmann | McClain | Williams (TX) |
| Flood | McClintock | Wilson (SC) |
| Foxx | McCormick | Wittman |
| Franklin, Scott | McHenry | Womack |
| Fry | Meuser | Yakym |
| Fulcher | Miller (IL) | Zinke |
| Gaetz | Miller (OH) | |

NAYS—205

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Gallego | Magaziner | Scanlon |
| Garamendi | Manning | Schakowsky |
| Garcia (IL) | Matsui | Schneider |
| Garcia (TX) | McBath | Scholten |
| Golden (ME) | McClellan | Schrier |
| Goldman (NY) | McCollum | Scott (VA) |
| Gomez | McGarvey | Scott, David |
| Gonzalez, | McGovern | Sewell |
| Vicente | Menendez | Sherman |
| Gottheimer | Meng | Sherrill |
| Green, Al (TX) | Mfume | Slotkin |
| Harder (CA) | Moore (WI) | Smith (WA) |
| Hayes | Morelle | Sorensen |
| Himes | Moskowitz | Soto |
| Horsford | Moulton | Spanberger |
| Houlihan | Mrvan | Stansbury |
| Hoyer | Mullin | Stanton |
| Hoyle (OR) | Nadler | Stevens |
| Huffman | Napolitano | Strickland |
| Ivey | Neal | Suozzi |
| Jackson (IL) | Neguse | Swallow |
| Jackson (NC) | Nickel | Syalwell |
| Jackson Lee | Norcross | Sykes |
| Jacobs | Ocasio-Cortez | Takano |
| Jayapal | Omar | Thanedar |
| Jeffries | Pallone | Thompson (CA) |
| Johnson (GA) | Panetta | Thompson (MS) |
| Kamlager-Dove | Pappas | Titus |
| Kaptur | Payne | Tlaib |
| Keating | Pelosi | Tokuda |
| Kelly (IL) | Peltola | Tonko |
| Khanna | Perez | Torres (CA) |
| Kildee | Peters | Torres (NY) |
| Kilmer | Petterson | Trahan |
| Kim (NJ) | Phillips | Trone |
| Krishnamoorthi | Pingree | Underwood |
| Kuster | Pocan | Vargas |
| Landsman | Pressley | Vasquez |
| Larsen (WA) | Quigley | Veasey |
| Larson (CT) | Ramirez | Velázquez |
| Lee (CA) | Raskin | Wasserman |
| Lee (NV) | Ross | Schultz |
| Lee (PA) | Ruiz | Waters |
| Leger Fernandez | Ruppersberger | Watson Coleman |
| Levin | Ryan | Wexton |
| Lieu | Salinas | Wild |
| Lofgren | Sánchez | Williams (GA) |
| Lynch | Sarbanes | |

NOT VOTING—12

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-------------|
| Bishop (NC) | Gosar | Pascrell |
| Bucshon | Grijalva | Porter |
| Bush | Meeks | Schiff |
| Garcia, Robert | Nehls | Wilson (FL) |

□ 1600

Messrs. STANTON, PANETTA, CLEAVER, DAVIS of Illinois, and LYNCH changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. GAETZ, DONALDS, and PALMER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

Stated against:

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, today I unintentionally missed one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall No. 62—H. Res. 1052, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2799) the Expanding Access to Capital Act, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7511) the Laken Riley Act.

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 214, noes 211, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 63]

AYES—214

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Garbarino | Miller-Meeks |
| Alford | Mills |
| Garcia, Mike | Molinaro |
| Gimenez | Moolenaar |
| Gonzales, Tony | Mooney |
| Good (VA) | Moore (AL) |
| Gooden (TX) | Moore (UT) |
| Granger | Moran |
| Graves (LA) | Murphy |
| Graves (MO) | Green (TN) |
| Greene (GA) | Nehls |
| Griffith | Newhouse |
| Grothman | Norman |
| Nunn (IA) | Guest |
| Obernolte | Guthrie |
| Ogles | Hageman |
| Owens | Harris |
| Palmer | Harshbarger |
| Pence | Hern |
| Perry | Higgins (LA) |
| Pfuger | Hill |
| Posey | Hinson |
| Reschenthaler | Houchin |
| Rodgers (WA) | Hudson |
| Rogers (AL) | Huizenga |
| Rogers (KY) | Hunt |
| Rose | Issa |
| Rosendale | Jackson (TX) |
| Rouzer | James |
| Roy | Johnson (LA) |
| Rutherford | Johnson (SD) |
| Salazar | Jordan |
| Scalise | Joyce (OH) |
| Schweikert | Joyce (PA) |
| Scott, Austin | Kean (NJ) |
| Self | Kelly (MS) |
| Sessions | Kelly (PA) |
| Simpson | Kiggans (VA) |
| Smith (MO) | Kiley |
| Smith (NE) | Kim (CA) |
| Smith (NJ) | Kustoff |
| Smucker | LaHood |
| Spartz | LaLota |
| Steel | LaMalfa |
| Stefanik | Lamborn |
| Steil | Langworthy |
| Steube | Latta |
| Strong | LaTurner |
| Tenney | Lawler |
| Thompson (PA) | Lee (FL) |
| Tiffany | Lesko |
| Timmons | Letlow |
| Turner | Loudermilk |
| Valadao | Lucas |
| Van Drew | Luetkemeyer |
| Van Dwyne | Luna |
| Van Orden | Luttrell |
| Wagner | Mace |
| Walberg | Malliotakis |
| Waltz | Maloy |
| Weber (TX) | Mann |
| Webster (FL) | Massie |
| Wenstrup | Mast |
| Westerman | McCaul |
| Williams (NY) | McClain |
| Williams (TX) | McClintock |
| Wilson (SC) | McCormick |
| Wittman | McHenry |
| Womack | Meuser |
| Yakym | Miller (IL) |
| Zinke | Miller (OH) |
| | Miller (WV) |

NOES—211

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Carbajal | Craig |
| Cárdenas | Crockett |
| Carson | Crow |
| Carter (LA) | Cuellar |
| Cartwright | Davidson (KS) |
| Casar | Davis (IL) |
| Case | Davis (NC) |
| Casten | Dean (PA) |
| Castor (FL) | DeGette |
| Castro (TX) | DeLauro |
| Cherfilus- | DeBene |
| McCormick | Deluzio |
| Chu | DeSaulnier |
| Clark (MA) | Dingell |
| Clarke (NY) | Doggett |
| Cleaver | Escobar |
| Clyburn | Eshoo |
| Cohen | Españolat |
| Connolly | Evans |
| Correa | Fletcher |
| Costa | Foster |
| Courtney | Foushee |

Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren

Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sánchez

Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suzuki
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—7

Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Gosar

Grijalva
Porter
Schiff

Stauber

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1608

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

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 agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1061) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4366, with an amendment, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 85, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 64]

YEAS—339

Adams
Aderholt
Babin
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Baird
Bentz
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burgess
Bush
Calvert
Caraveo
Carpajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davis (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Español
Evans
Ezell
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann
Lynch
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildeer
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luttrell

Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steele
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suzuki
Swalwell
Sykes
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner

Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—85

Alford
Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Banks
Bean (FL)
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brehnen
Buck
Burchett
Burlison
Cammack
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Estes

Fallon
Finstad
Fischbach
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hunt
Jordan
LaHood
Lesko
Loudermilk
Luna
Mace
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
McCormick
Miller (IL)

Mills
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Murphy
Nehls
Norman
Ogles
Palmer
Perry
Posey
Rodgers (WA)
Rose
Rosendale
Roy
Schweikert
Self
Spartz
Steube
Takano
Tennet
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Williams (TX)

NOT VOTING—8

Bishop (NC)
Gosar
Grijalva

Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
LaMalfa

Porter
Schiff

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1615

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. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 64.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY REAUTHORIZATION 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. 3821) to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 7, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 65]

YEAS—413

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adams | Dean (PA) | Jacobs |
| Aderholt | DeGette | James |
| Aguilar | DeLauro | Jayapal |
| Alford | DelBene | Jeffries |
| Allen | Deluzio | Johnson (GA) |
| Allred | DeSaulnier | Johnson (LA) |
| Amo | DesJarlais | Johnson (SD) |
| Amodei | Dingell | Jordan |
| Armstrong | Doggett | Joyce (OH) |
| Arrington | Donalds | Joyce (PA) |
| Auchincloss | Duarte | Kamlager-Dove |
| Babin | Duncan | Kaptur |
| Bacon | Dunn (FL) | Kean (NJ) |
| Baird | Edwards | Keating |
| Balderson | Emmer | Kelly (IL) |
| Balint | Escobar | Kelly (MS) |
| Banks | Eshoo | Kelly (PA) |
| Barr | Espallat | Khanna |
| Barragán | Estes | Kigrans (VA) |
| Beatty | Evans | Kildee |
| Bentz | Ezell | Kiley |
| Bera | Fallon | Kilmer |
| Bergman | Feenstra | Kim (CA) |
| Beyer | Ferguson | Kim (NJ) |
| Bice | Finstad | Krishnamoorthi |
| Biggs | Fischbach | Kuster |
| Billirakis | Fitzgerald | Kustoff |
| Bishop (GA) | Fitzpatrick | LaHood |
| Blumenauer | Fleischmann | LaLota |
| Blunt Rochester | Fletcher | LaMalfa |
| Boebert | Flood | Lamborn |
| Bonamici | Foster | Landsman |
| Bost | Foushee | Langworthy |
| Bowman | Fox | Larsen (WA) |
| Boyle (PA) | Frankel, Lois | Larson (CT) |
| Brown | Franklin, Scott | Latta |
| Brownley | Frost | LaTurner |
| Buchanan | Fry | Lawler |
| Bucshon | Fulcher | Lee (CA) |
| Budzinski | Gaetz | Lee (FL) |
| Burchett | Gallagher | Lee (NV) |
| Burgess | Gallego | Lee (PA) |
| Burlison | Garamendi | Leger Fernandez |
| Bush | Garbarino | Lesko |
| Calvert | Garcia (IL) | Letlow |
| Cammack | Garcia (TX) | Levin |
| Caraveo | Garcia, Mike | Lieu |
| Carbajal | Garcia, Robert | Lofgren |
| Cárdenas | Jimenez | Loudermilk |
| Carey | Golden (ME) | Lucas |
| Carl | Goldman (NY) | Luetkemeyer |
| Carson | Gomez | Luna |
| Carter (GA) | Gonzales, Tony | Luttrell |
| Carter (LA) | Gonzalez, | Lynch |
| Carter (TX) | Vicente | Mace |
| Cartwright | Good (VA) | Magaziner |
| Casar | Gooden (TX) | Malliotakis |
| Case | Gottheimer | Maloy |
| Casten | Granger | Mann |
| Castor (FL) | Graves (LA) | Manning |
| Castro (TX) | Graves (MO) | Mast |
| Chavez-DeRemer | Green (TN) | Matsui |
| Cherfilus- | Green, Al (TX) | McBath |
| McCormick | Greene (GA) | McCaull |
| Chu | Griffith | McClain |
| Ciscomani | Grothman | McClellan |
| Clark (MA) | Guest | McClintock |
| Clarke (NY) | Guthrie | McCollum |
| Cleaver | Hageman | McCormick |
| Cline | Harder (CA) | McGarvey |
| Clyburn | Harshbarger | McGovern |
| Cohen | Hayes | McHenry |
| Cole | Hern | Meeks |
| Comer | Higgins (LA) | Menendez |
| Connolly | Hill | Meng |
| Correa | Himes | Meuser |
| Costa | Hinson | Mfume |
| Courtney | Horsford | Miller (IL) |
| Craig | Houchin | Miller (OH) |
| Crane | Houlahan | Miller (WV) |
| Crawford | Hoyer | Miller-Meeks |
| Crenshaw | Hoyle (OR) | Mills |
| Crockett | Hudson | Molinaro |
| Crow | Huffman | Moolenaar |
| Cuellar | Huizenga | Mooney |
| Curtis | Hunt | Moore (AL) |
| D'Esposito | Issa | Moore (UT) |
| David (KS) | Ivey | Moore (WI) |
| Davidson | Jackson (IL) | Moran |
| Davis (IL) | Jackson (NC) | Morelle |
| Davis (NC) | Jackson (TX) | Moskowitz |
| De La Cruz | Jackson Lee | Moulton |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mrvan | Ruppersberger | Thanedar |
| Mullin | Rutherford | Thompson (CA) |
| Murphy | Ryan | Thompson (MS) |
| Nadler | Salazar | Thompson (PA) |
| Napolitano | Salinas | Tiffany |
| Neguse | Sánchez | Timmons |
| Nehls | Sarbanes | Titus |
| Newhouse | Scalise | Tlaib |
| Nickel | Scanlon | Tokuda |
| Norcross | Schakowsky | Tonko |
| Norman | Schneider | Torres (CA) |
| Nunn (IA) | Scholten | Torres (NY) |
| Obernolte | Schrier | Trahan |
| Ocasio-Cortez | Schweikert | Trone |
| Ogles | Scott (VA) | Turner |
| Omar | Scott, Austin | Underwood |
| Owens | Scott, David | Valadao |
| Pallone | Self | Van Drew |
| Palmer | Sessions | Van Deyne |
| Panetta | Sewell | Van Orden |
| Pappas | Sherman | Vargas |
| Pascarell | Sherrill | Vasquez |
| Payne | Simpson | Veasey |
| Pelosi | Slotkin | Velázquez |
| Peltola | Smith (MO) | Wagner |
| Pence | Smith (NE) | Walberg |
| Perez | Smith (NJ) | Waltz |
| Perry | Smith (WA) | Wasserman |
| Peters | Smucker | Schultz |
| Pettersen | Sorensen | Waters |
| Pfleger | Soto | Watson Coleman |
| Phillips | Spanberger | Weber (TX) |
| Pingree | Spartz | Webster (FL) |
| Pocan | Stansbury | Wenstrup |
| Posey | Stanton | Westerman |
| Pressley | Stauber | Wexton |
| Quigley | Steel | Wild |
| Ramirez | Stefanik | Williams (GA) |
| Raskin | Steil | Williams (NY) |
| Reschenthaler | Steube | Williams (TX) |
| Rodgers (WA) | Stevens | Wilson (FL) |
| Rogers (AL) | Strickland | Wilson (SC) |
| Rogers (KY) | Strong | Wittman |
| Rose | Suozzi | Womack |
| Ross | Sykes | Yakym |
| Rouzer | Takano | Zinke |
| Ruiz | Tenney | |

NAYS—7

| | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|
| Brecheen | Clyde | Rosendale |
| Buck | Harris | |
| Cloud | Massie | |

NOT VOTING—12

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| Bean (FL) | Ellzey | Porter |
| Bishop (NC) | Gosar | Roy |
| Collins | Grijalva | Schiff |
| Diaz-Balart | Neal | Swalwell |

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1622

Ms. SÁNCHEZ changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 62, “nay” on rollcall No. 63, “yea” on rollcall No. 64, and “yea” on rollcall No. 65.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, due to events in California, I was unfortunately unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor today. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted according to the following: “no” on rollcall No. 62, “no” on Motion on Ordering the Previous Question (H. Res. 1052); “no” on rollcall No. 63, H. Res. 1052—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act of

2023 and H.R. 7511—Laken Riley Act; “yea” on rollcall No. 64, H. Res. 1061—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024; and “yea” on rollcall No. 65, H.R. 3821—Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act of 2023.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4366

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 94

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 4366, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction:

Amend the title so as to read: “Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 the bill, H.R. 2799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2799.

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

□ 1631

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes, with Mr. WENSTRUP in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, 40 years ago, my father started a small business in our backyard. Growing up in Gastonia, North Carolina, being the youngest of five kids, my father started a small business with his friend, who also had five kids. It didn't change the world and it was just a lawn mowing business. We mowed other people's grass, and that is what put two families through school, provided for two families, and eventually provided for many others as they scaled up and grew the business.

While my dad's small business didn't change the world, it certainly changed my world and our family's world.

Like other entrepreneurs, though, my dad needed access to affordable capital to scale his business. When other sources of opportunities for lending of capital dried up, he relied on a charge card, which we now call a credit card, to grow his business and to start employing other folks.

This story isn't unique to my family. We see this playing out across the country today. Entrepreneurs with new ideas or who are seeking to grow their businesses are struggling to access affordable credit and affordable capital. That means that they are not given the same opportunity to change their lives, their family's lives, or their community.

This is a loss for all of us. It is a loss for American innovation. That is where investment capital and this bill come in to help more entrepreneurs realize their version of the American Dream.

Currently, the venture capital that funds startups are concentrated in traditional financial hubs, like Silicon Valley, Boston, and New York City. Those three cities of the country account for almost three-quarters of all venture funding.

Now, that is not for every business, but it is a very specific group of startups. This Congress and our committee heard compelling testimony from folks across the ideological spectrum who urged us to make it easier for them to raise money from nontraditional sources.

This would allow them not only to build their funds and deploy more capital, but also share their financial success within their community.

This bill, the Expanding Access to Capital Act, does just that and more by alleviating the unique fundraising challenges faced by entrepreneurs and their investors who don't live in Silicon Valley.

This bill will also make improvements to our public markets and create new opportunities for everyday inves-

tors to save and build wealth and enjoy their version of the American Dream.

This form of capital formation is a critical ingredient for creating long-term economic growth that has proven enduring here in the United States. Not to mention, it has traditionally been an area where a divided Washington can find consensus.

A little more than a decade ago, Congress came together to pass the JOBS Act, which President Obama then signed into law. It was a Republican House, a Democrat Senate, and a Democrat in the White House who put that historic piece of legislation through the process and into law.

It addressed several hurdles entering our capital markets by rightsizing onerous regulatory barriers and providing entrepreneurs access to new levels and streams of funding.

Recognizing the need to build on the success of the JOBS Act, the House Financial Services Committee embarked on a yearslong mission to better understand the remaining headwinds hindering capital formation and legislate real and impactful solutions.

Many of those solutions are found in this legislation we are considering today, which consist of commonsense, innovative ideas to accomplish three goals: First, the bill strengthens our public markets and aims to incentivize companies to go public, undoing the troubling decline of initial public offerings here in the United States, or IPOs. IPOs are businesses that average everyday investors can own a piece of.

Why is it important that we attract more companies to the public markets in the United States?

One, everyday American investors, also known as retail investors, are limited to investing in publicly traded companies. Most public companies here in the United States that are of large size and scale should be available in the public markets. More public companies here in the United States means more opportunities for the American retail investor to grow their savings.

Number two, job growth. A 2021 study found that biotech startups expand their workforce by an average of 150 percent in the first 3 years after undertaking an initial public offering using the JOBS Act provisions.

To make our public markets more attractive, H.R. 2799, this bill, includes provisions that rightsize regulatory burdens on public companies, streamline the process of going public, and allow more companies to qualify as an emerging growth company.

This is an extension of more key provisions within the bipartisan JOBS Act that have a proven record of success.

Second, as I said earlier, this legislation supports small businesses and entrepreneurs who are the true engine of our economy and account for 99.9 percent of all U.S. businesses.

Among other policies, this bill allows small businesses to raise more money through offerings. It also addresses limitations on small, emerging venture

fund managers attempting to raise and deploy capital to startups and entrepreneurs in their communities.

Third, this bill increases access to private markets and allows more Americans to participate in high-growth investment opportunities that have been traditionally reserved for the wealthy elite.

Currently, these investment opportunities are reserved for those qualifying as "accredited investors," which dictates what a person can invest in based off their wealth or income.

We should all agree that wealth and income should not be a proxy for sophistication, especially if investors have expertise or experience that prepares them to invest in private offerings.

This bill includes provisions to expand the accredited investor definition, allowing everyday Americans to invest where they see opportunities and where they have expertise. That means new wealth-building opportunities for American investors who have been arbitrarily sidelined for too long.

Now, these private markets, that is where we have had the fastest growing businesses. The greatest wealth creation is ownership in these private markets. We want to link that up for all Americans to have that opportunity to invest in those markets where they have expertise.

Let me close with this: Capital formation should not be a partisan issue.

This legislation builds on the success of the bipartisan JOBS Act and will benefit Americans in every single one of our districts, either by growing their retirement savings or through job creation and economic growth in their community.

This bill is a compilation of several standalone bills introduced by numerous members of the Financial Services Committee, under the great leadership of our subcommittee chair on Capital Markets, ANN WAGNER of Missouri.

There are many Members that I wish to recognize, but it would take too long at this time to go through all of their great work; however, it is embodied in this bill before us today.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be here on the House floor, and I am grateful to the House Republican leadership that have prioritized this help for small businesses and our legislative work in the Financial Services Committee. I think we can see that we all want to be unified in helping the American people achieve their dreams in the way they see fit. For small business folks that want to start a small business, we need to make things easier for them, not harder. This bill makes it better for them and easier for them.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) to control the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) will control the time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2799, a bill that would cause significant long-term harm to both small businesses trying to raise money and mom-and-pop investors trying to save for their retirements.

A primary reason our capital markets are the envy of the world is because investors have confidence in the financial products that they are investing in. That confidence is hard won to be sure. It is the result of a robust disclosure regime that has been in place for decades and requires public companies to transparently and accurately tell investors about the inner workings of their businesses, their financials, and the risk involved with purchasing their shares.

Investor confidence is also rooted in strong legal protections for investors and their right to have a say in the company's direction through the proxy process.

And importantly, investor confidence is based on having a strong enforcer, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, that sets clear rules of the road, and keeps fraudsters out of the system.

While our capital markets are far from perfect, trillions of dollars are invested every year because investors are confident that they won't be ripped off. Unfortunately, the bill before us today threatens to undermine that investor confidence.

First, H.R. 2799 would expand the number of companies that are able to offer securities without needing to register with the SEC or provide critical disclosures to ordinary investors.

This expansion will only benefit moderate to large companies rather than the small businesses this act purports to help. By exempting more companies from public SEC registration requirements, this bill expands the size of the private securities markets, which are growing rapidly and already outnumber the public securities markets 2-1.

Second, this bill makes it easier for financial middlemen to peddle opaque, illiquid, and high-risk private securities to retail investors who won't receive the information they need to make informed investment decisions.

This isn't democratizing finance or creating investment opportunities; this is Wall Street creating another target to dump its bottom-of-the-barrel investment products onto retail investors.

Private securities, compared to public securities, are significantly more risky and more volatile, less transparent, harder to cash out, and have fewer legal protections.

The bottom-of-the-barrel private securities that will be sold to retail investors as a result of this bill are especially dangerous because they will only be offered to retail investors after private equity and venture capital funds have already passed on them. It is important to notice that 90 percent of startups fail and private equity would

love to dump these stocks on your constituents.

□ 1645

Third, H.R. 2799 undermines the ability of State securities regulators to help small businesses raise capital and stop fraudsters. State securities regulators are on the front line of our capital markets, investigating complaints of investor fraud, enforcing State securities laws, educating investors about their rights, and helping small businesses raise money to fund their goals and comply with the law. We should not preempt States by blocking these important overseers from doing their jobs.

To summarize, H.R. 2799 is a Wall Street wish list that collectively exempts big corporations and investment funds from transparency and accountability while gutting critical legal safeguards for Main Street investors. By weakening investor protections in numerous ways, this bill would allow fraud to proliferate and retirees and other mom-and-pop investors to be ripped off by bad actors.

This bill would ultimately harm confidence in our capital markets while doing nothing to assist the very small businesses the bill purports to help. In fact, as investors lose confidence in our markets, small businesses will see their capital costs rise, not fall.

I want to thoroughly debunk the notion that this bill somehow helps small businesses because the truth is that it would do just the opposite. I am very supportive of small businesses.

In fact, I have worked extensively this Congress with Chair MCHENRY on bipartisan ways that we can help small businesses raise capital. We have worked together to strengthen crowdfunding and to change the rules on accredited investors. There are several policy solutions that we have agreed on that represent targeted ways to increase capital formation without harming investor protection.

In fact, we worked together to pass 13 bills last year that represent bipartisan, commonsense reforms that support small businesses, enabling those who are knowledgeable about the risks of private securities to make informed investments, while ensuring robust investor protections.

Most of these bills also passed under suspension on the House floor, so there is a bipartisan way forward on this issue, but instead of working with Democrats to get these bipartisan bills to the President's desk, Republicans have packaged together this toxic combination of partisan bills and are focusing their time and energy here.

Mr. Chair, Democrats on the Financial Services Committee voted unanimously to oppose this bill at a markup last April. I urge all of my colleagues to unanimously reject it on the floor today.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act.

As chair of the Capital Markets Subcommittee, I am so proud of the hard work of our members in crafting this landmark piece of legislation that supports America's Main Street businesses and retail investors. I am also grateful to leadership for affirming that this bill is a crucial priority and taking action to pass this legislation in the House today.

This legislation is the culmination of four hearings that the Capital Markets Subcommittee has held this Congress, where we heard powerful testimony from 19 witnesses, including founders of both private and public companies, investors of all sizes, former SEC Commissioners, securities law practitioners, and even one of the authors of the IPO-related provisions of the JOBS Act.

As the witnesses at each of these hearings made clear, all the bills included in H.R. 2799 play a vital role in strengthening our public markets, improving access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and expanding investment opportunities for all Americans.

For example, Representative STEIL's Helping Startups Continue to Grow Act strengthens our public markets, making them more attractive by allowing more companies to benefit from emerging growth company status. Representative STEIL's bill also extends the maximum amount of time an issuer can remain an emerging growth company, helping to rightsize the regulatory burdens on newly public companies that are working to achieve their potential. This commonsense provision builds on one of the most successful and impactful reforms from the JOBS Act of 2012.

Representative HOUCHE's Regulation A+ Improvement Act improves access to capital for small businesses by increasing the amount that small companies can raise under Regulation A from \$50 million to \$150 million without being subject to burdensome IPO compliance requirements. In making this adjustment, Regulation A will become a more attractive pathway for small businesses to raise capital.

Our committee's legislation also expands investment opportunities for all Americans by revising the accredited investor definition to include individuals receiving investment advice on a private offering from a qualified accredited investor.

Amendments to H.R. 2799 include Representative HUIZENGA's Improving Disclosure for Investors Act, Representative LAWLER's Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, Representative LUCAS' Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act, and my Increasing Investor Opportunities Act, which gives investors greater choice and access to an asset class typically reserved for the wealthy. They are all welcome and thoughtful additions.

Together, these policies ensure that our markets are working efficiently and effectively to provide companies access to the capital that they need to innovate, grow, and create jobs, not just on the coasts but in America's heartland as well.

H.R. 2799 offers targeted, common-sense solutions that level the playing field for Main Street investors looking to save for a new home, their child's future, or retirement.

Moreover, America's IPO market has been on the decline for years due to increased regulatory and compliance costs. This package builds on the success of the JOBS Act and reins in those onerous barriers that are keeping America's innovators from seeking to enter and stay in our public markets.

The thoughtfully crafted bills in H.R. 2799 would address a multitude of inefficiencies within our public and private markets and deliver sustainable and enduring growth to our economy.

I thank Chairman MCHENRY for his leadership and tireless efforts in getting these bills to the floor, and I also thank the Members who have bills in H.R. 2799 for their incredible work.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2799.

As ranking member of the House Small Business Committee, I know that small businesses are the driving force of the American economy. Access to capital is the lifeblood of our Nation's small firms. It is what allows them to expand and hire more workers.

A key method for small businesses to raise capital is seeking investors through our Nation's capital markets. It is a method I support. However, raising funds through capital markets cannot come at the expense of retail investors, employees, and independent contractors. This bill fails to strike an appropriate balance and significantly weakens investor protections while dramatically expanding the number of exempt offerings.

When we created new exemptions in the JOBS Act, they were designed for smaller firms. Today, large private companies and private equity funds have misused these exemptions to create an opaque lending market that is now bigger than our public markets. The lack of transparency associated with these funds isn't beneficial for small businesses seeking financing from these funds or retail investors investing in them.

Private securities offerings are generally deemed as riskier than public offerings. The lack of disclosures and transparency in this bill allows retail investors to participate in these offerings without adequately understanding the dangers, creating the potential for

significant financial loss for working-class investors and retirees.

President Biden has already signaled his opposition to this bill. If the majority were serious about helping small businesses raise capital through our private markets, they would pull this bill and work with us to craft a bipartisan solution that helps small businesses and protects investors.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no."

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), my classmate and good friend and colleague.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act.

This commonsense legislation is critical for long-term, sustainable economic growth by strengthening our public markets, helping small businesses and entrepreneurs, and increasing opportunity for all investors.

The Biden administration has continuously increased obligations and regulations, which in turn have increased compliance costs for public companies and businesses. H.R. 2799 would reduce compliance burdens and allow for companies and markets to thrive.

This important legislation would also benefit small businesses by reducing regulatory barriers to ensure small business and entrepreneurs have access to the capital they need to support their operations and communities.

I thank Chairman MCHENRY for including language from my legislation that expands benefits currently reserved for emerging growth companies to other public companies. The EGC on-ramp has been a key tool in funding growth and will make public markets more attractive to help small issuers and level the playing field.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, the Expanding Access to Capital Act, to help strengthen public markets. In God we trust.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the bill. It is not a good bill. We have some amendments that will make it slightly better, but it still won't be a good bill. All the Democrats on the Financial Services Committee voted against this bill in committee.

Let's give a little background here. The gold standard is a public offering of securities. They then become registered securities. They can trade on an exchange. They provide disclosures to investors and audited financial statements.

We do have exceptions to this rule—exceptions for small offerings and exceptions where you are going to have accredited investors who have the capacity to absorb an enormous amount of risk and the capacity to evaluate the investments.

The definition of an accredited investor was criticized by the chair of the full committee when he was here, and I agree that definition should change. Right now, it is focused too much just on wealth and income. We need, instead, to also allow people to be accredited investors if they have the expertise to evaluate the investment and are not putting too much of their own resources into one illiquid investment. We also need to take a look at the expertise that an investor may not have himself or herself but can acquire through truly independent advisers.

The fact is that the definition of accredited investor should be improved, and that is why this House passed and sent to the Senate bills that would improve it, and I hope the Senate will finally take action on those bipartisan pieces of legislation.

This bill doesn't really improve the definition of accredited investor. It says that you are an accredited investor if you sign a piece of paper saying you want to be an accredited investor, self-certification. That shreds investor protection.

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This bill not only guts investor protection when it comes to the definition of accredited investor, but it also locks in a system in which a company can say they are a private company even though they have thousands of owners—thousands. You can have 2,000 or more owners because you may have an investment vehicle that has hundreds of investors of its own, and it counts as only one investor toward that 2,000.

That means that a lot of companies will never go public. That means that those investors who want investor protection and want the liquidity of being able to sell their shares on an exchange will never be able to invest. It means that these companies will not provide the audited financial statements and the other disclosures that are required of public companies.

It guts the concept of being a public company. Why is that so important? Because today, the SEC published climate disclosures required of public companies, and today, we are considering a bill that is designed to truncate the number of public companies that we have.

If you care about the economy, vote "no." If you want to protect investors, vote "no." If you want to protect our climate, vote "no."

This bill would open the door to investors placing their entire nest eggs in private securities with insufficient transparency, no audited financial statements, and no liquidity. Vote "no."

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS), my friend and colleague.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act. This legislation would provide greater access to funding by strengthening public

markets, expanding fundraising opportunities for entrepreneurs, and increasing investment opportunities for everyday Americans.

This package represents a much-needed stimulant to capital formation and would empower small businesses throughout the country.

One particular provision contained in this package is my bill, the Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act, also known as the ICAN Act, which seeks to generate more regional venture capital participation outside of Silicon Valley by raising the cap on qualifying venture capital funds from \$10 million to \$150 million and raising the number of permitted investors from 250 to 600.

This would allow venture funds to raise more money from more individuals, enabling funds to build an investor base outside of traditional financial centers.

According to the SEC's Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation report, 78 percent of small business owners are concerned about their ability to access capital. My bill would alleviate some of this concern by making it easier for venture capital to expand into new regions and communities.

Simply put, new venture funds mean new opportunities for small businesses and innovators to gain the funding they need to develop their ideas, promote good-paying jobs, and grow their companies.

Mr. Chair, an entrepreneur in Spartanburg, South Carolina, should be afforded the same opportunities to grow their businesses as an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley.

I am proud to say this legislation democratizes finances and allows for more South Carolinians to support local economic ventures, providing capital outside of traditional venture capital hubs and bringing these funds from Silicon Valley to the Fourth District of South Carolina.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let's be clear. This Wall Street wish list bill is going nowhere in the Senate, but we have several bipartisan bills that support small businesses and retail investors that actually have a chance of getting into law.

Chair MCHENRY and I have worked together for several years on legislation to strengthen our capital markets, going back to the JOBS Act and our efforts on crowdfunding and legislation to support angel investors.

In fact, this Congress, we worked extensively together on 13 bipartisan bills, including my bill, H.R. 2796, the Promoting Opportunities for Non-Traditional Capital Formation Act, which requires the SEC's Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to provide educational resources and host events to promote capital-raising options for underrepresented small businesses and businesses in rural areas and to meet annually with representatives of State securities

commissions; Mr. MEEKS' bill, H.R. 2795, the Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act, which requires an issuer with the multi-class share structure to disclose certain information regarding the voting power of specified persons; Mr. HIMES' bill, H.R. 2812, the Middle Market IPO Underwriting Cost Act, which requires the SEC to study the costs encountered by small- and medium-sized companies when undertaking initial public offerings and certain offerings exempt from securities registration requirements; and Mr. GOTTHEIMER's bill, H.R. 2593, the Senior Security Act, which establishes a senior investor task force within the SEC. The task force must report on topics relating to investors over the age of 65 and make recommendations for actions to address problems encountered by senior investors.

Committee Democrats also supported several more Republican bills that help promote capital formation. We could have worked together to get these all included in the NDAA, but Chair MCHENRY knows why that didn't happen—Republicans blocked all of these bills from being added.

Today, Republicans are pivoting to a completely partisan approach to the issue with this bill. This is par for the course with extreme MAGA Republicans who prefer to pander to their base instead of actually getting things done.

When Republicans are done wasting their time on this extreme MAGA bill, Democrats will be ready to get to work on solutions that actually have a chance of making a difference for small businesses and retail investors.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), my friend and colleague.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2799. American public markets remain the go-to place for innovative companies to grow and build capital. However, the regulatory environment has steadily become more burdensome and costly, creating a real divide between market regulation now and market regulation years ago.

At a time when the markets and regulatory environment were more conducive to small- and mid-cap stocks, groundbreaking Wisconsin companies like Harley-Davidson, Johnson Controls, and Kohler raised capital by going public. Through the IPOs, these upstart enterprises raised the funding necessary to expand their workforce and operations. At the same time, families benefited from the opportunity to invest in these companies to build savings and wealth.

While Americans have started new businesses at record rates since the pandemic, many still struggle to meet their own capital needs. The number of U.S. IPOs has continued to decline since the early 2000s as the cost and

regulatory burdens of going and staying public remain high.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMUCKER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Under President Biden, SEC Chairman Gary Gensler proposed over 50 rules. This must be reversed, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for this commonsense legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, the following organizations oppose this bill: the North American Securities Administrators Association, Consumer Federation of America, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Communications Workers of America, SEIU, Steelworkers, Transport Workers Union of America, Americans for Financial Reform, Public Citizen, Center for American Progress, and Main Street Alliance.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), my friend and colleague.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Expanding Access to Capital Act. This package would help improve our capital markets to foster innovation, growth, and job creation here in the United States.

It is a win for workers, investors, and entrepreneurs. It includes two bills I introduced that would help smaller public companies raise money.

The first, the Helping Startups Continue to Grow Act, would expand the IPO on-ramp first established in the bipartisan JOBS Act. It allows more early-stage companies to keep their emerging growth company status for longer, and it would update the low caps currently in place. The provisions ensure more companies can benefit from the rightsized disclosures and reduce compliance costs that come with EGC status.

Thanks to EGC status, these companies can focus on innovation and job creation rather than complying with a regulatory regime designed for larger and more mature firms. This is especially helpful for R&D-intensive startups that often work for years to develop lifesaving cures or transformative technologies.

This package also includes my bill to expand the availability of well-known seasoned issuer status to more small public companies. This designation allows qualified companies to use the shelf registration process, saving them time and money when they go to the public markets to raise capital.

In the two decades since the WKSI construct was created, it has been shown to be safe and effective. My targeted reform would reduce the cost of capital for small market companies, spurring more job creation and growth.

Many of these ideas are in Chairman MCHENRY's package, and they have long had bipartisan support and a long bipartisan track record.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle should vote to modernize our capital markets. It is good for workers, investors, and entrepreneurs seeking to invest in American innovation and build a better future.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, in all my years in Congress, this is one of the worst examples I have ever seen of a Wall Street wish list masquerading as a lifeline for small businesses and ordinary investors.

Let me be clear. This bill does nothing to help small businesses. It only helps big business avoid transparency and accountability, and that is why the Biden administration opposes this bill.

This bill does nothing to help ordinary investors. It only helps make it easier for investors to be duped by conflicted middlemen into purchasing some of the riskiest securities out there.

Under this bill, these middlemen will have free rein to mask critical details about investment risk and target elderly people and others with what they claim is a great investment opportunity that will help them build wealth but, in reality, is a fraud.

For example, these middlemen will be able to take the failing businesses off private equity balance sheets and offload them onto Main Street investors.

This bill also hinders small businesses' ability to raise money by preempting State law and preventing State securities regulators from doing their job.

Mr. Chair, we see this bill for what it is: a Wall Street wish list that throws Main Street investors under the bus.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote for Main Street, not Wall Street, by voting "no" on this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to quickly and swiftly say that H.R. 2799 has been a wonderful collaborative effort. There are many bipartisan pieces of legislation in this bill and amendments that also received bipartisan support out of the committee.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to join Republicans in supporting savers, entrepreneurs, and job creators and to give them the chance to achieve their American Dream by voting "yes" on H.R. 2799, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-

407, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2799

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Access to Capital Act of 2023".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—STRENGTHENING PUBLIC MARKETS

TITLE I—REMOVE ABERRATIONS IN THE MARKET CAP TEST FOR TARGET COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sec. 1101. Avoiding aberrational results in requirements for acquisition and disposition financial statements.

TITLE II—HELPING STARTUPS CONTINUE TO GROW

Sec. 1201. Short title.

Sec. 1202. Emerging growth company criteria.

TITLE III—SEC AND PCAOB AUDITOR REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY PUBLIC COMPANIES

Sec. 1301. Auditor independence for certain past audits occurring before an issuer is a public company.

TITLE IV—EXPAND THE PROTECTION FOR RESEARCH REPORTS TO COVER ALL SECURITIES OF ALL ISSUERS

Sec. 1401. Provision of research.

TITLE V—EXCLUDE QIBS AND IAAS FROM THE RECORD HOLDER COUNT FOR MANDATORY REGISTRATION

Sec. 1501. Exclusions from mandatory registration threshold.

TITLE VI—EXPAND WSKI ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 1601. Definition of well-known seasoned issuer.

DIVISION B—HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

TITLE I—UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Sec. 2101. Short title.

Sec. 2102. Safe harbors for private placement brokers and finders.

Sec. 2103. Limitations on State law.

TITLE II—SMALL BUSINESS INVESTOR CAPITAL ACCESS

Sec. 2201. Short title.

Sec. 2202. Inflation adjustment for the exemption threshold for certain investment advisers of private funds.

TITLE III—IMPROVING CAPITAL ALLOCATION FOR NEWCOMERS

Sec. 2301. Short title.

Sec. 2302. Qualifying venture capital funds.

TITLE IV—SMALL ENTREPRENEURS' EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 2401. Short title.

Sec. 2402. Micro-offering exemption.

TITLE V—REGULATION A+ IMPROVEMENT

Sec. 2501. Short title.

Sec. 2502. JOBS Act-related exemption.

TITLE VI—DEVELOPING AND EMPOWERING OUR ASPIRING LEADERS

Sec. 2601. Short title.

Sec. 2602. Definitions.

Sec. 2603. Reports.

TITLE VII—IMPROVING CROWDFUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Sec. 2701. Short title.

Sec. 2702. Crowdfunding revisions.

TITLE VIII—RESTORING THE SECONDARY TRADING MARKET

Sec. 2801. Short title.

Sec. 2802. Exemption from State regulation.

DIVISION C—INCREASING ACCESS TO PRIVATE MARKETS

TITLE I—GIG WORKER EQUITY COMPENSATION

Sec. 3101. Short title.

Sec. 3102. Extension of Rule 701.

Sec. 3104. GAO study.

TITLE II—INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION

Sec. 3201. Short title.

Sec. 3202. Investment thresholds to qualify as an accredited investor.

TITLE III—RISK DISCLOSURE AND INVESTOR ATTESTATION

Sec. 3301. Short title.

Sec. 3302. Investor attestation.

TITLE IV—ACCREDITED INVESTORS INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ADVICE FROM CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS

Sec. 3401. Accredited investors include individuals receiving advice from certain professionals.

DIVISION A—STRENGTHENING PUBLIC MARKETS

TITLE I—REMOVE ABERRATIONS IN THE MARKET CAP TEST FOR TARGET COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEC. 1101. AVOIDING ABERRATIONAL RESULTS IN REQUIREMENTS FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise section 210.1-02(w)(1)(i)(A) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to permit a registrant, in determining the significance of an acquisition or disposition described in such section 210.1-02(w)(1)(i)(A), to calculate the registrant's aggregate worldwide market value based on the applicable trading value, conversion value, or exchange value of all of the registrant's outstanding classes of stock (including preferred stock and non-traded common shares that are convertible into or exchangeable for traded common shares) and not just the voting and non-voting common equity of the registrant.

TITLE II—HELPING STARTUPS CONTINUE TO GROW

SEC. 1201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Helping Startups Continue To Grow Act".

SEC. 1202. EMERGING GROWTH COMPANY CRITERIA.

(a) **SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.**—Section 2(a)(19) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(19)) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$1,000,000,000" each place such term appears and inserting "\$1,500,000,000";

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking "fifth" and inserting "year"; and

(B) by adding "or" at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "; or" and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking subparagraph (D).

(b) **SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.**—Section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)) is amended, in the first paragraph (80) (related to emerging growth companies)—

(1) by striking "\$1,000,000,000" each place such term appears and inserting "\$1,500,000,000";

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “fifth” and inserting “7-year”; and

(B) by adding “or” at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking subparagraph (D).

TITLE III—SEC AND PCAOB AUDITOR REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY PUBLIC COMPANIES

SEC. 1301. AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE FOR CERTAIN PAST AUDITS OCCURRING BEFORE AN ISSUER IS A PUBLIC COMPANY.

(a) AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE STANDARDS OF THE PUBLIC COMPANY ACCOUNTING OVERSIGHT BOARD.—Section 103 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7213) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE FOR CERTAIN PAST AUDITS OCCURRING BEFORE AN ISSUER IS A PUBLIC COMPANY.—With respect to an issuer that is a public company or an issuer that has filed a registration statement to become a public company, the auditor independence rules established by the Board with respect to audits occurring before the last fiscal year of the issuer completed before the issuer filed a registration statement to become a public company shall treat an auditor as independent if—

“(1) the auditor is independent under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants applicable to certified public accountants in United States; or

“(2) with respect to a foreign issuer, the auditor is independent under comparable standards applicable to certified public accountants in the issuer’s home country.”.

(b) AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE STANDARDS OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78j-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE FOR CERTAIN PAST AUDITS OCCURRING BEFORE AN ISSUER IS A PUBLIC COMPANY.—With respect to an issuer that is a public company or an issuer that has filed a registration statement to become a public company, the auditor independence rules established by the Commission under the securities laws with respect to audits occurring before the last fiscal year of the issuer completed before the issuer filed a registration statement to become a public company shall treat an auditor as independent if—

“(1) the auditor is independent under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants applicable to certified public accountants in United States; or

“(2) with respect to a foreign issuer, the auditor is independent under comparable standards applicable to certified public accountants in the issuer’s home country.”.

TITLE IV—EXPAND THE PROTECTION FOR RESEARCH REPORTS TO COVER ALL SECURITIES OF ALL ISSUERS

SEC. 1401. PROVISION OF RESEARCH.

Section 2(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(3)) is amended—

(a) by striking “an emerging growth company” and inserting “an issuer”;

(b) by striking “the common equity” and inserting “any”; and

(c) by striking “such emerging growth company” and inserting “such issuer”.

TITLE V—EXCLUDE QIBS AND IAAS FROM THE RECORD HOLDER COUNT FOR MANDATORY REGISTRATION

SEC. 1501. EXCLUSIONS FROM MANDATORY REGISTRATION THRESHOLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting after “persons” the following: “(that are not a qualified institutional buyer or an institutional accredited investor)”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after “persons” the following: “(that are not a qualified institutional buyer or an institutional accredited investor)”.

(b) NONAPPLICABILITY OF GENERAL EXEMPTIVE AUTHORITY.—Section 36 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78mm) shall not apply to the matter inserted by the amendments made by subsection (a).

TITLE VI—EXPAND WKSI ELIGIBILITY

SEC. 1601. DEFINITION OF WELL-KNOWN SEASONED ISSUER.

For purposes of the Federal securities laws, and regulations issued thereunder, an issuer shall be a “well-known seasoned issuer” if—

(1) the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the issuer is \$250,000,000 or more (as determined under Form S-3 general instruction I.B.1. as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(2) the issuer otherwise satisfies the requirements of the definition of “well-known seasoned issuer” contained in section 230.405 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations without reference to any requirement in such definition relating to minimum worldwide market value of outstanding voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates.

DIVISION B—HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

TITLE I—UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

SEC. 2101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Unlocking Capital for Small Businesses Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2102. SAFE HARBORS FOR PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKERS AND FINDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(p) PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKER SAFE HARBOR.—

“(1) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection the Commission shall promulgate regulations with respect to private placement brokers that are no more stringent than those imposed on funding portals.

“(2) NATIONAL SECURITIES ASSOCIATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection the Commission shall promulgate regulations that require the rules of any national securities association to allow a private placement broker to become a member of such national securities association subject to reduced membership requirements consistent with this subsection.

“(3) DISCLOSURES REQUIRED.—Before effecting a transaction, a private placement broker shall disclose clearly and conspicuously, in writing, to all parties to the transaction as a result of the broker’s activities—

“(A) that the broker is acting as a private placement broker;

“(B) the amount of any payment or anticipated payment for services rendered as a private placement broker in connection with such transaction;

“(C) the person to whom any such payment is made; and

“(D) any beneficial interest in the issuer, direct or indirect, of the private placement broker, of a member of the immediate family of the private placement broker, of an associated person of the private placement broker, or of a member of the immediate family of such associated person.

“(4) PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘private placement broker’ means a person that—

“(A) receives transaction-based compensation—

“(i) for effecting a transaction by—

“(I) introducing an issuer of securities and a buyer of such securities in connection with the sale of a business effected as the sale of securities; or

“(II) introducing an issuer of securities and a buyer of such securities in connection with the placement of securities in transactions that are exempt from registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933; and

“(ii) that is not with respect to—

“(I) a class of publicly traded securities;

“(II) the securities of an investment company (as defined in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940); or

“(III) a variable or equity-indexed annuity or other variable or equity-indexed life insurance product;

“(B) with respect to a transaction for which such transaction-based compensation is received—

“(i) does not handle or take possession of the funds or securities; and

“(ii) does not engage in an activity that requires registration as an investment adviser under State or Federal law; and

“(C) is not a finder as defined under subsection (q).

“(q) FINDER SAFE HARBOR.—

“(1) NONREGISTRATION.—A finder is exempt from the registration requirements of this Act.

“(2) NATIONAL SECURITIES ASSOCIATIONS.—A finder shall not be required to become a member of any national securities association.

“(3) FINDER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘finder’ means a person described in paragraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (p)(4) that—

“(A) receives transaction-based compensation of equal to or less than \$500,000 in any calendar year;

“(B) receives transaction-based compensation in connection with transactions that result in a single issuer selling securities valued at equal to or less than \$15,000,000 in any calendar year;

“(C) receives transaction-based compensation in connection with transactions that result in any combination of issuers selling securities valued at equal to or less than \$30,000,000 in any calendar year; or

“(D) receives transaction-based compensation in connection with fewer than 16 transactions that are not part of the same offering or are otherwise unrelated in any calendar year.”.

(b) VALIDITY OF CONTRACTS WITH REGISTERED PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKERS AND FINDERS.—Section 29 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78cc) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Subsection (b) shall not apply to a contract made for a transaction if—

“(1) the transaction is one in which the issuer engaged the services of a broker or dealer that is not registered under this Act with respect to such transaction;

“(2) such issuer received a self-certification from such broker or dealer certifying that such broker or dealer is a registered private placement broker under section 15(p) or a finder under section 15(q); and

“(3) the issuer either did not know that such self-certification was false or did not have a reasonable basis to believe that such self-certification was false.”.

(c) REMOVAL OF PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKERS FROM DEFINITIONS OF BROKER.—

(1) RECORDS AND REPORTS ON MONETARY INSTRUMENTS TRANSACTIONS.—Section 5312 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in

subsection (a)(2)(G) by inserting “with the exception of a private placement broker as defined in section 15(p)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o(p)(4))” before the semicolon at the end.

(2) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 3(a)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKERS.—A private placement broker as defined in section 15(p)(4) is not a broker for the purposes of this Act.”.

SEC. 2103. LIMITATIONS ON STATE LAW.

Section 15(i) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o(i)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

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

“(3) PRIVATE PLACEMENT BROKERS AND FINDERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision thereof may enforce any law, rule, regulation, or other administrative action that imposes greater registration, audit, financial recordkeeping, or reporting requirements on a private placement broker or finder than those that are required under subsections (p) and (q), respectively.

“(B) DEFINITION OF STATE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (5)”.

TITLE II—SMALL BUSINESS INVESTOR CAPITAL ACCESS

SEC. 2201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Small Business Investor Capital Access Act”.

SEC. 2202. INFLATION ADJUSTMENT FOR THE EXEMPTION THRESHOLD FOR CERTAIN INVESTMENT ADVISERS OF PRIVATE FUNDS.

Section 203(m) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—The Commission shall adjust the dollar amount described under paragraph (1)—

“(A) upon enactment of this paragraph, to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor between the date of enactment of the Private Fund Investment Advisers Registration Act of 2010 and the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

“(B) annually thereafter, to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

TITLE III—IMPROVING CAPITAL ALLOCATION FOR NEWCOMERS

SEC. 2301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2302. QUALIFYING VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS.

Section 3(c)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “250 persons” and inserting “600 persons”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$150,000,000”.

TITLE IV—SMALL ENTREPRENEURS’ EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 2401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Small Entrepreneurs’ Empowerment and Development Act of 2023” or the “SEED Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2402. MICRO-OFFERING EXEMPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(8) transactions meeting the requirements of subsection (f).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) MICRO-OFFERINGS.—The transactions referred to in subsection (a)(8) are transactions involving the sale of securities by an issuer (including all entities controlled by or under common control with the issuer) where the aggregate amount of all securities sold by the issuer, including any amount sold in reliance on the exemption provided under subsection (a)(8), during the 12-month period preceding such transaction, does not exceed \$250,000.”.

(b) DISQUALIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall, by rule, establish disqualification provisions under which an issuer shall not be eligible to offer securities pursuant to section 4(a)(8) of the Securities Act of 1933, as added by this section.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Disqualification provisions required by this subsection shall—

(A) be substantially similar to the provisions of section 230.506(d) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto); and

(B) disqualify any offering or sale of securities by a person that—

(i) is subject to a final order of a covered regulator that—

(I) bars the person from—

(aa) association with an entity regulated by the covered regulator;

(bb) engaging in the business of securities, insurance, or banking; or

(cc) engaging in savings association or credit union activities; or

(II) constitutes a final order based on a violation of any law or regulation that prohibits fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct, if such final order was issued within the previous 10-year period; or

(ii) has been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in connection with the purchase or sale of any security or involving the making of any false filing with the Commission.

(3) COVERED REGULATOR DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered regulator” means—

(A) a State securities commission (or an agency or officer of a State performing like functions);

(B) a State authority that supervises or examines banks, savings associations, or credit unions;

(C) a State insurance commission (or an agency or officer of a State performing like functions);

(D) a Federal banking agency (as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act); and

(E) the National Credit Union Administration.

(c) EXEMPTION UNDER STATE REGULATIONS.—Section 18(b)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77r(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) section 4(a)(8).”.

TITLE V—REGULATION A+ IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulation A+ Improvement Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2502. JOBS ACT-RELATED EXEMPTION.

Section 3(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77c(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$150,000,000, adjusted for inflation by the Commission every 2 years to the nearest \$10,000 to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “such amount as” and inserting: “such amount, in addition to the adjustment for inflation provided for under such paragraph (2)(A), as”; and

(B) by striking “such amount, it” and inserting “such amount, in addition to the adjustment for inflation provided for under such paragraph (2)(A), it”.

TITLE VI—DEVELOPING AND EMPOWERING OUR ASPIRING LEADERS

SEC. 2601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2023” or the “DEAL Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2602. DEFINITIONS.

Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall, in a manner that facilitates capital formation without compromising investor protection—

(1) revise the definition of a qualifying investment under paragraph (c) of section 275.203(l)-1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations—

(A) to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company, whether acquired directly from the company or in a secondary acquisition; and

(B) to specify that an investment in another venture capital fund is a qualifying investment under such definition; and

(2) revise paragraph (a) of such section to require, as a condition of a private fund qualifying as a venture capital fund under such paragraph, that the qualifying investments of the private fund are either—

(A) predominantly qualifying investments that were acquired directly from a qualifying portfolio company; or

(B) predominantly qualifying investments in another venture capital fund or other venture capital funds.

SEC. 2603. REPORTS.

(a) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report to Congress on the risks and impacts of concentrated sectoral counterparty risk in the banking sector, in light of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank.

(b) ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION REPORT.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall issue a report to Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission—

(1) examining the access to banking services for venture funds and companies funded by venture capital, in light of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank, especially those funds and companies located outside of the established technology and venture capital hubs of California, Massachusetts, and New York; and

(2) containing any policy recommendations of the Advocate.

TITLE VII—IMPROVING CROWDFUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 2701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Improving Crowdfunding Opportunities Act”.

SEC. 2702. CROWDFUNDING REVISIONS.

(a) EXEMPTION FROM STATE REGULATION.—Section 18(b)(4)(A) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77r(b)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “pursuant to section” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “pursuant to—

“(i) section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or

“(ii) section 4A(b) or any regulation issued under that section;”.

(b) **LIABILITY FOR MATERIAL MISSTATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS.**—Section 4A(c) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d-1(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

“(3) **LIABILITY OF FUNDING PORTALS.**—For the purposes of this subsection, a funding portal, as that term is defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)), shall not be considered to be an issuer unless, in connection with the offer or sale of a security, the funding portal knowingly—

“(A) makes any untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading; or

“(B) engages in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.”.

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF BANK SECRECY ACT REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.**—Section 4A(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d-1(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) not be subject to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements relating to monetary instruments under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.”.

(2) **TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Section 5312 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) **ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION.**—The term ‘financial institution’ (as defined in subsection (a))—

“(1) includes any futures commission merchant, commodity trading advisor, or commodity pool operator registered, or required to register, under the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

“(2) does not include a funding portal, as that term is defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).”.

(d) **PROVISION OF IMPERSONAL INVESTMENT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second paragraph (80) (relating to funding portals) as paragraph (81); and

(2) in paragraph (81)(A), as so redesignated, by inserting after “recommendations” the following: “(other than by providing impersonal investment advice by means of written material, or an oral statement, that does not purport to meet the objectives or needs of a specific individual or account)”.

(e) **TARGET AMOUNTS OF CERTAIN EXEMPTED OFFERINGS.**—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall amend paragraph (t)(1) of section 227.201 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations so that such paragraph applies with respect to an issuer offering or selling securities in reliance on section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d(a)(6)) if—

(1) the offerings of such issuer, together with all other amounts sold under such section 4(a)(6) within the preceding 12-month period, have, in the aggregate, a target amount of more than \$124,000 but not more than \$250,000;

(2) the financial statements of such issuer that have either been reviewed or audited by a public accountant that is independent of

the issuer are unavailable at the time of filing; and

(3) such issuer provides a statement that financial information certified by the principal executive officer of the issuer has been provided instead of financial statements reviewed by a public accountant that is independent of the issuer.

(f) **EXEMPTION AVAILABLE TO INVESTMENT COMPANIES.**—Section 4A(f) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d-1(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking paragraph (3); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(g) **NON-ACCREDITED INVESTOR REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d(a)(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “does not exceed” and all that follows through “more than \$100,000” and inserting “does not exceed 10 percent of the annual income or net worth of such investor”.

(h) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—The Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the term “section 4(6)” each place such term appears and inserting “section 4(a)(6)”;

(2) by striking the term “section 4(6)(B)” each place such term appears and inserting “section 4(a)(6)(B)”;

(3) in section 4A(f), by striking “Section 4(6)” and inserting “Section 4(a)(6)”;

(4) in section 18(b)(4)(A), by striking “section 4” and inserting “section 4(a)”.

TITLE VIII—RESTORING THE SECONDARY TRADING MARKET

SEC. 2801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Restoring the Secondary Trading Market Act”.

SEC. 2802. EXEMPTION FROM STATE REGULATION.

Section 18(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77r(a)) is amended—

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) shall directly or indirectly prohibit, limit, or impose any conditions upon the off-exchange secondary trading (as such term is defined by the Commission) in securities of an issuer that makes current information publicly available, including—

“(A) the information required in the periodic and current reports described under paragraph (b) of section 230.257 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; or

“(B) the documents and information required with respect to Tier 2 offerings, as defined in section 230.251(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

DIVISION C—INCREASING ACCESS TO PRIVATE MARKETS

TITLE I—GIG WORKER EQUITY COMPENSATION

SEC. 3101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Gig Worker Equity Compensation Act”.

SEC. 3102. EXTENSION OF RULE 701.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The exemption provided under section 230.701 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, shall apply to individuals (other than employees) providing goods for sale, labor, or services for remuneration to either an issuer or to customers of an issuer to the same extent as such exemptions apply to employees of the issuer. For purposes of the previous sentence, the term “customers” may, at the election of an issuer, include users of the issuer’s platform.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.**—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall annually adjust the dollar figure under section 230.701(e) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

(c) **RULEMAKING.**—The Securities and Exchange Commission—

(1) shall revise section 230.701 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to reflect the requirements of this section; and

(2) may not revise such section 230.701 in any manner that would have the effect of restricting access to equity compensation for employees or individuals described under subsection (a).

SEC. 3104. GAO STUDY.

Not later than the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study on the effects of this title and submit a report on such study to the Congress.

TITLE II—INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION

SEC. 3201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Investment Opportunity Expansion Act”.

SEC. 3202. INVESTMENT THRESHOLDS TO QUALIFY AS AN ACCREDITED INVESTOR.

Section 2(a)(15) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(15)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(15) The term ‘accredited investor’ shall mean—” and inserting the following:

“(15) **ACCREDITED INVESTOR.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘accredited investor’ means—”;

(2) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(3) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) with respect to a proposed transaction, any individual whose aggregate investment, at the completion of such transaction, in securities with respect to which there has not been a public offering is not more than 10 percent of the greater of—

“(I) the net assets of the individual; or

“(II) the annual income of the individual;”.

TITLE III—RISK DISCLOSURE AND INVESTOR ATTESTATION

SEC. 3301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Risk Disclosure and Investor Attestation Act”.

SEC. 3302. INVESTOR ATTESTATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2(a)(15) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(15)), as amended by section 3202, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) with respect to an issuer, any individual that has attested to the issuer that the individual understands the risks of investment in private issuers, using such form as the Commission shall establish, by rule, but which form may not be longer than 2 pages in length; or”.

(b) **RULEMAKING.**—Not later than the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall issue rules to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a), including establishing the form required under such amendments.

TITLE IV—ACCREDITED INVESTORS INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ADVICE FROM CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS

SEC. 3401. ACCREDITED INVESTORS INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ADVICE FROM CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS.

(a) **SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.**—Section 2(a)(15) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15

U.S.C. 77b(a)(15)), as amended by sections 3202 and 3302, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(v) any individual receiving individualized investment advice or individualized investment recommendations with respect to the applicable transaction from an individual described under section 203.501(a)(10) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(B) DEFINITIONS.—In subparagraph (A)(v):

“(i) INVESTMENT ADVICE.—The term ‘investment advice’ shall be interpreted consistently with the interpretation of the phrase ‘engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities’ under section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-2(a)(11)).

“(ii) INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATION.—The term ‘investment recommendation’ shall be interpreted consistently with the interpretation of the term ‘recommendation’ under section 240.15l-1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations.”

(b) CONFORMING CHANGES TO REGULATIONS.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise section 203.501(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, and any other definition of “accredited investor” in a rule of the Commission in the same manner as such definition is revised under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-407. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-407.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION D—HELPING ANGELS LEAD OUR STARTUPS

SEC. 4001. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL SOLICITATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section and the revision of rules required under this section:

(1) ANGEL INVESTOR GROUP.—The term “angel investor group” means any group that—

(A) is composed of accredited investors interested in investing personal capital in early-stage companies;

(B) holds regular meetings and has defined processes and procedures for making investment decisions, either individually or among the membership of the group as a whole; and

(C) is neither associated nor affiliated with brokers, dealers, or investment advisers.

(2) ISSUER.—The term “issuer” means an issuer that is a business, is not in bank-

ruptcy or receivership, is not an investment company, and is not a blank check, blind pool, or shell company.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise Regulation D (17 CFR 230.500 et seq.) to require that in carrying out the prohibition against general solicitation or general advertising contained in section 230.502(c) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, the prohibition shall not apply to a presentation or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer which is made at an event—

(1) sponsored by—

(A) the United States or any territory thereof, the District of Columbia, any State, a political subdivision of any State or territory, or any agency or public instrumentality of any of the foregoing;

(B) a college, university, or other institution of higher education;

(C) a nonprofit organization;

(D) an angel investor group;

(E) a venture forum, venture capital association, or trade association; or

(F) any other group, person, or entity as the Securities and Exchange Commission may determine by rule;

(2) where any advertising for the event does not reference any specific offering of securities by the issuer;

(3) the sponsor of which—

(A) does not make investment recommendations or provide investment advice to event attendees;

(B) does not engage in an active role in any investment negotiations between the issuer and investors attending the event;

(C) does not charge event attendees any fees other than reasonable administrative fees;

(D) does not receive any compensation for making introductions between investors attending the event and issuers, or for investment negotiations between such parties;

(E) makes readily available to attendees a disclosure not longer than one page in length, as prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, describing the nature of the event and the risks of investing in the issuers presenting at the event; and

(F) does not receive any compensation with respect to such event that would require registration of the sponsor as a broker or a dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or as an investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940; and

(4) where no specific information regarding an offering of securities by the issuer is communicated or distributed by or on behalf of the issuer, other than—

(A) that the issuer is in the process of offering securities or planning to offer securities;

(B) the type and amount of securities being offered;

(C) the amount of securities being offered that have already been subscribed for; and

(D) the intended use of proceeds of the offering.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (b) may only be construed as requiring the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the requirements of Regulation D with respect to presentations and communications, and not with respect to purchases or sales.

(d) NO PRE-EXISTING SUBSTANTIVE RELATIONSHIP BY REASON OF EVENT.—Attendance at an event described under subsection (b) shall not qualify, by itself, as establishing a pre-existing substantive relationship between an issuer and a purchaser, for purposes of Rule 506(b).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the gentleman

from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, today I rise to urge the House to adopt my amendment, which would include the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, otherwise known as the HALOS Act, into the underlying bill.

The HALOS Act will promote access to investment capital for small companies and ensure that startups can continue to generate interest and connect with investors.

It will do this by ensuring that demo days, pitch competitions, and community economic development events where there is no specific investment offering are not considered general solicitation under Reg D.

In doing so, companies will be able to engage with a wider audience of investors and spread word of the products and services that they can offer to help develop a thriving and diverse economy.

Small businesses are facing turbulent economic times. After surviving COVID, they are still dealing with the impacts of inflation, low confidence in the economy, and having to contend with many regulations which can stifle economic growth, prevent entrepreneurs from achieving their full potential, and frankly, prevent folks from living out their American Dream.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses drive the American economy. In 2019, the SBA calculated that close to 44 percent of our GDP was the result of small businesses.

Barriers like the general compliance requirements on general solicitations can reduce opportunities for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and everyday investors as they both soak up the amount of time and resources needed but also deter small businesses who are afraid of unintentionally violating these laws.

We have seen many successes from and since the passing of the bipartisan JOBS Act over a decade ago that helped reduce barriers to investment.

The HALOS Act is a logical next step on the road of clarifying and modernizing rules that will enable startups to find the resources they need to grow and thrive.

Angel investors who are defined by this bill not only play a major role in financing individual efforts to pursue their dream and start a business, but also often provide a wealth of advice and support for tens of thousands of startups.

Long-term impact can be seen as companies such as Amazon, Costco, Facebook, Google, and Starbucks all initially were funded by angel investors.

By alleviating burdens on businesses, cutting red tape, and making capital in our public markets easier and less costly for emerging companies, we will be helping to build a more diverse and inclusive universe of entrepreneurs and

founders by expanding opportunities to underrepresented entrepreneurs and communities facing capital formation challenges.

The HALOS Act will simply allow folks to get eyes on their businesses and potentially find the vital investor they need to succeed.

Once again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense and bipartisan amendment to help our small businesses and startups.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment sponsored by Mr. LAWLER codifies a controversial Trump-era SEC rule that is opposed by many investor advocates.

The amendment allows high-risk startups to tout their businesses in front of retail investors. This is currently prohibited in part because roughly 75 percent of VC-backed startups fail.

The amendment would specifically allow angel investors and issuers to market their startup ventures to prospective investors at colleges and non-profits, including churches.

Broadly marketing your securities to the public in this fashion—known as a general solicitation—is usually prohibited for private offerings like these because the public nature of the market effectively makes the offering itself public, and therefore, requires registration with the SEC.

At universities and churches, students and congregants gather to learn, and they generally trust the information they receive. I don't believe these are spaces where it is appropriate to market highly risky investment opportunities.

In my own district, a church was the victim of an investment scheme in which an issuer conned the church out of nearly \$6 million. I previously offered an amendment during our committee's markup last year that would prevent future frauds like this from happening again—frauds that would be further enabled by this amendment.

As such, I urge my colleagues to oppose Mr. LAWLER's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, I would just remind the ranking member that you need to be an accredited investor to invest. Many of the examples that the gentlewoman highlights are frankly null and void.

Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the chair of the Capital Markets Subcommittee.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my friend and colleague

from New York's amendment, which would add his Helping Angels Lead Our Startups, or HALOS, Act to H.R. 2799.

Mr. LAWLER's legislation is a commonsense step to promote capital formation by permanently reducing certain burdens on U.S. small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Unfortunately, when implementing the JOBS Act of 2012, the SEC complicated these events for many startups by classifying demo day discussions as general solicitations, blocking companies from being able to use common fundraising practices.

In 2021, then-SEC Chairman Clayton reformed these rules to provide relief for entrepreneurs throughout our country, and my colleague's amendment builds on this progress by adding much-needed certainty that will ensure startups can continue to access demo days without sacrificing their ability to raise capital through popular and practical regulatory pathways.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have recognized the need for this amendment with the current language receiving strong bipartisan support, once again, from the committee.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to adopt this commonsense amendment and help U.S. startups grow their ideas into thriving and successful businesses.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, what Mr. LAWLER doesn't recognize is that the underlying bill makes the accredited investor definition meaningless. All you have to do is check a box, and poof, able to invest.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, I rise again to urge the House to adopt my amendment, the Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act, otherwise known as the HALOS Act, into the underlying bill.

Ensuring that folks have access to capital is critical, and this amendment will help ensure that our small businesses, which are the lifeblood of our economy, have greater access to capital and that accredited investors will be able to invest in these small startup businesses.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Simply put, this amendment allows failure-prone startups to market their private offerings to unaccredited investors who do not fully understand the risks involved.

Colleges and churches are not the place startups should be raising money, and in general, we should not make it easier for them to push their risky private securities on unsuspecting retail investors, as this provision does.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-407.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION D—IMPROVING DISCLOSURE FOR INVESTORS

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the "Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2024".

SEC. 4002. ELECTRONIC DELIVERY.

(a) PROMULGATION OF RULES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall propose and, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commission shall finalize, rules, regulations, amendments, or interpretations, as appropriate, to allow a covered entity to satisfy the entity's obligation to deliver regulatory documents required under the securities laws to investors using electronic delivery.

(b) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.—Rules, regulations, amendments, or interpretations the Commission promulgates pursuant to subsection (a) shall:

(1) With respect to investors that do not receive all regulatory documents by electronic delivery, provide for—

(A) delivery of an initial communication in paper form regarding electronic delivery;

(B) a transition period not to exceed 180 days until such regulatory documents are delivered to such investors by electronic delivery; and

(C) during a period not to exceed 2 years following the transition period set forth in subparagraph (B), delivery of an annual notice in paper form solely reminding such investors of the ability to opt out of electronic delivery at any time and receive paper versions of regulatory documents.

(2) Set forth requirements for the content of the initial communication described in paragraph (1)(A).

(3) Set forth requirements for the timing of delivery of a notice of website availability of regulatory documents and the content of the appropriate notice described in subsection (h)(3)(B).

(4) Provide a mechanism for investors to opt out of electronic delivery at any time and receive paper versions of regulatory documents.

(5) Require measures reasonably designed to identify and remediate failed electronic deliveries of regulatory documents.

(6) Set forth minimum requirements regarding readability and retainability for regulatory documents that are delivered electronically.

(7) For covered entities other than brokers, dealers, investment advisers registered with the Commission, and investment companies, require measures reasonably designed to ensure the confidentiality of personal information in regulatory documents that are delivered to investors electronically.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering the substance or timing of any regulatory document obligation under the securities laws or regulations of a self-regulatory organization.

(d) **TREATMENT OF REVISIONS NOT COMPLETED IN A TIMELY MANNER.**—If the Commission fails to finalize the rules, regulations, amendments, or interpretations required under subsection (a) before the date specified in such subsection—

(1) a covered entity may deliver regulatory documents using electronic delivery in accordance with subsections (b) and (c); and

(2) such electronic delivery shall be deemed to satisfy the obligation of the covered entity to deliver regulatory documents required under the securities laws.

(e) **OTHER REQUIRED ACTIONS.**—

(1) **REVIEW OF RULES.**—The Commission shall—

(A) within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, conduct a review of the rules and regulations of the Commission to determine whether any such rules or regulations require delivery of written documents to investors; and

(B) within 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act, promulgate amendments to such rules or regulations to provide that any requirement to deliver a regulatory document “in writing” may be satisfied by electronic delivery.

(2) **ACTIONS BY SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS.**—Each self-regulatory organization shall adopt rules and regulations, or amend the rules and regulations of the self-regulatory organization, consistent with this Act and consistent with rules, regulations, amendments, or interpretations finalized by the Commission pursuant to subsection (a).

(3) **RULE OF APPLICATION.**—This subsection shall not apply to a rule or regulation issued pursuant to a Federal statute if that Federal statute specifically requires delivery of written documents to investors.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(2) **COVERED ENTITY.**—The term “covered entity” means—

(A) an investment company (as defined in section 3(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(a)(1))) that is registered under such Act;

(B) a business development company (as defined in section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a))) that has elected to be regulated as such under such Act;

(C) a registered broker or dealer (as defined in section 3(a)(4) and section 3(a)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(4) & 78c(a)(5));

(D) a registered municipal securities dealer (as defined in section 3(a)(30) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(30));

(E) a registered government securities broker or government securities dealer (as defined in section 3(a)(43) and section 3(a)(44) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(43) & 78c(a)(44));

(F) a registered investment adviser (as defined in section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940) (15 U.S.C. 80b-1(a)(11));

(G) a registered transfer agent (as defined in section 3(a)(25) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(25)); or

(H) a registered funding portal (as defined in the second paragraph (80) of section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(80)).

(3) **ELECTRONIC DELIVERY.**—The term “electronic delivery”, with respect to regulatory documents, includes—

(A) the direct delivery of such regulatory document to an electronic address of an investor;

(B) the posting of such regulatory document to a website and direct electronic delivery of an appropriate notice of the availability of the regulatory document to the investor; and

(C) an electronic method reasonably designed to ensure receipt of such regulatory document by the investor.

(4) **REGULATORY DOCUMENTS.**—The term “regulatory documents” includes—

(A) prospectuses meeting the requirements of section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77j(a));

(B) summary prospectuses meeting the requirements of—

(i) section 230.498 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(ii) section 230.498A of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(C) statements of additional information, as described under section 270.30e-3(h)(3) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(D) annual and semi-annual reports to investors meeting the requirements of section 30(e) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-29(e));

(E) notices meeting the requirements under section 270.19a-1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(F) confirmations and account statements meeting the requirements under section 240.10b-10 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(G) proxy statements meeting the requirements under section 240.14a-3 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(H) privacy notices meeting the requirements of Regulation S-P under subpart A of part 248 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

(I) affiliate marketing notices meeting the requirements of Regulation S-AM under subpart B of part 248 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(J) all other regulatory documents required to be delivered by covered entities to investors under the securities laws and the rules and regulations of the Commission and the self-regulatory organizations.

(5) **SECURITIES LAWS.**—The term “securities laws” has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(6) **SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATION.**—The term “self-regulatory organization” means—

(A) a self-regulatory organization, as defined in section 2(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)); and

(B) the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

(7) **WEBSITE.**—The term “website” means an internet website or other digital, internet, or electronic-based information repository, such as a mobile application, to which an investor of a covered entity has been provided reasonable access.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Chair, for 90 years, the Securities and Exchange Commission has been tasked with three things: protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and finally, facilitate capital formation.

The amendment before us today does all three.

First, it directs the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules with respect to electronic delivery of some required disclosures to retail investors.

Second, it provides a transition period, allowing an initial paper communication about the electronic delivery to be sent to existing investors.

Third, during a period not to exceed 2 years, the amendment requires delivery of the annual notice in paper solely to remind investors of the ability to opt out of that and into electronic delivery at any time.

Lastly—and I can’t emphasize this enough—this amendment provides a mechanism for investors at any time to opt out of e-delivery, and once again, you will receive paper versions of the documents.

You want paper, Mr. Chair, you get it.

You want e-delivery, you can get that, too.

E-delivery is not a new and radical concept, but frankly, it is long overdue, and the data supports the facts.

In 2018, the Social Security Administration eliminated paper as its primary method of delivering benefit statements to individuals. Now, nearly 45 million Americans who receive benefits from Social Security have created online accounts to access their information—information that is more timely and more secure.

Likewise, the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, TSP, which Members and staff in this Chamber use, began offering statements digitally in 2003, with 5.5 million or 85 percent of participants currently taking advantage of this option.

Finally, in 2020, the Department of Labor moved to e-delivery as a default for all of its workplace plan participants.

I would close by addressing consumer protection. This amendment appropriately preserves the ability for investors who prefer to receive paper notices and disclosures to do just that.

Like many of my colleagues, I, too, represent a district that encompasses rural communities. That is why it was important for today’s amendment to ensure that paper will always be an option if internet access is an issue.

American financial markets are some of the most sophisticated in the world with innovation happening at every turn. Yet, for retail investors, we have decided that defaulting to an outdated mode of information sharing is in their best interest.

Today’s amendment was guided by a commitment to honor consumer choice while ensuring Americans receive important information.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment ignores the reality that many investors, particularly seniors, do not have access to or the ability to review electronic documents or simply do not prefer electronic delivery of financial documents. It would require investors to opt in to receive paper documents, which would effectively prevent individuals who do not have easy access to the internet from viewing important financial documents about the securities they invest in.

Several major investor advocate groups strongly oppose this bill, including the AARP, the North American Securities Administrators Association, the Consumer Federation of America, Americans for Financial Reform, and Public Citizen, to name a few.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this terrible amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL).

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan amendment with Mr. HUIZENGA. I also thank my colleagues, Congressman STEIL and Congressman AUCHINCLOSS, for cosponsoring this amendment.

This commonsense, probusiness amendment cuts unnecessary red tape and directs the SEC to make electronic delivery, or eDelivery, the default communication method for investment companies with their investors. The amendment aims to modernize the policy, with investors opting in to paper disclosures instead of opting out while ensuring that paper will always be an option.

Consumer protection is a cornerstone of this amendment, which is why it includes a 2-year transition period. Well before any switch to eDelivery begins, consumers would be given advance notice in the form of clear and readable paper disclosures about the move to digital disclosures. On top of that, consumers will be mailed reminders for 2 years that they can opt in to paper disclosures. Paper disclosures will always be an option for those who want them.

This a long overdue reform, especially when you consider that the Social Security Administration, the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, the Department of Labor, and the IRS have already advanced digital-first policies that have succeeded in providing Americans with more timely, secure, and engaging communications.

This is a pro-environment amendment. Congress can save millions of trees with this legislation. With each forest we cut down to deliver a disclosure to clog up both mailboxes and trash cans, we cause devastating impacts to our air, water, and the healthy planet future generations deserve to grow up on.

American financial markets are the most sophisticated in the world. While some are finding innovative ways to

harness the speed and reliability of today's technology for everyday investors, the SEC's regulatory construct still uses an outdated mode of sharing information: paper.

Despite the convenience and security of the internet, we are not removing paper as an option. That choice remains. I believe it is incumbent upon Congress to modernize regulations in our capital markets.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment, to do the right thing for consumers, the planet, and the market.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Chair, may I inquire of the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Chair, virtually every Federal agency, including the IRS and the Social Security Administration, have moved to electronic delivery. Why? Because older Americans have rapidly adopted internet technology in recent years, including 96 percent of those between the ages of 50 and 65, of which I am, and over three-quarters of those over the age of 65.

In fact, in a recent AARP study about retirement plan account holders' views on electronic versus paper accounts, 91 percent of the people were comfortable using the internet to log in and view financial accounts and 94 percent used the internet daily.

I understand the AARP has some concerns with this legislation. We have attempted to address those through the ranking member. Unfortunately, their solution so radically changes the scope of the bill that it undercuts the entire intent of this.

As I have said before, if you want paper, you will receive paper. If you want an electronic copy, you will receive an electronic copy. It is disingenuous to say anything else. If you don't have internet access, or if you choose to receive paper, you will get it.

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

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

The name of this amendment, Improving Disclosure for Investors, is an oxymoron. It does absolutely nothing to improve disclosure for investors. Rather, by forcing them to opt in to paper filings, it would make it more difficult, if not impossible, for many investors to see what fees they pay for their funds, brokerage accounts, and retirement savings. Instead of having easy, instant access via paper copies, they would need to go online to search for that information.

This amendment is more appropriately called the improving Wall Street profits at the expense of retail investors act.

I strongly urge my colleagues to protect elderly investors and to vote "no" on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LUCAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-407.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION D—ENHANCEMENT OF 403(b) PLANS

SEC. 4101. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the "Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act of 2024".

SEC. 4102. ENHANCEMENT OF 403(b) PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.—Section 3(c)(11) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(c)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

"(11) Any—

"(A) employee's stock bonus, pension, or profit-sharing trust which meets the requirements for qualification under section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(B) custodial account meeting the requirements of section 403(b)(7) of such Code;

"(C) governmental plan described in section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Securities Act of 1933;

"(D) collective trust fund maintained by a bank consisting solely of assets of one or more—

"(i) trusts described in subparagraph (A);

"(ii) government plans described in subparagraph (C);

"(iii) church plans, companies, or accounts that are excluded from the definition of an investment company under paragraph (14) of this subsection; or

"(iv) plans which meet the requirements of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

"(I) if—

"(aa) such plan is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

"(bb) any employer making such plan available agrees to serve as a fiduciary for the plan with respect to the selection of the plan's investments among which participants can choose; or

"(cc) such plan is a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of such Code); and

"(II) if the employer, a fiduciary of the plan, or another person acting on behalf of the employer reviews and approves each investment alternative offered under such plan described under subclause (I)(cc) prior to the investment being offered to participants in the plan; or

"(E) separate account the assets of which are derived solely from—

"(i) contributions under pension or profit-sharing plans which meet the requirements of section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the requirements for deduction of the employer's contribution under section 404(a)(2) of such Code;

“(ii) contributions under governmental plans in connection with which interests, participations, or securities are exempted from the registration provisions of section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 by section 3(a)(2)(C) of such Act;

“(iii) advances made by an insurance company in connection with the operation of such separate account; and

“(iv) contributions to a plan described in clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (D).”

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 3(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77c(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “beneficiaries, or (D)” and inserting “beneficiaries, (D) a plan which meets the requirements of section 403(b) of such Code (i) if (I) such plan is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), (II) any employer making such plan available agrees to serve as a fiduciary for the plan with respect to the selection of the plan’s investments among which participants can choose, or (III) such plan is a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of such Code), and (ii) if the employer, a fiduciary of the plan, or another person acting on behalf of the employer reviews and approves each investment alternative offered under any plan described under clause (i)(III) prior to the investment being offered to participants in the plan, or (E)”;

(2) by striking “(C), or (D)” and inserting “(C), (D), or (E)”;

(3) by striking “(iii) which is a plan funded” and all that follows through “retirement income account.” and inserting “(iii) in the case of a plan not described in subparagraph (D) or (E), which is a plan funded by an annuity contract described in section 403(b) of such Code”.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 3(a)(12)(C) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(12)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or (iv)” and inserting “(iv) a plan which meets the requirements of section 403(b) of such Code (I) if (aa) such plan is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), (bb) any employer making such plan available agrees to serve as a fiduciary for the plan with respect to the selection of the plan’s investments among which participants can choose, or (cc) such plan is a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of such Code), and (II) if the employer, a fiduciary of the plan, or another person acting on behalf of the employer reviews and approves each investment alternative offered under any plan described under subclause (I)(cc) prior to the investment being offered to participants in the plan, or (v)”;

(2) by striking “(ii), or (iii)” and inserting “(ii), (iii), or (iv)”;

(3) by striking “(II) is a plan funded” and inserting “(II) in the case of a plan not described in clause (iv), is a plan funded”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 12(g)(2)(H) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(H)) is amended by striking “or (iii)” and inserting “(iii) a plan described in section 3(a)(12)(C)(iv) of this Act, or (iv)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

One of the most difficult decisions a worker will ever undertake is determining how to save for retirement. This requires an individual to forecast decades into the future, ensuring one has the ability to navigate through life, family, and economic events.

For many teachers and nonprofit employees, their retirement savings are through 403(b) plans. However, these public servants in 403(b) plans are unable to benefit from the same cost-effective investment products that are available in all other plans, including 401(k) plans, government 457(b) plans, and the Federal Thrift Savings Plan.

Since the creation of 403(b) retirement plans back in 1958, there have been many changes to how we save for retirement, both in the law and the overall economy.

This amendment will allow 403(b) plans the ability to invest in collective investment trusts, or CITs, and insurance company separate accounts.

CITs and insurance company separate accounts are both pooled investment vehicles sponsored and maintained by a bank or trust company, or an insurance company, respectively.

This measure originated in SECURE 2.0 last Congress, which passed the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously. The SECURE 2.0 Act that ultimately became law included the required changes to the tax code but did not include the necessary changes to securities law.

The data speaks for itself. During the past 10 years, 401(k) plan assets increased by 88 percent, government 457(b) plans increased by 82 percent, but total assets in 403(b) plans only increased by 46 percent.

We have for too long limited the investment options made available to public servants, and this bill will allow for much-needed consistency across retirement plans.

This measure received broad bipartisan support in the Financial Services Committee, and I thank Congressman GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey and Congressman FOSTER of Illinois for joining me on this amendment.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment, sponsored by Mr. LUCAS, would be better titled the retirement hazard for charities and educational institutions amendment because it puts the retirement savings of public interest professionals at risk.

403(b) retirement plans cater to teachers, school administrators, professors, nonprofit employees, and healthcare workers. These individuals dedicate their lives to the public interest. They invest in the future of our

children. They ensure we get the healthcare we need, even during a global pandemic, and too often, they aren’t paid nearly enough to do the work that they do.

There are current restrictions on how 403(b) plans can invest their assets, and this is to ensure that these retirement accounts are generally safe investments. However, this amendment would allow 403(b) plans to invest in two types of risky, unregistered securities: collective investment trusts, or CITs, which is a type of pooled investment vehicle, and insurance products called variable annuities, both of which are considered fairly risky products for unsophisticated investors.

Madam Chair, under this amendment, neither of these products would be subject to regulation or oversight by the SEC.

More than half of all 403(b) plans are not covered by ERISA protections, meaning that this newly allowed risky investment activity would also escape the oversight of the Department of Labor.

While Republicans claim they are creating parity with 401(k) plans, this is simply untrue because all 401(k) plans are, in fact, covered by ERISA. To create true parity, we would need to restrict the sale of CITs and variable annuities to only 403(b) plans covered by ERISA.

All in all, this amendment would carve out over \$1.4 trillion of retirement funds from Federal oversight. This would constitute the single largest deregulation of our capital markets in years.

Ultimately, this amendment would put the hard-earned retirement savings of public interest professionals at risk. That is why I strongly oppose it.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

□ 1745

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman from Oklahoma’s amendment.

Under current law, Americans participating in 401(k) plans through their employer may invest their retirement accounts in collective investment trusts, CITs, and insurance company separate accounts that are exempt from the SEC’s registration requirements. This exemption from SEC registration allows these products to be offered at lower costs.

However, teachers, nurses, janitors, and charity workers who participate in 403(b) plans are currently denied access to the cost-effective investments available to private workers in 401(k) plans. Importantly, investment options in a 403(b) plan are always selected by the private or public employer. As such, this amendment does not allow direct retail sales to individuals.

Moreover, unregistered does not mean unregulated. It simply means

that investment products available to 403(b) plans will not have to register with the SEC and, thus, will not have to provide a lengthy prospectus document to accompany the filing, thus keeping costs appropriately low.

The amendment preserves important protections for investors in 403(b) plans.

Mr. LUCAS' amendment is a thoughtful and balanced bill to allow employees of nonprofit charities and public educational institutions in 403(b) plans to have access to the same low-cost investments available to employees of for-profit companies and other employees in 401(k) plans.

This amendment is co-led in a bipartisan fashion with support from my colleagues across the aisle, Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. FOSTER. On top of that, the bill this amendment is based on, the Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act, passed out of the Financial Services Committee last year with very strong bipartisan support.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, I simply wish to say that I have the greatest respect for the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, but I would note we simply disagree on this amendment.

I believe it is a very effective way to provide equity amongst the various retirement accounts, and it is important that teachers and public service people have the same opportunity to grow their savings so that they, too, can enjoy the best possible golden years.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, by allowing unregistered financial professionals to sell unregistered products to 403(b) plans, this amendment would leave America's teachers, healthcare workers, and other public interest professionals vulnerable to losing their retirement funds.

Neither of the two unregistered products contemplated nor the sales of these products would be subject to regulation or oversight by the SEC, which allows them to skirt investor protections and exposes plan participants to greater risk of loss. Congress must do everything in its power to ensure our teachers and dedicated public servants have a comfortable retirement, but this amendment would do anything but that.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report Number 118-407.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION D—INCREASING INVESTOR OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 4001. CLOSED-END COMPANY AUTHORITY TO INVEST IN PRIVATE FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-5) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) CLOSED-END COMPANY AUTHORITY TO INVEST IN PRIVATE FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise prohibited or restricted by this Act (or any rule issued under this Act), the Commission may not prohibit or otherwise limit a closed-end company from investing any or all of the assets of the closed-end company in securities issued by private funds.

“(2) OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON COMMISSION AUTHORITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise prohibited or restricted by this Act (or any rule issued under this Act) or to the extent permitted by subparagraph (B), the Commission may not impose any condition on, restrict, or otherwise limit—

“(i) the offer to sell, or the sale of, securities issued by a closed-end company that invests, or proposes to invest, in securities issued by private funds; or

“(ii) the listing of the securities of a closed-end company described in clause (i) on a national securities exchange.

“(B) UNRELATED RESTRICTIONS.—The Commission may impose a condition on, restrict, or otherwise limit an activity described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) if that condition, restriction or limitation is unrelated to the underlying characteristics of a private fund or the status of a private fund as a private fund.

“(3) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 6(f), this subsection shall also apply to a closed-end company that elects to be treated as a business development company pursuant to section 54.”.

(b) DEFINITION OF PRIVATE FUND.—Section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(55) The term ‘private fund’ has the meaning given in section 202(a) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-2(a)).”.

(c) TREATMENT BY NATIONAL SECURITIES EXCHANGES.—Section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m)(1) Except as otherwise prohibited or restricted by rules of the exchange that are consistent with section 5(d) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-5(d)), an exchange may not prohibit, condition, restrict, or impose any other limitation on the listing or trading of the securities of a closed-end company when the closed-end company invests, or may invest, some or all of the assets of the closed-end company in securities issued by private funds.

“(2) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘closed-end company’—

“(i) has the meaning given the term in section 5(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-5(a)); and

“(ii) includes a closed-end company that elects to be treated as a business development company pursuant to section 54 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-53); and

“(B) the term ‘private fund’ has the meaning given the term in section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)).”.

(d) INVESTMENT LIMITATION.—Section 3(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), in the second sentence, by striking “subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B)(i)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A)(i), (B)(i), and (C)”;

(2) in paragraph (7)(D), by striking “subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B)(i)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A)(i), (B)(i), and (C)”.

(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section may be construed to limit or amend any fiduciary duty owed to a closed-end company (as defined in section 5(a)(2) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-5(a)(2))) or by an investment adviser (as defined under section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a))) to a closed-end company.

(2) Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section may be construed to limit or amend the valuation, liquidity, or redemption requirements or obligations of a closed-end company (as defined in section 5(a)(2) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-5(a)(2))) as required by the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, closed-end funds are a popular tool for everyday investors who gain exposure to private markets in a safe, appropriately regulated way. Approximately 3 million Americans rely on these products to build wealth and save for retirement.

Like other investment options available to Americans looking to save for retirement, send their kids to college, or plan for the future, closed-end funds must comply with the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the Investment Company Act of 1940.

To satisfy their regulatory obligations, closed-end funds must, among other things, register with the SEC, file annual and semiannual reports, and comply with stringent valuation and disclosure requirements. They are also subject to the broad antifraud provisions of the Federal securities laws, which provide additional protections to investors.

Unfortunately, an SEC staff position prevents registered closed-end funds from investing more than 15 percent of their total assets in private funds. This arbitrary restriction is especially harmful to low-income and middle-

class Americans who rely on appropriately regulated products like closed-end funds to access high-growth investment opportunities.

In substituting their own judgments for those of financial professionals, SEC bureaucrats have taken another step toward reserving safe access to investment opportunities for wealthy, accredited investors.

My amendment, which mirrors my bipartisan Increasing Investor Opportunities Act, would remove this arbitrary SEC staff position and allow investment professionals to determine which investments a closed-end fund should make. This would increase investment opportunities for millions of Americans and eliminate unnecessary barriers restricting investor access.

Madam Chair, I thank my Democratic friends across the aisle, including Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. NICKEL, for their bipartisan support of my bill on which this amendment is based.

Last year, the Financial Services Committee passed the same text that is in this amendment with strong bipartisan support. I am proud of this legislation and our committee's unwavering commitment to expanding investment opportunities for all Americans.

Madam Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, this amendment would be better titled increasing investor risks.

Currently, closed-end funds, which are a type of mutual fund, are only allowed to invest up to 15 percent of their assets into private funds. This current limit of 15 percent gives closed-end funds some flexibility to invest in private funds but establishes a reasonable restriction, considering private funds are subject to less regulation and disclosure. This restriction also accounts for the fact that private funds invest in fledgling startups and distressed companies, which are significantly more risky than public securities, and most of their investments fail.

Mrs. WAGNER's amendment would eliminate the restriction on closed-end fund investments into private funds, allowing them to invest up to 100 percent of their assets into private funds. Moreover, the amendment provides zero safeguards to mitigate the new risks created by this blunt deregulation.

Like all the rest of the capital markets-related amendments before us today, this one is opposed by investor groups, consumer and investor advocates, and State regulators.

For these reasons, Madam Chair, I oppose this amendment. I urge my col-

leagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, at this time, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment with my friend from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) along with the support of my colleagues Mr. SCOTT and Mr. NICKEL.

This amendment would provide opportunities for enhanced exposure to private funds through closed-end funds, investment vehicles with comprehensive protections under the 1940 Investment Company Act. These rules include the mandatory requirement that the fund be managed by an investment adviser who is required to conduct due diligence on a fund's investments, answer to independent directors, and adhere to extensive disclosure and reporting requirements.

This amendment also makes clear that investors should be given access to the growth opportunities provided in the private markets so long as they have proper disclosures and risk mitigation.

I am happy to sponsor this bipartisan amendment primarily because it also broadens opportunities and increases access for people who have been left out in the past while ensuring that robust rules of the road are followed.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, the closed-end funds are a very popular tool for everyday investors who gain exposure to private markets in a safe, appropriately regulated way.

As I said, approximately 3 million Americans rely on these products to build wealth and save for retirement.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, as I stated, the assets that private funds purchase are significantly more risky than public securities. In fact, 9 out of every 10 of their investments fail.

Allowing closed-end funds to invest all of their assets into private funds can be risky for America's retirement savers, who should be able to trust that these funds are safe investments for them to save for retirement.

As such, Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentlewoman from Missouri will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. SHERMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 118-407.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 39, line 6 and insert the following:

"(iii) with respect to a proposed transaction involving a private offering, any individual if—

"(I) the amount of such transaction is not more than 5 percent of the net worth of the individual (excluding the primary residence of the individual); and

"(II) the aggregate investment of the individual at the completion of such transaction, in securities with respect to which there has not been a public offering, is not more than 25 percent of the net worth of the individual (excluding the primary residence of the individual);"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, in the debate on the bill in chief, the chair of the full committee correctly criticized the definition of accredited investor as it occurs under current law.

Accredited investor is an important concept in securities law because, Madam Chair, when you have a private offering, one that hasn't gone through the SEC process, the amount that can be raised and the number of investors you can have are related to, in large part, how many of your investors are accredited.

The current definition makes you an accredited investor if you earn over \$200,000 a year or have a net worth of more than \$1 million. Frankly, the fact that you have that level of income or that level of wealth does not show that you have particular expertise or that your adviser team has particular expertise. While it certainly shows that you are in a position to absorb a loss, no one can afford to absorb a loss of 100 percent of their net worth.

We need a different definition of accredited investor, one that does not limit that status just to those who happen to be wealthy or have a high income.

The bill before us here does provide that different definition by saying you are an accredited investor, first, if you acknowledge the risks that you are taking and, second, if you are investing less than 10 percent of your net worth in the securities offering so that you can afford a loss on what, after all, is a higher risk—as many people have pointed out—offering about which you get less information.

The problem with the bill in chief using that 10 percent standard is twofold. First, it includes in your net

worth your primary residence. If you happen to have a \$1 million home, you could take out a \$100,000 mortgage on it and invest all \$100,000 in one relatively risky investment.

□ 1800

Mr. SHERMAN. You have literally bet your house on an investment that is of a type that is risky and where you get less information and where the investment is illiquid. That is not good investor protection.

What this amendment does is it says, yes, we are going to look at what portion of your net worth you are investing, but we are going to take a look first at your net worth excluding your primary residence because very few people feel they can afford to lose their house; second, that you cannot invest more than 10 percent of your net worth in any single offering or more than 25 percent of your net worth in all these private offerings.

Therefore, we look at wealth, excluding your home so you don't risk losing your home, and we look at not only how much you are investing in the particular investment, but how much you are investing overall.

I want to correct one thing. This amendment limits it to, excluding your primary residence, 5 percent of your net worth on any one private offering, and no more than 25 percent of your net worth, excluding your primary residence, on all such private offerings.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment. I think it gives us a better definition of those who can afford the risks and the risk of liquidity that comes with these private investments.

The risk of liquidity is there. You may think, well, I made an investment and it is going to pan out, but if you need the money and you can't liquidate the investment on a fair basis, it is almost as if the investment failed.

Therefore, we are talking higher risk, less liquidity. We limit it under this amendment to 5 percent of your net worth on any one deal, 25 percent of your net worth on all such deals. Also, when we look at your net worth, we exclude your personal residence. These are not situations where you should be betting your home.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, a key tenet of H.R. 2799 is to increase access to investment opportunities for everyday investors.

Under the guise of investor protection, this amendment would arbitrarily limit the amount nonaccredited investors can invest in a private offering to 5 percent of an individual's net worth.

In the Expanding Access to Capital Act, the investment cap for a single private offering is set at 10 percent of the investor's net assets or annual in-

come, whichever is greater. Instead of using a number just pulled out of thin air, the 10 percent cap in the bill is rooted in precedent.

There is a 10 percent cap for non-accredited investors through offerings such as Regulation Crowdfunding and Reg A+. Why would we not go with the percentage cap that is already proven effective?

Additionally, this amendment would arbitrarily cap aggregate investments across private offerings for nonaccredited investors to no more than 25 percent of their net worth. This essentially says to everyday investors that the government knows better than you how to invest your hard-earned dollars.

As I previously said, and we heard from several witnesses at committee, wealth and income should not be a proxy for sophistication. Similarly, if we want to provide more Americans the opportunity to build wealth, we cannot keep them on the sidelines.

Private offerings are often the most high-growth investment opportunities, yet they are largely reserved for high-net-worth investors. This enshrines inequity and blatantly picks winners and losers.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are serious about equity and ownership in the American economy, they will join Republicans in providing more opportunities to everyday investors, not less.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, let me respond to those comments.

The underlying bill acknowledges the fact that the government puts some restrictions on how much of your net worth you can put into one of these unregulated, risky, low-information, illiquid investments. Therefore, to say that we have clashed with some great principle of personal freedom in my amendment because it says 5 percent, but that it is consistent with the same great overriding principle of personal autonomy when you back a bill that says 10 percent, defies logic.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LALOTA). The time of the gentleman has expired.

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

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are serious about equity and ownership in the American economy, they will join Republicans in providing more opportunities to everyday investors, not less.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah) having assumed the chair, Mr. LALOTA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). 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 may 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, we have several Members who are going to have a chance to speak here tonight. Tonight, of course, ahead of tomorrow's State of the Union Address, Members will share about ways the Biden administration has failed their constituents, from the border crisis, to the spike in violent crime, to out-of-control inflation, and also a need to protect the most vulnerable among us, the unborn.

I am grateful to host tonight's Special Order and provide the opportunity to highlight important issues facing families in every district.

I have said this for the last few years. As I have watched—and of course it is a political metric—I have seen the approval rating continue to decline and to decline and to decline from what we have seen from President Biden. It shows you that the American people are watching, and this is affecting their everyday lives.

For the most part—I would hope this to be the case—most Americans aren't necessarily paying attention to a lot of what we are doing here, and I hope they are happier and better off for it. A lot of the stuff that we do here doesn't necessarily resonate with them. They get frustrated with a lot of what we do here.

However, when you see that type of reaction from the American people, it is showing that the policies from the Biden administration are directly impacting and hurting their everyday lives. They are seeing it in so many different ways in their communities, in their families.

I am hopeful that, in my role as vice chair of the Republican Conference, I am committed to doing it and helping other Members credibly communicate how this is affecting their constituents' lives.

Additionally, today, we use that opportunity to be able to share a little bit about what is going on and hopefully offer some solutions, as well, to how we can better address this and how we can counteract so many of President Biden's failed policies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), to kick things off tonight.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration took a bad situation at our southern border and turned it into a complete and utter disaster that puts Americans in danger every day. It is often said that every State is a border State, and that is very much the case, as we see now.

There is no way on God's green Earth that President Biden can spin this any other way. The President can blame it on Trump, blame it on the Republicans, but, for the last 3 years, Mr. Speaker, dadgummit, he has been in control of this.

We recently learned that, in 2023, the Biden administration flew 320,000 illegal aliens into 43 airports across the United States. Let me say that again—320,000 illegals into 43 airports across the United States. Mr. Speaker, that is in your backyard. That is in my backyard. That is all across our great country. They pay for these flights with the American people's tax dollars.

Unfortunately, this latest stunt is not nearly as surprising as it should be. Since Joe Biden took office, over 10 million illegal immigrants have crossed into the United States. What is most troubling to me in all of that, Mr. Speaker, 100,000 children are in the system somewhere.

Additionally, these cartels, they are evil, and they are from the pits of hell, and it would be my desire to send them back as soon as possible. Mr. Speaker, 100,000 children are somewhere in this system, possibly sold into labor, possibly victims of sex crimes, possibly victims of many other horrendous acts.

There have also been 8.7 million illegal alien encounters, plus 1.7 million got-aways. Every day, we are hearing about Americans who are hurt or killed at the hands of illegal immigrants. These are people who were released into the United States without being properly checked, and Americans are suffering because of it. A dear family that is very close to me back in Knoxville, they lost their son because of this.

This week, the House is voting on the Laken Riley Act, which was named after a young woman who was brutally murdered by an illegal immigrant. He had been arrested three times before and, yet, he was still released back into the United States each time. He was a

criminal in his homeland. He is a criminal up here. He should have been deported the first time, Mr. Speaker. If he had, that young girl would be alive today.

The Biden administration is inviting illegal immigrants into this country with its open-border policies. We have magnetized this country. We allow the giving of credit cards, free healthcare. We put them ahead of our veterans. We put them ahead of our citizens, and that is disgusting.

The Biden Administration has been actively fighting the border States that are trying to fix the problem. It has gone as far as filing lawsuits. They are using your tax dollars to fly immigrants into every State, including Tennessee, without telling the American people what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable, and we need to close the dadgum border.

□ 1815

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his comments. Of course, when they become personal stories is when they become the most tragic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah for yielding. I appreciate it.

It is just on a small bit of house-keeping business. I will be removing my name as cosponsor on H. Res. 902. My name was added to this as a cosponsor without my knowledge, without my consent.

I knew nothing about it, and that was at 6:18:38 yesterday and 1 second before another Member was also falsely added as a cosponsor to this legislation.

So I am going to work with the Clerk's office and the majority and the minority leader to just figure out how this is happening. Apparently, it has happened to some other people. I hope this can be removed immediately and that we can prevent this from happening to anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his remarks. It has happened to me before as well, so he is welcomed for being able to clear that up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Mr. MOORE for being gracious and allowing me this time. We need to see more of that between both sides of the aisle, and I thank him very much, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, my father, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr.

Today is the 12th anniversary of his passing from colorectal cancer, and his life was filled with tremendous accomplishments. He was New Jersey's first Black Congressman and served as the Chair of the Congressional Black Cau-

cus. He helped decide House Committee representation as a member of the Democratic Steering Committee, and also fought to restore democracy and human rights worldwide as a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

President George W. Bush made him the first two-time member of the congressional delegation to the United Nations, and he earned an "A" for his work to protect and strengthen the middle class. He was an outstanding Congressman, mentor, and role model, but he was ten times a better father.

My heart is heavy today as I mourn my father. I do miss him so, and I thank the gentleman, once again, for yielding.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from New Jersey that that was the easiest request I have had all year. I appreciate hearing the stories of his father and I, of course, offer my condolences to him. It is an honor to be able to hear stories of his father's extraordinary life and service. I thank him, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this time and opportunity to be able to share more of what we are trying to highlight this week.

It is a very important week as is any State of the Union and every State of the Union should be important. Regardless of your party affiliation, this is a moment to hear from our President and to compare and contrast in a lot of cases policy differences, but also highlight where it is that we do agree.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), the current gold medal standard bearer in our competition. I am having a Tennessee heavy day today.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, Vice Chairman MOORE, for yielding and for claiming this time this evening to discuss these important issues facing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the President of the United States will appear in this Chamber to deliver his annual State of the Union Address and, hopefully, his last.

I say this because since the President has taken office, prices have risen by 17.9 percent, according to the Consumer Price Index. If you ask the folks I represent in Tennessee, they have gone up far more than that.

Compared to just 3 years ago, Americans are spending an extra \$1,019 a month and real wages are down by more than 2 percent thanks to the Biden administration's economic policies. I believe the President calls it Bidenomics.

Since taking the majority, House Republicans have fought tirelessly to rein in the Biden administration's reckless spending that has caused record-high inflation, the highest inflation since I was just a junior in high school back in the early 1980s.

A lot of left-leaning political pundits will criticize this Congress for not following in the footsteps of the last Congress, which was led entirely by Democrats that passed multiple spending

monstrosities, but I will argue that it is a job well done by Republicans to hold the line and not give in to the Democrats' insatiable desire to recklessly borrow money from future generations of Americans and spend it on projects like Green New Deal initiatives and an army of new IRS agents.

These economic policies pursued by the Biden administration have made it harder than ever before for new home buyers to purchase a home. Even one out of eight retirees plan to return to work in 2024, according to a recent survey. They largely cite inflation as the main reason for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, Americans should not be subjected to the constant threat of rising prices wreaking havoc on their paychecks and pocketbooks. As our national deficit and debts exponentially increase due to rising interest rates, our country has no choice other than to restore fiscal common sense in Washington. That is why House Republicans are leading the way to do exactly that.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee and I appreciate his message and his involvement as we try to use this medium to communicate with the American people. Oftentimes, a cable news interview here or there gets a lot more hits than social media, but we need to be speaking to the American people from the House floor and this is a great opportunity to do so.

I am going to share in buckets a message that I hope that I can really drive home. My whole entire objective for being back here, personally, not necessarily in my role as vice chair of the Conference, but my personal objective to be back here is to rein in wasteful spending and to deal with our debt and deficit crisis that we are facing.

I will get a chance this evening to share more context for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the Chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee from the greatest half of the country out West with me. We get overlooked quite a bit. I hear some scoffing going on in the Chamber, but we all know that it is very important and the entire Nation is reliant on the West for things that matter, second only to tourism, but all the other critical things that we need.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding and I appreciate him bringing us together here tonight.

We are all in anticipation of the State of the Union, and for the Republicans in the House, certainly, you have outlined some priorities, we also are a party of life and celebrating life.

Tonight, I wanted to highlight the importance of really honoring the lives of everyone, that every life has value. Our son, Cole McMorris Rodgers, was born with an extra 21st chromosome. Now most of the world knows that as Down syndrome. I can honestly say that seeing the world through Cole's

eyes has made me a better mom, but also a better legislator. I am reminded every day whenever I meet with anyone connected to the Down syndrome community as to the full potential that is just waiting to be unleashed.

Unfortunately, in the Biden administration, we have seen them leading on a pretty radical pro-abortion agenda that bolsters a culture which fails to protect the most innocent among us. It does not affirm that every life is worth living, lives like Cole's.

That is why I am leading alongside my Republican colleagues to champion legislation that supports women and children at every stage of their lives. That is what we are committed to. We have led on legislation this Congress like the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

Just recently, the House passed a bill that I had worked on, the QALYs bill, that would prohibit QALYs within the Federal Government and it would ensure that those with disabilities with chronic diseases have lifesaving cures and access to prevent discrimination against these individuals when it comes to their healthcare.

We still have work to do in our Nation, all across this country to ensure that women feel like an abortion is never their only option and we can do that by making sure that we are providing care, hope, and support for mothers and children at every stage of their lives. Every life is worth living.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time tonight in leading us this week in the Special Order.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her remarks.

As Members of this body know, we began this year, the U.S. national debt, surpassing \$34 trillion. We have seen Members from both sides of the aisle talk about this extensively. We have had debates on this growing national debt for decades now and as I mentioned moments ago, it is the reason I am back here.

It is the reason that I missed my son's little league playoffs last night, which they made it to the championship and suffered a tough loss, but they played their hearts out. The only way that I can go back home and tell my 11-year-old, hey, son, sorry for missing your little league game here and there and the many games that I have to miss is because I can also counter that with I am doing everything I possibly can to make sure that your future mimics what my future looked like.

Candidly, mine is even going to be in a position of very heavy debt in my major working years, but we have to recognize that this will limit our next generation more than any other factor. The fact that interest alone will be the second largest budget line item in our Federal outlays within a year or two is the most concerning thing that keeps me up at night.

Yes, I will continue to talk about this. I will continue to debate this. I sit on the Ways and Means and Budget Committees, which I believe is where the vast majority of the work can be done here.

Ways and Means because it covers the programs, the large government programs that get established and never voted on again. In Budget we can set the tone, we can set the stage for what we all try to coalesce around as the people's House.

This debt puts a strain on not only the country's finances, but American families' pocketbooks. It goes particularly to what we saw with inflation. As I entered into Congress in 2021, January 2021, just a few months after President Biden or maybe a month or two after President Biden took office, and the Senate had just switched to Democrat controlled, so Senator SCHUMER took over as majority leader in the Senate and Republicans had a very strong November few months prior to that, but didn't quite take over the majority, what took place in Congress, in Washington is what you call one-party rule.

During one-party rule, what you are allowed to do is every budget cycle—and it is a little bit of a gray area, but once a budget cycle, you can pass a bill on party-line votes. You don't need the filibuster in the Senate anymore. You can bypass that and you can go big with your legislation.

Republicans and Democrats have used this over time. President Biden decided to use this for what is called the American Rescue Plan. The American Rescue Plan in its entirety was basically a \$2 trillion bill that had no offset spending and was directly related to the inflationary pressures that our Nation experienced after that.

□ 1830

Inflation happens because of the monetary supply issue, with too much money chasing too few goods. That is what that bill was. It was a massively inflationary bill.

It wasn't the only cause. We were coming out of COVID. We were having supply chain issues. Those were all factors. We saw 40-year high inflation, and it was just months after the congressional Democrats and President Biden, on party-line votes, passed the American Rescue Plan. It wasn't much of a rescue. We saw 17-plus percent inflation, and that varied among different types of goods and services, but it was insane. The American people bore the entire brunt of that.

To tame this inflation, how you do this, the Fed goes through their process. They raise interest rates. That is a significant factor in how you tame inflation. However, the other piece that was not coincidental, Republicans took back control of the House of Representatives. With that, we were able to clamp down on President Biden's massive spending initiatives, from the Inflation Reduction Act to the American

Rescue Plan. Those were two of the largest that went fully on party-line votes.

In addition were all the other things that were in the works and needed to be addressed. Some even earned bipartisan support, but the \$5 trillion—we were talking about over \$5 trillion of new spending—directly goes to massive inflationary pressure. Republicans clamped all of that down.

Then we went through the process of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Last June, Speaker McCarthy negotiated a way to take a look at our appropriations process, among many other things, like permitting reform and other things that were very positive out of that bill and actually find a way to do what has not been done in my time here for sure, but probably within the last decade when you could take a look at our appropriations process and say, look, let's continue to support defense and veterans, and let's find wasteful spending in the other 10 or so bills that go through the appropriations process.

We did part of that today where we were actually able to break that trend of maintaining parity between those two things. That has been something that has been important to my Democratic colleagues: If we are going to support defense and veterans, you need to also make sure that you support all these other bills.

We were able to break that parity between the two and find real wasteful spending that was going on, and we came together. We came together today in an overwhelmingly positive vote to finish a portion of the appropriations process and find more wasteful spending. We are going to put that on a lower trajectory.

With House Republicans being in the majority, our plan is to clamp down on the massive spending proposals that you saw from President Biden in his first term; and then as a secondary approach, we are going to take the normal things that we do back here, the things that are a part of the standard of what we do need to accomplish with an annual budget and find areas of waste, and we have been able to successfully do that.

I love being a part of that. I came back here, like I mentioned, to deal with our growing debt and our deficit, find wasteful spending and create policies that don't do what happened in 2021 and 2022. President Biden took over with inflation in the range of less than 2 percent, and it climbed more rapid than anything. We are still feeling the struggles with that. Homeowners who are trying to purchase a home are paying mortgage rates that they shouldn't have to be paying that are so incredibly high. That was the reaction to that massive inflation, and that comes directly from Washington and from bad policy.

House Republicans effectively forced President Biden to recognize it and kind of put that on hold. We did our

part with respect to inflation by controlling the monetary supply. You have to raise interest rates and you have to control the monetary supply because massive government spending always leads to inflation. Every economist will agree on that. They don't usually agree on much. Our job the last year and change has been to be able to show the American people how we are being responsible on a fiscal footing.

Some other ways the Republicans are working to lower costs for families and taxpayers include fighting back against President Biden's student loan agenda. The administration has attempted to circumvent the rule of law and leave hardworking Americans who didn't go to college with a \$559 billion bill to cover these unpaid student loans. In December, House Republicans passed legislation that would put a stop to this reckless and unfair proposal.

House Republicans have also led the charge on a progrowth tax policy.

Before I get into that, I get this question a lot when I go and do townhalls back home, and I love to be able to engage on this concept of student loans. For the most part, particularly in Utah, people are categorically frustrated with President Biden just forgiving loans years after the fact. That approach was deemed unconstitutional. Then he has taken another angle, and he keeps trying to do this.

My opinion on this—and I believe it would be strongly backed by good research and data—is that if the government is just going to forgive loans, A, you obviously have more of a deficit issue because those loans have been given out in a government-spending approach knowing that some of that would ultimately come back with whatever interest is charged on those things.

If we just forgive that, there is obviously a deficit issue there, but if you forgive that, another aspect is we are creating a culture, and it is going to teach my children that there are no consequences. It is like: You will be fine. At some point this will be forgiven, and you don't necessarily have to plan and be productive with this. I think that resonates with most people, particularly back in my home State.

The third piece is something that I get into a lot with a lot of folks that they are not necessarily thinking of. The fundamental problem with what is going on with all of our entire student loans, student tuition universe is that tuition costs are rising so fast that students are having a tough time getting out ahead of it.

If we, as a Federal Government, signal to those institutions, those educational institutions, hey, you know, we know you have been raising your rates a lot, but we are also just going to start forgiving a lot of this stuff, do you think that puts pressure on those institutions to actually keep their costs under control, to constrain what they are doing?

No. They are feeling that they can actually continue to raise rates as well because people are going to be more inclined to just borrow more.

Folks, that is a recipe for disaster. It is a bad cultural aspect, but it does not communicate to the institutions. I love representing the universities that I do back in Utah. I know my colleagues are so sick and tired of me talking about how great Utah is, when I hide behind numbers like first in economy and first in volunteerism, and all these amazing things that we are first in—I am getting some looks here right now—but they deep down know how amazing Utah is.

My intent on this is not just completely boastful—that is part of it—but to just highlight the fact that universities across the State of Utah are heavily focused on ROI. You can go and speak to their administration and hear about what they are doing: dynamic credentialing, a dual-mission program.

Before I sound so ruthless by saying we shouldn't forgive loans, the State legislature in Utah—a very strongly conservative State legislature—has provided an opportunity for juniors and seniors in high school to have free tuition at tech centers so they can go learn to be an EMT or a welder. They can go learn to have a skill or trade, a computer science degree, work in audiovisual. They can take that and if they want to create a career out of it, being an apprentice electrician, a plumber, they have an opportunity to go and start building their career. If they take that and start doing that work, they are actually going off to a 4-year degree where they are working at a higher-paying job keeping their tuition down. All of our universities are focused on ROI. It is not out of just sheer, oh, I just don't like President Biden's tuition plan. It is not going to accomplish what it needs to accomplish.

I just want to continue to highlight these specific economic factors that we have enough information and data to prove: This is why inflation is caused, and this is how you get out of it. It is painful to get out of it, but I really do appreciate being part of the House Republican Conference that is controlling the monetary supply, limiting government spending, and signaling to the markets that we are trying to do something about this debt and deficit.

We are going to use the debt ceiling opportunity to say, look, in order for us to increase the debt limit, we are going to have to make changes, and we have got to actually implement some of that today. It has been an awesome thing.

I am happy to share all of this as much as I can. I will continue to do so, but we have the opportunity now to hear from the great State of Pennsylvania, Dr. JOYCE will share his message. I appreciate his constant involvement in making sure that we can use this opportunity and floor speeches to

communicate not only to his constituents but to those who are paying attention and willing to hear us out. We have so many things we want to be covering.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for holding this Special Order this evening.

Mr. Speaker, as I travel across central and southwestern Pennsylvania, I hear from families who are struggling to afford basic necessities, like gasoline and groceries. President Biden's crushing inflation has affected too many families in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, has affected too many families in Pennsylvania, has affected too many American families throughout this great land.

Instead of saving for retirement or for their children's education, parents are forced to make difficult choices about what they can afford to buy.

Recently, I spoke with a mom who told me she was often forced to choose between filling her gasoline tank or packing lunch for her son. Stories like this have become all too common thanks to the rising Biden inflation.

Under President Biden, prices have risen by 17 percent in the past 3 years, and real wages are down 2 percent. This is unsustainable for American families who are left to pay the price for the reckless spending sprees of the last 3 years.

In tomorrow's state of the Union Address, President Biden should outline deliberate ways to cut our national debt, a deliberate responsibility to be a responsible steward of the taxpayer dollar.

Inflation is a tax on each and every American, and it is time to return to fiscal responsibility. It is time to have cuts in spending in order to address our ballooning national debt.

I thank the gentleman for once again holding this Special Order this evening.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I thank the good doctor from Pennsylvania. Now to another Western State, which we have established is so important to our Nation, all the factors that we provide to those East Coast elitists and everything east of the Mississippi.

I welcome the gentleman from California to share his message this evening. In tomorrow's state of the Union, we will hear from our President. We need to hear this message. Again, we will compare and contrast. We will find unity on certain things, but it is incredibly important for us as House Republicans to highlight the concerns that we have, which are many.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. MOORE's efforts to help communicate the message the American people need to see, not just tomorrow night from one side, but as best as we can maybe looking at the other side of the issues.

If you could look around the room here, you would see some of the special equipment for the event that is starting to be set up, extra cameras, lighting on the House floor so that it is illuminated in a way that shows up well on TV. Unfortunately, what is not illuminated well enough is the record of this White House in supporting the needs of our Nation.

With the State of the Union tomorrow night, these 3-plus years have been, indeed, chaotic, and you could even say a full-fledged crisis in the making or being made.

Over the last few years, President Biden has made a lot of decisions and implemented a lot of policies that have ultimately led to a 17.9 percent rise in inflation since he took office. The cost of rent, electricity, and household goods are actually becoming out of reach for many Americans.

How can these things become out of reach?

I grow food. I am a farmer in my real life in northern California at home. Food has always been for many, many decades for Americans such a low-cost item, they didn't even have to think about it.

□ 1845

Why is it reverting to a situation where we are more like a third world country and food is hard to afford? Energy, driving our cars around, the whole works, housing—housing is becoming almost unaffordable. What has changed?

Our Nation is less safe than before, with rising rates of carjackings and attacks on law enforcement officers. You are not safe in your home.

Right here in this town, in D.C., is an example of a carjacking affecting one of our colleagues in this body, attacked in what may seem like a fairly safe neighborhood. What is going on here?

Our country has been weakened on the world stage as well. President Biden caters to oil oligarchs in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, and even Russia.

He hastily removed U.S. troops from Afghanistan, allowing the Taliban to take over after all those years of our side fighting for freedom in those areas and to have at least a modicum of a government that would work for people over there. On top of that, we needlessly lost the lives of over a dozen soldiers on that hasty, poorly planned withdrawal.

One of our other allies, one of our strongest allies in the whole world, Israel, he is walking back support for that great country, that great ally.

His Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, basically threw Israel under the bus with her comments recently. What is this all about? What are we going to hear in the State of the Union that you could actually point to as a positive?

I hate to be negative. I hate to be, like, oh, partisan stuff that you can't find agreement on this or that, but it is really difficult with the state of things,

from what the United States was 3 years ago, even amidst that COVID mess, to what we have now.

Unfortunately, the President has been chipping away even at our Nation's sovereignty. He has taken dozens of well-documented and concrete actions that have opened our borders and undermined our laws.

Our laws aren't broken. Immigration isn't broken. The enforcement, the action of the executive branch, to maintain them is the part that is broken.

We did pass H.R. 2 early on in this session to help fortify some of these laws, to help define better what asylum means, since they are defining it in the most loose possible ways.

For the past 3 years, the Biden administration has ignored the crisis. You can't get him or KAMALA HARRIS hardly to go to the border at all. When they do, it is not the part of the border that we could easily document that has been the problem, and he is directly responsible for it.

I have to ask the question as I do occasionally: President Biden, whose side are you on with these actions you take?

He canceled the remain in Mexico program, which was working fairly well. He revoked title 42 for health concerns. He revoked it. He stopped construction of the border wall.

I had a chance to visit that most recently down in the Tucson area, on farther south. Stacks and stacks of the metal that would be used to build that fence were just laying there, dated October 2020 on some of that material.

He even promised a little over a year ago, well, maybe we will start filling in some of the gaps. There has been no action on that.

He has reprimanded border agents, making up bogus claims that the agents riding their horses with their reins were somehow whipping immigrants with that. That was finally dispelled, but not before the lie had spread all around the world from the administration and some of their cronies. They were just trying to do their jobs, and they are being impaired by this White House in doing so.

He allowed for the release of hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants into this country with no way to track them—actually, millions. Biden's Department of Homeland Security has now admitted that 40 percent of catch and release migrants have disappeared.

Last week, it was revealed that he never once spoke to his chief of the Border Patrol about any of this. Border security isn't even a priority for this administration, though they may want to put the dressing on it as we come down to an election here soon.

The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, is leading an effort to ban his Department from doing something politically incorrect by saying the words "illegal immigrant." That is what they are focused on, not the actual immigration. That is their concern.

I have to ask again: President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, whose side are you on? Is it the American people, or is it some other agenda? We can't tell.

Tons of fentanyl are being smuggled into our country, killing our youth. The price of fentanyl is coming down. It is so cheap now because there is such a massive supply—you know, supply and demand. It is getting cheap because it is so frequently available coming across our border illegally.

Deadly chemicals and people are being trafficked to work on the illegal marijuana grows, like we have so many of in northern California, just taking over the land.

Criminal aliens repeatedly broke the law, like the Venezuelan national who recently killed Laken Riley in broad daylight.

House Republicans know that border security is, indeed, national security for our whole country. Every State, as we have said time and again, is now feeling like a border State.

We did pass the strongest border security bill in history in H.R. 2. Now, about a hundred yards that direction, Senator SCHUMER and the gang over there have refused to bring it up for a vote. Instead, they proposed a watered-down immigration bill that would allow—get this—1.8 illegal immigrants a year in our country. It codifies that.

Go ahead, 1.8 million, come on in. Once we reach that threshold, then we will start enforcing something.

How can you take a law or a bill idea like that even seriously?

They would be rewarded with immediate work permits and an ability to stay longer once they are identified. I mean, calling that a border security package is an unfunny joke.

President Biden's open border policies are putting Americans in true danger. This border crisis is responsible for the deaths of countless Americans and the destruction of countless American families.

I just saw a video back from 1995 when President Clinton stood right up there and gave a State of the Union Address and outlined the problem that illegal immigration is in displacing jobs and providing more danger for the American public. That was in 1995 when President Clinton, a Democrat, said that.

What has changed politically in that timeframe that now the Democrats are all for what is happening on our border or, at the very least, doing nothing about it?

They had a period of time when they controlled both Houses and the White House with President Biden just a little over a year ago. They had a 2-year window to do something about that. They had all the ability to line up the votes and the signatures they needed to do that. They did nothing.

Instead, they are saying it is Republicans that are blocking it. We have been for solid border policy since day one.

President Trump led the charge for 4 years on that, and they pushed back.

They thwarted him. They thwarted funding for the border.

They want to send billions and billions overseas for other things when a fraction of that would secure our own southern border. Come on.

One more time: The President will be here tomorrow night, and that side of the room is going to be applauding everything. Our side? Some good, maybe some bad. It will be a mixed bag on this side of the room.

I have to ask the President: As you address us, remember, ask yourself, whose side are you on?

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, and I think he summed up every State of the Union that has ever existed quite well.

There will be areas and opportunities of unity and things that we can be focused on together. I am hopeful that we can use this as a case to talk about the real issues that we are having and the fundamental problems but also solutions.

We know them. We can talk energy policy. We can talk immigration policy. We can talk economic policy. I can do that all day long.

I will wrap up here as to not belabor it but to just point out: Rise above it, President Biden. Rise above it. Look back to the previous administration's policies with things regarding the remain in Mexico policy, the Migrant Protection Protocols.

It is a simple concept. You cannot just say Mexico won't do it. President Trump and Vice President Pence forced the issue with our Mexican neighbors, and they got them to agree this was good for both countries. Whatever limits cartel activity is good for both nations.

Don't hide behind the fact that there is a partnership with Mexico, and you can't do it because of that. It is simple data that shows we can be effective, create these relationships, and improve our situation at the border dramatically with just that one change.

That is just one of many different types of executive actions that you can take. We have already passed it. You can't say we are not willing to legislate on this issue because we have already passed it. The Senate refuses to take it up. The House passed it. The Senate refuses to take it up.

Take some action, President Biden. Talk to your Senators and to Senate Leader SCHUMER and convince them that there are opportunities there. There are things we can do to reverse some of your bad policies.

Don't just look at the previous administration and say, all right, I have to do everything different from them, and then all of a sudden, it leads to these catastrophic events.

Take a look at data, see what works, and implement it. It is as simple as that. It is what the American people recognize, and we have to be willing to follow it.

I highlighted a lot of things about economic policy, from inflation to ev-

everything. Those are things that affect every single American. If we just focused on energy policy, economic policy, and immigration policy, we could really make an improvement for Americans across this great Nation and set ourselves up for success.

I hope I will be able to hear some of that. I am not hopeful that we will hear productive solutions. There might be plenty of rhetoric spewed, but we have to be able to find a way to get those three things that matter most and that affect my constituents and those from every single district across the Nation the most.

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

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 902

Mr. RASKIN (during the Special Order of Mr. MOORE of Utah). Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 902.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

FAILED POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Utah for his time down here on the floor pointing out some of the things that we most assuredly will not hear from the President of the United States and those that we wish we would hear from him.

I can tell you one thing we are not going to hear from the President of the United States tomorrow night in this Chamber is any specific actions that he would take or should have taken or apologies for his policies that led to the unfortunate passing 2 weeks ago of Laken Riley.

We know we will not hear that because our Democrat colleagues refuse to take ownership of the policies that the President of the United States has adopted and that Secretary Mayorkas has implemented on his behalf in direct violation of their oaths to the Constitution and under the laws of the United States. As a result, there are Americans who have died.

We know that the President of the United States is not going to take ownership over the high inflation that is decimating families, the regulatory state they put in place that has made the automobiles that the American people need to drive too expensive, allowing EVs to pile up on the lots of dealers while we put mandates in place, the extent to which we have now been banning liquefied natural gas exports by shutting down the ability to get them out of terminals, which is making us more beholden to the special interests and the corporate cronyism

that was all funded by subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act, all policies led by the radical progressive Democrats that have complete control of the Democratic Party and that are the puppet masters, pulling the strings to which the President of the United States dances.

Tomorrow, he won't talk about those things. He will give a lot of excuses, hiding behind Senate bills and things that allegedly the House of Representatives are not doing.

I think it is a really important day. I need to say something as a Texan. Today is Alamo Day, the day that marks the end of the 13 days of assiegement and fighting and the final sacrifice of almost 200 brave men in the name of freedom at the Alamo.

I am proud to represent San Antonio. The Alamo means a lot to those of us in central Texas, particularly in and around San Antonio.

I think it is really important to note what that meant. I asked a year ago today when I spoke on this issue, or on this commemoration, I should say: What did they declare independence for? What did Travis and the men at the Alamo sacrifice for? A Federal Government that opens our borders to cartels? A group of Republicans who campaign on securing the border yet run away in abject surrender, refusing to actually do it?

That is the question before us right now. That is the question I asked a year ago.

□ 1900

I might remind everybody of the letter from William Barret Travis, commander at the Alamo, February 24, 1836: "Fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death. William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant."

Now, that was nearly 200 men standing on the wall at the Alamo knowing almost certain death—knowing almost certain death is what they faced. It is notable that on this date, today, 188 years ago William Barret Travis who wrote that letter died.

Davey Crockett, who was fairly well known in the history of our country,

who served in this Chamber—although not in this building but back behind us in the original House Chamber—Davey Crockett, a Member of Congress from the State of Tennessee, who like a number of Tennesseans came to the aid of Texas at the Alamo, Davey Crockett died that day, today, 188 years ago.

We Americans love to have our parades. We love to commemorate these kinds of events. Ask a Texan about the Alamo, and they will fill their chest and stick it out, and they will talk about how great Texas is.

Ask an American about D-Day or about our history and what George Washington did crossing the Delaware or talking about any of the great battles that our men and women in uniform have carried out on behalf of this great country, and they will well up with pride, they will stick their chest out, and they will talk about how great this country is.

But the question that I think needs to be asked sitting here on the floor of the House of Representatives in, yet again, another empty Chamber: What are we willing to do? What are we willing to do? What are the people of this body willing to do? What are my colleagues on both sides of the aisle willing to do in the face of the massive assault on our country that we are experiencing as we speak? What are we actually willing to do?

I have heard lots of speeches, even tonight, speeches about how much our debt is piling up around us and how we need to cut spending. Every single Member of this body, but particularly my Republican colleagues, talk about the debt. \$34.4 trillion. Well, tomorrow it is going to be \$34.5 trillion. We are racking up a trillion dollars of debt every 100 days, and yet, we give lip service to it.

So again, I go back to this point about these men standing on the wall at the Alamo facing certain death if these reinforcements didn't get there. They probably knew full well they weren't going to get them. Yet, they were willing to stand there and die.

For what? To be enslaved to \$34.4 trillion of debt? To be told that you can't get the automobile of your choice? To be told that there is going to be a kill switch that will cut your car off if your eyes dart a certain way? To be told that you must accept untold numbers of illegal aliens coming into your country getting free services, free education, free healthcare while bankrupting your country?

Is that what those men died for?

Did those men die for criminals to be let out on the streets? Did they die so that one of these men's great-granddaughters could get murdered as a student in Georgia, or for example, in Texas a young woman that was found dead in a bathtub? A young cheerleader's mom wanted to go see her, expected to go see her at a cheerleading event, comes home, and she is dead in the bathtub.

Is that what these men sacrificed for? Is that what they put it all on the line for?

When we all talk about the men that sat in the foxholes of Bastogne freezing at Christmas so we could live in this country, did they fight for those things?

I have to be really blunt here. Did they fight so that Republicans could campaign on cutting spending and today on the floor of this Chamber vote to pass a bill that without question, undebatably, unquestionably increases spending significantly in the form of tens of billions of dollars over that of NANCY PELOSI's omnibus spending bill, despite the fact that we had bipartisan spending caps put in place last year, passed in this Chamber with majorities of both Republicans and Democrats and the Senate and signed by the President of the United States?

We ignored those caps, we spent more than those caps, and then we had the audacity to try to claim to the American people publicly that we cut spending. This is what the American people are sick of.

Let me be perfectly clear standing here. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are, in fact, radical, progressive Democrats, period. They are pushing policies, along with the President of the United States, that is flooding this country with people from all over the world into Texas, into Arizona, into California, stacking our schools, stacking our jails, overwhelming our system, giving out benefits, paying money, all so that people like Marc Elias can challenge in court to stop Arizona from having a law that says only citizens can vote.

Now why might that be?

It is purposeful. It is happening every second, even as we pile up debt around our ears to the tune of \$34.4 trillion and counting—a trillion dollars of interest in 2026; more interest than our defense this year.

It is astounding.

And my colleagues on this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle will hide behind either—from my radical, progressive, Democratic colleagues, they will hide behind taxes. They will say, oh, we have had too many tax cuts. Even though 2 years ago we had more revenue in the Treasury than we ever had.

My colleagues on this side of the aisle will hide behind mandatory spending. They will scratch their beards, look at you and say, oh, but, CHIP, you're getting hung up on 17 percent of the budget. Can't you do math? Really.

Like they look at you like somehow you are insane because you are focused on the discretionary budgets sitting in front of you that you think maybe, just maybe, we should take the discretionary budget that we have total control of every year and demonstrate an ounce—an ounce of actual responsibility and fiscal sanity by saying maybe, just maybe, we shouldn't give

\$12.5 billion to the United Nations. I am just throwing that out there—\$12.5 billion to the United Nations to undermine our country, to work with NGOs to move people into the United States purposely. That is what the United Nations is doing. They worked with Hamas to attack Israel. We funded it. We did that. And they want to say, oh, well, who cares about that?

Well, what about the \$12.7 billion in earmarks that we passed today on the floor of the House filled with all sorts of pet projects so our colleagues can go back home and say: Look what I brought home to you.

Why do I pick those two numbers? Why do I pick those two things, \$12.5 billion in the United Nations and \$12.7 billion in earmarks passed here?

They are massive numbers for both Democrats and Republicans. You know how much Texas has had to spend over the last 3 years to secure the border of the United States in Texas, which is the job of the Federal Government? \$12.5 billion.

Do you know how much Texas has been paid back? Not a red cent.

All I can tell you is those boys that stood at that wall at the Alamo didn't do it for that. March 2, is Texas' Independence Day. I have got to tell you, read about the history of our independence. In 1836, Texas became a sovereign nation for a brief 9 years before we joined the Union. It has got a nice ring to it. But Texas joined that Union, and that Union and that Constitution says this country is supposed to protect its border, and it is leaving Texas exposed.

So with all due respect to Republican leadership and with all due respect to my colleagues on this side of the aisle, when I hear these excuses about we only have a two-vote majority, and sometimes you guys are taking down rules, that is swamp speak for I don't want to make the tough choice and say that we are going to go stand up on that wall like those boys did.

That is what it means.

It means Republican leadership is more concerned about defense spending for the defense establishment in this town. It means that Republican leadership is more concerned about ensuring that warrantless surveillance of Americans under FISA can continue without changing it.

It means that Republican leadership is more concerned about ensuring that we have money for Ukraine's borders rather than our borders.

That is the kind of thing we are talking about.

We are heading into the state of the Union tomorrow with the President of the United States who is in charge of a party of progressive, radical Democrats who want to remake our country, leave our borders open, spend us into oblivion, conduct endless wars, remake us with radical woke policies, DEI, and all the things that are destroying our country and dividing us up by race.

I want a Republican Party that is shoving it right back down and saying,

you know what, we are going to pass a bill that funds this government at the caps we passed last year. We are going to send it over to the Senate. We are going to send it over with H.R. 2. It will secure the border of the United States. We are going to go around this country, and we are going to sell it to every single American. Like those boys on the wall of the Alamo, we are fighting for them. Like those boys sitting in the foxholes in Bastogne or walking into a wall of bullets in Normandy, we are fighting for them.

Instead, what always happens in this Chamber is that we find Members of Congress fighting for themselves—earmarks, political patronage, and power.

When are we going to lay it all on the line for the people we came here to represent? That is my question.

I didn't wear the uniform. I represent a hell of a lot of people who do and did, and it is an honor to do so. I feel like I owe every last ounce of devotion to this country and this Constitution and to them for laying it all out on the field there.

So when my colleagues say, why are you so pointed or so emotional about a particular topic or why are you down here animated? It is because of all of those people that sacrificed. It is those 400,000 tombstones on the other side of the Potomac River, many of whom gave the last full measure of devotion so that we could live free.

I have to tell you, we have an obligation to fight for this country, and I will call out President Biden and my radical Democratic colleagues for all they are doing to destroy this country, and I will work to do my best to make sure we have a Republican majority because my Republican colleagues want to preserve and fight for this country. I know it.

We are not going to do it by doing what we did today. We are not going to do it by continuing to spend money we don't have, bankrupting our kids, not securing our border, not getting the policies in place that we said we would fight for and cowering in the corner under accusations of a potential shut down of government.

Can you imagine the boys standing on the walls of the Alamo saying, oh, my gosh, do you know what they are going to do? They are going to tweet something mean about you and say, oh, my gosh, you are going to shut down the government.

Those guys were saying they are going to respond with a cannon shot with an Army of a thousand coming at them in San Antonio.

All those boys who were jumping out into stormy waters in Normandy going up cliffs, climbing and scaling the cliffs so your prize at that point is to try to march to Berlin.

Again, I did not wear the uniform. I have many colleagues who did. One of my colleagues, one of the men for whom I have such enormous respect for his service to this country and his service as a Member of Congress but, in

particular, wearing the uniform of our United States military is my friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT PERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas for yielding.

I had the honor of visiting the Alamo just about a month ago when I went to the border. Again, I went to the border and I wondered about William Barret Travis. And I have got to tell you, when you are standing there and you are reading that, and you know that you are standing on the ground where giants stood, where things in the world meant something and were worth fighting for, it is invigorating, and it is inspiring to you to do your part.

I wonder, would William Barret Travis and the folks that lost their lives, the guys that lost their lives defending America at the Alamo and Davey Crockett, would they do it for \$20 million for a State route in Alabama? How about \$4.1 million for a bike path in San Diego or \$6.4 million for a greenway trail in Chattanooga or \$1 million for an electric vehicle car share for public housing residents or \$5 million for a Newport, Rhode Island, walking path?

□ 1915

I am sure that all of those are very important things to the people that live in those communities. I believe that. The question is: Why is the Federal Government paying for them when the Federal Government doesn't have any money?

From December to January, we went over \$34 trillion in debt and by May we will be at \$35 trillion. Did the folks at the Alamo, including William Barret Travis, risk his life and ultimately give his life to watch his country be swallowed up in debt?

To that end, the invasion coming from south of the border, we didn't stop in this bill that was just passed, using taxpayer dollars to represent illegal aliens, to get their attorneys for them. They have come illegally, and the people that gave their lives at the Alamo, I guess we would ask them: Hey, you don't mind paying with your life so that we can represent the people who are attacking you right now? You wouldn't mind that, would you?

I bet they would mind. I have got to tell you, my good friend from Texas talked about the folks at Bastogne. I served in the 28th Infantry Division who held Bastogne under-equipped, undermanned, surrounded by the Germans, taking the losses, taking the unbelievable losses, being told to hold the line, stay here, and hold the Germans off until Patton gets here. Everybody remembers Patton came and saved the Bulge and all that stuff. Nobody cares about all of those guys in the 28th Division who lost their lives fighting for the idea of the greatest country on the planet, the greatest country on the planet where we just agreed to fund firearm registries so that we can take

rights away from Americans, where we agreed to fund vaccine mandates at the Veterans Administration.

I don't think they fought for that. I don't think they fought so that we could have another report about China buying up farmland and sensitive land around military installations. We didn't stop them from doing it, but we are sure going to have a report, so that is awesome.

How about this: They fought and lost their lives so that we can continue to fund the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and we also continue to fund sanctuary cities.

It is breathtaking to me what is happening in this Chamber. The individuals that founded this Nation, that pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, they meant it. They knew how serious it was. They pledged their lives, Mr. Speaker, and we can't even honor their sacrifice by saying we are going to hold the line here and do what we said we were going to do last May.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, that is right, like literally a year ago.

I might just add on this chart, the gentleman refers to House Republicans last year, when we were trying to restore regular order and conservatives were working hard to do that and conservatives voted for a debt ceiling increase, even though we said we wouldn't and we shouldn't, we did. We voted for appropriations bills. Even though the caps were not honored, we did.

We have got colleagues saying we wouldn't work with them when we did everything we knew how to do, and by the way, by passing seven appropriations bills. Moving seven over to the Senate and ten down to the floor, we were able to enact policies to fight the radical Biden regime.

We defunded sanctuary cities refusing to report criminal illegals. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from giving lawyers to illegals, like you just mentioned. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from fast tracking asylum. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We defunded Biden's electric vehicle mandate, anti-power plant rules, and climate executive orders that are killing our economy. We did that. This bill doesn't.

We defunded ATF's pistol brace ban to save and protect Second Amendment rights. This bill doesn't.

We broadly defunded critical race theory and DEI executive orders. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the FBI from using old construction funds for a new headquarters here. This bill doesn't.

We prohibited the Department of Justice from censoring unlawful

speech, requiring the Department of Justice to create a better process for politically sensitive investigations, defunded the DOJ staff refusing to comply with subpoenas, and more.

We defunded the COVID vaccine mandates. We ended Biden's WOTUS rule. We prohibited pride flags from flying over Federal buildings. We prohibited funds for the Wuhan lab. We did all of those things. This bill does none of those and busted the caps.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, we will have colleagues starting today—starting just moments ago, on both sides of the aisle, that will tell you we can't afford this government; it is spending too much. Our citizens can't afford their groceries. They can't afford housing. They can't afford their credit card bills. How did it happen?

It happened in here a couple hours ago.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, it happened right here when all but 83 Republicans voted for it. I think 132 Republicans voted for it. On the Democratic side of the aisle, I think it was 207 to 2 voted to continue to spend at higher levels, racking up more debt and more interest on our children and grandchildren.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, did Davy Crockett and William Barret Travis—not that they had them back then—but if they had, did they lose their lives so that a Federal Government could tell them you must buy this car; you cannot buy this gas stove; you will power your home this way or maybe you won't power it at all because we are going to shut off the generation that America invented? Is that what they died for?

These people and the battered bastards of Bastogne died because they wanted us to be free. They wanted the privilege and the honor to run their own lives, to make decisions for themselves. They didn't want a government that decided everything for them. They wanted a government that laid out the framework where each one of them could determine their destiny.

Now, we just voted for the government to determine the destiny right here and in so many other places. It is our duty, Mr. Speaker, and the duty of every Representative who takes the oath, to fight to ensure that the rights to determine your destiny reside with the individual and not an overbearing, out-of-control Federal Government. Today, we failed at that mission.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, those gentlemen at the Alamo, who gave their last full measure of devotion, did it for an idea. Remember what they were doing, right? They were seeking separation from the federal government of Mexico and ultimately did so. A few weeks later, at the battle of San Jacinto,

Texas wins, Texas becomes free, becomes its own nation. They are living freely. They were throwing off the shackles of a burdensome federal government which was, by the way, far less burdensome than this one.

Then they joined a union, the United States of America, under the idea that America would be amenable to Texas joining the Union to be free, to live free in a republican form of government, in a federalist system, where the people of Texas could live free under a limited government of enumerated powers that wasn't indebting its children and grandchildren into oblivion.

That is what we just did. In addition to all of those policies that we punted to the ground, Republicans in this body just voted to support a shattering \$1.66 trillion bill, forsaking every other option we spent a year exploring.

We punted here. We had caps in place that would have spent right there, but we punted. Republicans punted in favor of that because it was the easy path in an election year, and that is what our children inherit.

That is not why they joined the Union. That is not why Texas fought at the Alamo to be free from Mexico and join the Union. They fought so that we could live free.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, free from the bondage of economic slavery. Slavery is in many forms, but when you can't make the choices that you should be able to make as a free person because you can't afford to make the choices because your government is taking from you that which you have earned, that is tyranny, Mr. Speaker. That is tyranny.

With all due respect to many colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have one set of Members that are seeking the fundamental transformation of America, which used to look like a free country, and we have another side that is doing nothing to stop it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend for joining me. We came here tonight to celebrate what those men sacrificed for the State of Texas but for our country and the men like them and the women like them over our history. I hope we will do better. We owe it to the American people to do better.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2023, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND IRELAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 8 AND DEC. 12, 2023

| Name of Member or employee | Date | | Country | Per diem ¹ | | Transportation | | Other purposes | | Total | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| | Arrival | Departure | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ² | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ² | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ² | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ² |
| Hon. Kelly Armstrong | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Frank Pallone | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 7,227.40 | | | | 9,590.81 |
| Hon. Michael Burgess | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Timothy Walberg | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Buddy Carter | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Jeff Duncan | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. John Curtis | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Mariannette Miller-Meeks | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Diana DeGette | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Kathy Castor | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Scott Peters | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Ann Kuster | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Nanette Diaz Barragan | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Hon. Garret Graves | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 8,928.90 | | | | 11,465.31 |
| Hon. Brandon Williams | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 8,928.90 | | | | 11,465.31 |
| Nate Hodson | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 8,928.90 | | | | 11,465.31 |
| Tiffany Guarascio | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 5,640.50 | | | | 8,176.91 |
| Sarah Burke | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 8,928.90 | | | | 11,465.31 |
| Mary Martin | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) | | | | 2,536.41 |
| Peter Spencer | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) | | | | 2,536.41 |
| Tara Hupman | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) | | | | 2,536.41 |
| Katelyn Arey | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) | | | | 2,536.41 |
| Sydney Green | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 3,381.88 | | (9) 8,125.80 | | | | 11,507.68 |
| Joseph Tuley Wright | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) | | | | 2,536.41 |
| RADM Brian Monahan | 12/8 | 12/11 | UAE | | 2,536.41 | | (9) 8,692.70 | | | | 11,229.11 |
| Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers | | | | | 2,136.63 | | | | | | 2,136.63 |
| Hon. Richard Hudson | | | | | 2,136.63 | | | | | | 2,136.63 |
| Hon. John James | | | | | 2,136.63 | | | | | | 2,136.63 |
| Hon. Bill Johnson | | | | | 2,136.63 | | | | | | 2,136.63 |
| Mary Martin | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,150.60 | | | | 1,315.60 |
| Peter Spencer | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,115.60 | | | | 1,280.60 |
| Tara Hupman | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,150.60 | | | | 1,315.60 |
| Katelyn Arey | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,150.60 | | | | 1,315.60 |
| Sydney Greene | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,150.60 | | | | 1,315.60 |
| Joseph Tuley Wright | 12/11 | 12/12 | Ireland | | 165.00 | | (9) 1,150.60 | | | | 1,315.60 |
| Committee total | | | | | | | | | | | 205,398.94 |

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Feb. 17, 2024.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3303. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act in an account of the Commodity Credit Corporation, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982 (as amended by Public Law 108-447, div. G, title I, Sec. 1401(b)); (118 Stat. 3192); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3304. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter determining and certifying that realistic full-up system level survivability test of the Armed Overwatch OA-1K aircraft would be unreasonably expensive and impractical, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4172(c)(1); Public Law 99-500, Sec. 101(c) (as amended by Public Law 99-591, Sec. 910(a)); (100 Stat. 3341-144); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3305. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's joint final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds [Regulation BB; Docket No.: R-1826] (RIN: 7100-AG 73) received February 16, 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-3306. A letter from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text

Messages [CG Docket No.: 21-402]; Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No.: 02-278]; Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls [CG Docket No. 17-59] received February 16, 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-3307. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan that was declared in Executive Order 14064 of February 11, 2022, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3308. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, 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-3309. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, 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-3310. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3311. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two (2) notifications of an action on nomination 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-3312. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting two (2) notifications of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3313. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting two (2) notifications of a vacancy and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3314. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report of the United States Government, 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-3315. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's

summary presentation of final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-02; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No.: 7] received February 14, 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-3316. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's FY 2023 Commercial Activities Inventory, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3317. A letter from the Secretary and Treasury, Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2023 management reports, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854) and 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-3318. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Practice and Procedure [Docket ID OCC-2021-0007] (RIN: 1557-AE33) received February 1, 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-3319. A letter from the Chief Judge, United States Court of International Trade, transmitting an opinion of the U.S. Court of International Trade, CIT Court No. 21-cv-00129, Ad Hoc Shrimp Trade Enft Comm. v. United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3320. A letter from the Acting Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Tribal Cybersecurity Needs Report, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 665g(q)(5); Public Law 107-296, Sec. 2218 (as added by Public Law 117-58, Sec. 70612); (135 Stat. 1285); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

EC-3321. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's National Security Education Program (NSEP) 2023 Annual Report; jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

EC-3322. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's program instruction — Medicare Prescription Payment Plan: Final Part One Guidance on Select Topics, Implementation of Section 1860D-2 of the Social Security Act of 2025, and Response to Relevant Comments received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6317. A bill to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to submit a report describing a process for seeking public comment about proposed changes to manda-

tory design standards for public buildings, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-409). 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. 6260. A bill to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-410). 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. 6261. A bill to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-411, Pt. 1). 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. 6254. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review on the Public Buildings Service, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-412). 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 Oversight and Accountability and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6261 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. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida):

H.R. 7559. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to grant family of members of the uniformed services temporary annual leave during the deployment of such members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 7560. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Community Advantage Loan Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 7561. A bill to reduce the pay of Members of Congress when a mass shooting occurs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 7562. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit Federal reserve banks from paying interest on excess reserves; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 7563. A bill to strengthen compliance with the FDA Food Traceability Rule, to enhance the FDA foodborne illness outbreak investigation process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 7564. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored

Terrorism Act with respect to certain victims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 7565. A bill to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. EZELL, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H.R. 7566. A bill to publicize U.S. Customs and Border Protection operational statistics and report on foreign terrorist organizations; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 7567. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the production or distribution of digital forgeries of intimate visual depictions of identifiable individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7568. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. MACE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 7569. A bill to improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. BIGGS):

H.R. 7570. A bill to rescind unobligated funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 7571. A bill to establish a regional trade, investment, and people-to-people partnership of countries in the Western Hemisphere to stimulate growth and integration through viable long-term private sector development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Rules, Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 7572. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide employment and training data grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 7573. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the requirement that States establish a Medicaid Estate Recovery Program and to limit the circumstances in which a State may place a lien on a Medicaid beneficiary's property; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 7574. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to base the numerical limitations for H-2B nonimmigrants on economic need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 7575. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan deferment and loan cancellation for certain founders and employees of small business start-ups, to amend the Small Business Act to establish a young entrepreneurs business center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILEY (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HILL, Mr. OGLES, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MANN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FLOOD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ESTES, Mr. CLINE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. SELF, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Labor relating to "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. CLINE):

H.J. Res. 117. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4366; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H. Res. 1060. A resolution expressing support for starting and growing families through in vitro fertilization; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GRANGER:

H. Res. 1061. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4366, with an amendment; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H. Res. 1062. A resolution declaring racism a public health crisis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WILD, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BERA, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. AMO, Mr. STANTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CASE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H. Res. 1063. A resolution reaffirming the United States full and unwavering commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in its 75th anniversary year and its goals of achieving collective security through transatlantic partnerships; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SELF, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H. Res. 1064. A resolution recognizing the role and responsibilities of Texas operating the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and condemning any action to federalize the Texas electricity markets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 7559.

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

Article I, Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To grant family of members of the uniformed services temporary annual leave during the deployment of such members, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 7560.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the Small Business Act to codify the Community Advantage Loan Program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 7561.

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

Article I, Section 6

The single subject of this legislation is: Compensation Timing for Members of the House of Representatives

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 7562.

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:

To amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit Federal reserve banks from paying interest on excess reserves.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 7563.

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

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To strengthen compliance with the FDA Food Traceability Rule, to enhance the FDA foodborne illness outbreak investigation process, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 7564.

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

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

this bill amends Section 404(d)(4)(D)(i) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144(d)(4)(D)(i)) and the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act with respect to certain victims.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 7565.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 5

The single subject of this legislation is:

Awards

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 7566.

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

Article 1, Section 8. To make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Homeland Security.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7567.

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

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the distribution or production of digital forgeries of intimate visual depictions of identifiable individuals

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7568.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Simplify deadlines for FEMA disaster assistance programs.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 7569.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7570.

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 rescind unobligated funds.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 7571.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Latin American Trade

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 7572.

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

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Nutrition

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7573.

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

Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit state Medicaid programs from using estate recovery to recoup the costs of benefits. States must withdraw property liens within 90 days of the bill's enactment.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 7574.

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

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would strengthen the H-2B guest worker visa program by updating the H-2B visa cap so that it is tied to the number of labor certifications that the Department of Labor approved in the previous fiscal year and exempt seasonal and rural locations from the annual H-2B visa cap.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 7575.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the forgoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation student debt relief for entrepreneurs and startup employees.

By Mr. KILEY:

H.J. Res. 116.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Labor relating to "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act"

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.J. Res. 117.

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:

Dissapproved of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter rule 89 FR 16202 in the federal register

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 82: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 354: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 431: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 491: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 537: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 619: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. WILD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 678: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 694: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 743: Mr. ISSA and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 807: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 873: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 1015: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1072: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 1111: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 1145: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1200: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 1302: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1320: Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1406: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BARR, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 1477: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 1495: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 1572: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1582: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 1788: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1839: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2390: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2400: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2447: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2451: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 2474: Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2532: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 2559: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2620: Mr. ALFORD and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2665: Ms. BROWN, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2723: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 2743: Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BAIRD, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2757: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2803: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2825: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2828: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2843: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2894: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2897: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2898: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2899: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2923: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2940: Mr. CLINE and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2999: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3005: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3012: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3031: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3037: Ms. PETERSEN and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3073: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3159: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3161: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 3170: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3205: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3249: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 3396: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3413: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 3418: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 3520: Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 3538: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3539: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 3542: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3567: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3576: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3599: Mrs. SYKES and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 3638: Mr. OGLES, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 3747: Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 3785: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3851: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 3910: Ms. NORTON and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3933: Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. PORTER, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3946: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 4175: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 4189: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 4263: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4278: Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 4293: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 4349: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4581: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4683: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4704: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4745: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 4750: Ms. PORTER and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 4769: Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 4770: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 4848: Ms. STEFANK.
H.R. 4867: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4878: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4897: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4916: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4933: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4936: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5057: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5134: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 5254: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 5266: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5566: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 5580: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5827: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5829: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 5879: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 5960: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 5995: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 6023: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 6046: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 6049: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 6094: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6097: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 6147: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6179: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6293: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 6319: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 6381: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6394: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 6415: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 6438: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 6482: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 6538: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 6573: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 6600: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6640: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 6658: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 6720: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 6744: Mr. CLINE and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6749: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 6805: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 6815: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 6860: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 6929: Ms. WEXTON, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 6951: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. COMER.
 H.R. 6974: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 7038: Mr. MCGARVEY.
 H.R. 7056: Ms. PELOSI, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 7082: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 7101: Mr. FITZGERALD.
 H.R. 7133: Mr. PANETTA and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 7165: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7171: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 7197: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7203: Ms. NORTON and Ms. BROWN.
 H.R. 7204: Ms. SHERRILL and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 7246: Mr. HERN.
 H.R. 7249: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 7271: Mr. OGLES.
 H.R. 7288: Ms. CHU and Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 7314: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 7343: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 7365: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
 H.R. 7372: Mr. LaLOTA and Mr. GIMENEZ.
 H.R. 7450: Mrs. HINSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 7455: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 7469: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 7478: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 7511: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. MACE, Mr. FRY, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. SELF, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BABIN, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. OGLES, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 7513: Ms. BOEBERT.
 H.R. 7515: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7516: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7530: Mr. CLYDE.
 H.R. 7531: Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 7543: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 7547: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 7557: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.J. Res. 96: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.J. Res. 115: Mr. ROSENDALE.
 H. Con. Res. 83: Mrs. SYKES.
 H. Res. 146: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 445: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H. Res. 561: Mr. AMO.
 H. Res. 882: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H. Res. 901: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H. Res. 915: Mr. RYAN.
 H. Res. 990: Ms. PEREZ.
 H. Res. 1025: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. NEGUSE.
 H. Res. 1037: Mr. LAWLER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 902: Mr. RASKIN.



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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

No. 40

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Have compassion upon us, O Lord, for we are weak. We continue to depend on You to guide our lawmakers on right paths. Only You know what the future holds and the resources we will need to meet our many challenges. Strengthen our Senators so that, in the face of great challenges, they will be steadfast, abounding in works that honor You.

Lord, give them such confidence in Your providence that no problem will seem insoluble. When anxieties come, remind them that You have not given a spirit of fear but of love, power, and discipline. In all of their work, may their primary motive be to bring glory to Your Name.

Thank You for hearing our cries and answering our prayers.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, next month will mark 45 years since a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy in an increasingly critical region of the world became law. The formal title of the law is worth a read in today's context:

An act to help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and to promote the foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

In the 45 years since Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, our friends on the island have continued to write an incredible story of resilience. Taiwan has established a strong democracy, a robust civil society, and a modern, innovative, high-tech economy. And its people have planted themselves squarely—squarely—on the side of free societies and free markets.

America is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. Its military is reforming and modernizing, increasingly arming itself with cutting-edge American capabilities. And the U.S.-Taiwan partnership has become an increasingly important indicator of bipartisan American resolve at a time when our allies and adversaries alike doubt—doubt—the credibility of our commitments.

After abandoning allies in Afghanistan, squandering leverage over Iran, and slow-walking assistance to Ukraine, America's relationship with Taiwan holds unique value. And, like it or not, it will be increasingly seen as a test of whether America's commitments to allies and partners hold any water.

Today, investing in our capabilities and defense industrial capacity would show our friends across the Indo-Pacific that we do—do—recognize the significance of that region and of the strategic competition unfolding out there—a competition America cannot afford to neglect. After all, the PRC is certainly not neglecting it.

Since 2015, Beijing's publicly reported spending on its military has doubled, and, just yesterday, Communist Party leaders announced that defense investments would grow a further 7.2 percent.

Of course, that is just the figure Beijing acknowledges publicly. China's real military modernization efforts are

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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actually more expansive and more worrisome, and they are intended to enable the PRC to dominate its neighbors and counter America's ability to project power in the region.

By word and deed, the PRC is showing the world that it is prepared to redraw maps by force. Sound familiar? That is because the revisionists autocrats we face are operating from the very same playbook.

And Taiwan appreciates the links between the threats we face as well as any of our allies and partners. Its leaders have been outspoken in connecting the dots between an aggressive Russia in Europe and an emboldened China in the Indo-Pacific. And the people of Taiwan increasingly recognize their interests in preparing to deter and defeat aggression. In fact, they are so clear-eyed about challenges posed by revisionist powers today, they are helping a fellow democracy halfway around the world in Ukraine.

But the more pressing questions right now are whether America recognizes our own interests in maintaining a world in which our commitments are trusted, our threats are feared, and what we are prepared to do about it.

Standing by our friends, standing up to adversaries, and investing in the military capacity to do both—as Congress considers annual Defense appropriations and finishes its work on the national security supplemental, these are the fundamental tasks at hand.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, on a different matter, earlier this week, the Biden administration announced that it had received “counteroffers” in the so-called negotiations between HHS and medicine producers over government price setting.

As I have pointed out recently, the administration spent years trying to corral world-leading producers of medical miracles into a socialist price-fixing scheme. And, for the past several months, they have described their kangaroo court as if it were a garden party.

This week, HHS Secretary Becerra insisted:

We are committed to constructive dialogue. . . . These are good-faith, up front negotiations.

Of course, as any working American knows, in a real negotiation, both parties have the ability to walk away. That is not the case when it comes to prescription drug socialism. The way these negotiations work, if a drug company doesn't agree to the “maximum fair price,” they can either agree to pay an excessive excise tax or they can withdraw entirely from participation in Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Anyone can see that this process is anything but a good-faith negotiation. But that is not even the crux of the issue.

Here is what is: Underneath the administration's rhetoric about lowering prices for American consumers, the hard reality is that prescription drug

socialism means higher costs and fewer treatments.

According to one estimate, this scheme would eliminate nine times as much funding as the 2016 Cancer Moonshot Initiative created. By another analysis, the Biden administration's drug pricing schemes will lead to 139 fewer medicines over the next decade. And that is just on the treatment side.

Over the next decade, prescription drug socialism would reportedly eliminate up to 135,000 jobs directly in the life sciences space in the United States and up to 670,000 jobs in related fields.

Apparently, the Biden administration is really just out to make it harder for the world's foremost engine of medical innovation to do what it is best at—finding cures.

And the worst side effect? The millions of people who will go without groundbreaking, American-made treatments.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, with just a few days to go before Friday's funding deadline to keep the government open, both Chambers must continue working quickly, decisively, and with bipartisan cooperation to avoid a shutdown.

The House will vote today on the six appropriations bills we reached bipartisan agreement on, where I expect they will pass with strong bipartisan support. As soon as the House passes these appropriations bills and sends them to the Senate, I will put the bills on the floor so we can pass them and fund these six departments with time to spare before Friday's deadline.

It took a lot of bipartisan cooperation to reach this agreement on these six appropriations bills. Now, it will take more bipartisan cooperation to finish the job.

The appropriations process hasn't been easy in divided government, but after a lot of hard work, late nights, and persistence, we now have six strong appropriations bills that include aggressive investments in American families, moms and kids, veterans, workers, and more. And we prevented any devastating cuts or poison pills pushed by the hard right.

We will fully fund WIC, meaning no mom or kid will be denied vital nutrition assistance. We will protect funding to help Americans, especially rural Americans, afford their rent and keep a roof over their head. We will increase funding for programs and services that support our veterans. And in this

year's appropriations, we prevented the worst of the devastating cuts and poison pills pushed by the hard right.

Passing these bills will give us the much-needed momentum to pass this package of spending bills by the March 22 deadline. But as I have said repeatedly, it will take bipartisan cooperation to finish the job.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. President, last November, I wrote to the Federal Trade Commission, the FTC, urging them to investigate Exxon's \$60 billion blockbuster merger with Pioneer, one of the largest mergers in energy industry in two decades. I warned that Exxon's deals—and Chevron's announced merger with Hess—had the red flags of anticompetitive behavior. I warned that these deals could open the floodgates to more consolidation, less competition, and higher prices, just to pad the profits of the largest oil companies.

It turns out I was right. Since last November, there have been at least four multibillion-dollar mergers announced among America's large oil companies; and in all of 2023, there was an astounding 250 billion dollars' worth of oil and gas deals.

So today, I authored a letter joined by 50 of my Senate and House Democratic colleagues in urging the FTC to increase its scrutiny over this wave of oil mergers to see if the mergers violate antitrust laws.

Big Oil is alarmingly getting even bigger, and the FTC must investigate for the sake of consumers, workers, small businesses, because when oligopolistic behavior reigns, costs go up, and the public pays the price.

History has shown that when America's largest oil companies go through consolidation, it eventually leads to higher gas prices. According to the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, the five biggest mergers of the 1990s and 2000s led to tangible spikes in prices, particularly the merger between Exxon and Mobil, which I fiercely opposed as a Congressman at that time.

I have always said that one of the greatest mistakes of the Democratic administration in the 1990s was to allow this merger between Exxon and Mobil, as well as the merger between Chevron and Texaco, because, as we saw, competition greatly suffered and costs went up for consumers.

That is why I strongly opposed those deals back then. When you look back, you say: How the heck did even a Democratic administration allow Exxon and Mobil to merge, Chevron and Texaco to merge? But, sadly, history is repeating itself when it comes to oil mergers; although, the Biden administration has not been supportive.

And let's not kid ourselves, these mergers aren't just about efficiency or lowering costs. These mergers are about buying out the competition so the newly consolidated industry can boost profits at the expense of consumers. And these profits have become

the jet fuel, so to speak, for a record wave of stock buybacks and grotesque levels of executive pay. In January, Chevron announced \$75 billion in stock buybacks, which will cut the number of shares by as much as 20 percent. Exxon, likewise, announced another \$35 billion in buybacks for this year and next. These are just two examples of many.

Americans, meanwhile, will continue to feel the sting of Big Oil's greed every time they go to the pump. That is why we are calling on the FTC to look into this pattern of consolidation announced in recent months and step in, if necessary.

NOMINATION OF RONALD T. KEOHANE

Mr. President, now on nominations, today the Senate will continue our work to confirm President Biden's nominees. We will begin by confirming Ronald Keohane, a proud Buffalo, NY, native, as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and I am proud to support this great New Yorker.

Mr. Keohane is exceptionally qualified for this position, having served in various support roles for our servicemembers and their families during his 30-year career. He served in the Obama administration in a similar role as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy.

So Mr. Keohane is the right man for the job because he understands the value of caring for our servicemembers and their families.

NOMINATION OF SANKET J. BULSARA

Mr. President, off the floor, the Senate is also moving forward with more of President Biden's judicial nominees.

I just returned from the Judiciary Committee, where I had the honor of introducing Judge Sanket Bulsara, whom I recommended to President Biden to serve as a district judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Bulsara made history in 2017 as the first South Asian-American judge to serve in any court within the Second Circuit when appointed as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of New York.

New York's South Asian population, I am proud to say, is one of the very fastest growing in New York. We have the largest South Asian community in a metropolitan area in the country, and these folks are hard-working. They raise good families. They make sure they do everything they can to see their children have better lives than they do, often through education and study and hard work.

They are law-abiding, and they are just great Americans, part of the American dream. And so I feel proud when they are elevated to an exalted position like Federal judge.

Judge Bulsara is the epitome of the American dream, just like so many in the South Asian community. He is the proud son of hard-working immigrant parents from Kenya and India, and a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School. He has considerable experience in both the public and

private sectors. If confirmed, Judge Bulsara would make an exceptional addition to the Eastern District, and I am very proud to champion his nomination.

CLEAN ENERGY

Finally, Mr. President, on clean energy investment, when President Biden comes before the Congress to deliver his State of the Union this week, Americans will hear a clear theme: America's economy is accelerating, inflation is decelerating, and the investments Democrats made in the past few years—I was proud to be majority leader during probably the most successful, productive Congress in 30 years, and these investments are really paying off.

Today, for example, many Americans are paying less for insulin than they did a few years ago, thanks to reforms we made on the IRA. Seniors on Medicare have a cap on prescription drug spending. No longer does a serious illness mean seniors on Medicare spend \$10,000 or more on prescription drug expenses. Consumer sentiment is way up, compared to 2 years ago. And despite so many naysayers who were sure there would be a recession, inflation has slowed to more normal levels without—without—causing a recession.

In fact, manufacturing construction is at an alltime high, triple its highest point during the last administration, the Trump administration. And these are just the accomplishments of the past year. The IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act, is projected to create another 1.5 million jobs over the next decade.

But today, I want to point out another part of our agenda delivering beyond anyone's wildest expectations: the surge in America's clean energy and the jobs it creates. The New York Times put it best in a recent article when they noted that "clean energy manufacturing is booming."

Thanks to investments Democrats made in the Inflation Reduction Act, in the Chips and Science Act and other bills, clean investments, just last year, reached over \$230 billion. For context, that is triple the investment levels of 2019, just 5 years ago.

Many companies who invested towards clean energy have said legislation like IRA and Chips and Science made their decisions easier. And while \$230 billion can seem hard to visualize, the practical impacts of these investments are plain as day.

Americans see these investments at work through new EV battery plants, new construction sites, new good-paying jobs that will stick around for years. Our economy has added nearly 30,000 jobs in power generation and supply, a stark turnaround from years of decline during the previous administration.

New Yorkers see these investments through the surge of onshore wind and solar energy production and through all of the factory openings we have seen across the State, particularly in

Upstate New York, in an area that in the past had lost jobs—manufacturing jobs—is now growing again. That is great news. It makes us all very happy.

Consumers will see these investments at work through cheaper EVs; and in time, Americans everywhere will see these investments pay off through less pollution, cleaner air, and fewer kids getting sick from asthma and other illnesses. That is something we are very proud of.

Sometimes it can take a while for the effects of an ambitious agenda to take root. We saw this happen with ACA. But today, the evidence is pouring in that the work that President Biden and Democrats put in over the past few years, the investments, are paying off in a big way for our country, and Americans are beginning to take notice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week, President Biden visited the southern border—just his second such trip in his entire half-a-century-long political career. While I suspect his visit was motivated more by the thought of an election year photo op than by a desire to see the border crisis firsthand, the President should—should—be visiting the southern border. But more than that, the President should be taking action on the border, real action—the kind of action that will actually do something to help stem the crisis we are facing, because we are facing a crisis.

The number of migrant encounters at our southern border in January was the highest January number in more than 20 years. That, of course, followed a recordbreaking and staggering, I would add, 301,983 encounters in the month of December—not only the highest December on record but the highest total for any month ever. And there is no end in sight. The first 4 days of March saw 7,000-plus migrant encounters each day, putting us on track for yet another month of 200,000-plus migrant encounters at the southern border.

Of course, none of these numbers include "got-aways," and those are individuals whom the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. There have been approximately 1.8 million known "got-aways" since President Biden took office and an untold number of unknown "got-aways" over the same period.

Now, this is a crisis on many levels. It is a logistical and enforcement crisis, it is a humanitarian crisis, and it is

a national security crisis. Our Nation is simply not secure as long as we have hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals taking up residence in our country.

In fact, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens, speaking about the number of “got-aways” at the border, told FOX News:

[T]hose are the numbers that really keep us up at night, because if you know that all you need to do is turn yourself in to the Border Patrol and go through the process, what possible reason would you have for wanting to evade capture? Could it be that those are the folks that probably have criminal intent?

Chief Owens was referring to the fact that under the Biden administration’s lax asylum system, individuals who show up at the border claiming asylum are frequently released into the country with court dates as much as a decade into the future. His point, of course, is that when turning yourself in to the Border Patrol with a claim for asylum is likely to result in years of essentially legal permanent residence, it is especially concerning that we have hundreds of thousands of individuals choosing not to turn themselves in to the Border Patrol but escaping into the interior of our country. Given that, it stands to reason that many of these “got-aways” have more malign intentions.

While there are always various factors that affect the flow of illegal immigration, we are on track for a fourth—a fourth—recordbreaking year of illegal immigration under the Biden administration because of the actions President Biden has taken or failed to take.

From the day he took office, when he rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, President Biden made it clear that border security was at the bottom of his priority list. Over the 3 years since, he has turned our southern border into a magnet for illegal migration—from repealing border policies of his predecessor to misusing our asylum and parole systems, which are now providing temporary amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals who are here illegally.

Recent news reports suggest that President Biden is thinking of taking new, more substantial immigration action aimed at helping to finally stem the flow of illegal migration. I hope that is true, although given his record, I am not holding my breath.

The President helped create this crisis, and he should end it. For example, tightening the asylum claims, as President Trump did, could help weed out many of the specious claims that are being made that allow individuals to take up long-term residence in our country.

With 75 percent of respondents in a recent poll describing the situation at our southern border as “a very serious problem” or “a crisis,” perhaps election-year politics will do what 3 years

of recordbreaking immigration has not done, and that is, force the President to take his responsibility for our Nation’s security seriously and finally shut down the flow of illegal immigration at our southern border. But, as I said, given the President’s record, I am not holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

VOTE ON KEOHANE NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Keohane nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Ex.]

YEAS—69

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Padilla |
| Bennet | Graham | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Reed |
| Booker | Heinrich | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hickenlooper | Romney |
| Brown | Hirono | Rosen |
| Butler | Hoeben | Rounds |
| Cantwell | Hyde-Smith | Sanders |
| Capito | Kaine | Schatz |
| Cardin | Kelly | Schumer |
| Carper | King | Shaheen |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Collins | Lujan | Smith |
| Coons | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Cornyn | Markley | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | McConnell | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | Menendez | Warner |
| Cramer | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Moran | Warren |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Welch |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Fetterman | Murray | Wyden |
| Fischer | Ossoff | Young |

NAYS—30

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| Barrasso | Hawley | Rubio |
| Blackburn | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Braun | Kennedy | Scott (FL) |
| Budd | Lankford | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy | Lee | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Lummis | Thune |
| Cruz | Marshall | Tillis |
| Daines | Mullin | Tuberville |
| Grassley | Paul | Vance |
| Hagerty | Risch | Wicker |

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 529, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Brian Schatz, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mark Kelly, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Sanders |
| Booker | Kaine | Schatz |
| Brown | Kelly | Schumer |
| Butler | King | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cardin | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Carper | Manchin | Tester |
| Casey | Markley | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Menendez | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Welch |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Grassley | Risch |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rounds |
| Braun | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sinema |
| Cornyn | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lummis | Thune |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Moran | Vance |
| Daines | Mullin | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Young |
| Fischer | Paul | |
| Graham | Ricketts | |

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:20 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be up to 20 minutes of debate between Senators MURRAY, BRAUN, LEE, and JOHNSON prior to the scheduled vote.

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

The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—H.R. 4366

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I have come to the floor today to talk about some of the spending requests—known as earmarks—that are placed in this legislation. Earmarks have long been used by Members of Congress as “sweeteners,” as things that make the bill package go down more smoothly, more easily, than perhaps it would otherwise—special interests give-outs, handouts to business entities, non-profit entities, or otherwise that individual Members request, sometimes successfully.

One of them involves a significant sum of \$850,000—just shy of a million dollars—to a leftwing organization known for publicly calling for the granting of citizenship to illegal immigrants, persons who have entered our country, whose common characteristic that they hold in common—that unites them—is the fact that they entered the country unlawfully, in violation of our laws.

This arises during a significant period of time; one in which we are experiencing the worst immigration crisis that we have ever known. And Congress wants to send \$850,000 to an organization that is interested in enabling and inflaming it.

Why, exactly—even if you agree with the objectives of this organization called the New Immigrant Community Empowerment organization—or NICE—even if you agree with that entity, which many Americans don’t, why exactly is it that we are going to take money away from U.S. taxpayers and use that to fund this organization that actively assists in helping illegal aliens get American jobs?

NICE’s LinkedIn page says as follows:

At NICE we envision a world where all people, regardless of immigration status, live and work with dignity and justice.

And “dignity” and “justice” are nice things. They are things that the American people aspire to; and they are the very things that cause immigrants worldwide to want to come to the United States of America.

For this to work, for us to continue to be a nation of immigrants, we need to be a nation that also honors our own laws and enforces them.

So if you support this bill—the Schumer minibus bill—with this earmark, then you are voting, in one way or another, to fund this organization to the tune of \$850,000, which, in turn, goes to help perpetuate, inflame, and extend the immigration crisis—the border security crisis.

So to that end, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to reprint the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, that was printed in yesterday’s RECORD with the following changes and that this amended version be considered the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366:

[T]he removal of a House CDF project that would give \$850,000 to the New Immigrant Community Empowerment organization in T-HUD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, last Congress, Senate and House Appropriations Committee leaders reinstated the practice of congressionally directed spending—or CDS—with bipartisan support.

CDS is one very important way for lawmakers to advocate for the communities they represent; and they know best.

At the beginning of this Congress, the senior Senator from Maine and I laid out a very robust process alongside our counterparts in the House to accept CDS requests for fiscal year 2024. The process includes important guardrails and requirements to, among other things, ensure transparency, ensure Members do not have financial stakes in the project they seek to fund, ensure projects are eligible to be funded, and that for-profit entities do not receive funding, and more.

If a project meets those requirements, it is eligible for funding. This is a Member-driven process, and we respect the eligible projects Members choose to request or to withdraw support for.

All four corners worked in a bipartisan way to make sure these bills could reflect the input and priorities of every Member. And that includes funding for eligible projects they have sponsored.

But what the Senator from Utah is offering would undo all that hard work and overrule Members about the projects they have secured funding for in this package. That is not how this process can or should work.

We have a process here that is driven by the rules we have in place and by Members’ requests. And that process cannot be upended now at the 11th hour by a single lawmaker. Doing so would overrule other lawmakers and deny funding for projects they have secured for their constituents. That cannot happen now. I will not let it happen.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, first of all, with regard to the last unanimous consent request, it is important to remember a couple of things: First of all, we saw that the whole bill together, with the congressionally directed spending elements, for the first time in just the last 48 hours or so. So it is not as though this has been through a public process with debate back and forth. An essential element of any legislative body is that there is an opportunity to amend, to discuss, and debate. In fact, that has been taken advantage of within the last 24 hours as another measure—a measure to remove something that has been characterized online as providing a million dollars to fund BDSM sex parties. That was removed. So if that can be removed, I don’t know why this one can’t.

In any event, to say that this cake is baked—that this legislation must be treated as now passed when it is not passed is folly. And it doesn’t bode well for this institution, which has long heralded itself and held itself out to the world as the world’s greatest deliberative legislative body.

Let’s go to another one: Georgetown University. We have got nearly \$1 million also going to Georgetown University—\$963,000—nearly a million—to Georgetown University for something called the Prison Justice Initiative.

Now, I don’t know a whole lot about exactly what this will accomplish. It may well have good elements to it. But the point is this: Georgetown University is not only one of the wealthiest universities on planet Earth, it is one of the wealthiest entities of any kind on planet Earth.

Indeed, it has an endowment. Its endowment alone is valued at over \$3.2 billion. And this begs the question: Why does it need to be subsidized to the tune of nearly a million dollars by U.S. taxpayers?

To that end, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to reprint the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024—it was printed in yesterday’s RECORD with the following changes—and that this amended version be considered the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366:

[T]he removal of a House project that would provide \$963,000 to Georgetown University for the Georgetown University Prison Justice Initiative, in CJS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, here again, this is unfortunate. We have a small handful of people who have negotiated this thing behind closed doors. They have agreed to what they have agreed to. They have taken out things that they themselves have found controversial.

So, apparently, it is not the hermetically sealed chamber that it is purported to be and has been purported to be just moments ago by my friend and distinguished colleague, the Senator from Washington. And yet we are told that the cake is sufficiently baked, and not for their purposes but for ours. When we want to make a change to it, when we even want to have a debate about it, we are shut down. We are told: Sorry, no dice. That cannot happen.

That is unacceptable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, there is also a measure in this legislation—a measure calling for \$2.5 million to be set aside for outdoor recreation purposes—funding kayaking and slalom facilities in Franklin, NH.

These sound like fun activities. They are fun activities. I mean, who doesn't like those kinds of activities? I think most of us could agree this is completely inappropriate. And it is an unnecessary use of Federal taxpayer dollars. This ought to be funded solely at the State and local level or with private funding and not here.

To that end, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to reprint the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, that was printed in yesterday's RECORD with the following changes and that this amended version be considered the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366:

[T]he removal of a Senate Community Development Fund project that would provide \$2,500,000 to the city of Franklin, NH for outdoor recreation, in THUD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LEE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, here today, since I have been in the Senate, which has been a little over 5 years, I think I have been the most steadfast voice in terms of, whatever we want to do here, we shouldn't be borrowing it from our kids and our grandkids.

Any of you up there listening, it is a sad state of affairs in the sense that, just a little over 5 years ago, we were

\$18 trillion in debt, borrowing at the tune of about a trillion dollars a year to backfill for all the things we want to do here, and ask you and your kids to pay for it. To me, that is a bad business plan.

Sadly, it gets even worse. Over these 5 years, instead of a trillion dollars annually, it is now a trillion dollars every 6 months. For those of you who are good at math, take current interest rates and apply that to \$34 trillion—soon to be \$35 trillion, if it has not already crossed that threshold. That is a big figure with a lot of zeroes behind it. To put it in perspective, the interest on that alone is going to be about what we spend on defense in the next year or the discretionary side of our budget.

How we have ever gotten there, I don't know.

We are going to be considering another package tomorrow or Friday that takes the whole process of doing budgets, asking: Do you really need it? Aren't there some places that we could surely get back to where we don't spend more than we take in, because when we don't, we are borrowing every penny of it. And, on every dollar that we spend here, 5 years ago, it was about 20 cents of that dollar that we had to borrow. Now it is 30 cents. The arithmetic—the numbers—don't just go away.

It will be the single biggest thing all of you—this country—has to deal with over the next 5 to 10 years, and it is just starting to get to the point where it is going to, literally, break the back of the American public. Sooner or later, you won't have people lending us that money. Sooner or later, it is going to crowd out almost everything we do here, and it is shameful, in my mind.

I want to focus on one, actually, small part of it, but what is symbolic of what shouldn't be happening here: earmarks. Earmarks are justified because we ought to be able to maybe do it better here and should have input in it, and not let the executive branch do that. But to me, that would be valid if, in fact, we were balancing our budget in the first place.

Until we get total fiscal reform here and at least start to turn it around to where the deficits get smaller, the debt is never going to get smaller because, in general, if you take out a loan, imagine if you told your banker: I just want to pay interest only for as long as I have that loan.

They would laugh you out of the office.

So when it comes to earmarks, this bill is filled with them. It wasn't too many years ago that we got rid of them. Then the House started doing them again—both sides of the aisle. We are elective here, if you want to do it or not. But to me, that is fine, but not in the context that it is new money. For every earmark, you have to lend us the money or maybe somebody overseas. Who knows who will do it down the road?

It has a lot of other stuff in it that you are not going to like in terms of

policy that goes along with the spending. It is no wonder to me that Americans say: What is going on here?

How are we going to change it? We are not going to change it until you demand it. Two simple things: term limits and a balanced budget amendment. Then it would run like your households and most other governments around our own country.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to strike the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, that was printed in yesterday's RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

NOMINATION OF MOSHE Z. MARVIT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I support the nomination of Moshe Marvit to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

Mr. Marvit is currently a supervisory attorney-advisor in the Commission's Pittsburgh field office, where he has served since 2012. In this role, he writes decisions for administrative law judges and mediates cases between mine operators and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Prior to working at the Commission, Mr. Marvit was in private practice where he represented the United Steelworkers and employees in pension and discrimination matters. Mr. Marvit has written extensively on labor law, including co-authoring a book titled "Why Labor Organizing Should Be a Civil Right," which explains the historical importance of the American labor movement, provides data on how current law fails to deter employer abuses, and compares U.S. labor protections to those of other developed nations.

Mr. Marvit has a B.A. in philosophy from the Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. in political science from the University of Chicago, an M.A. in history from Carnegie Mellon University, and a J.D. from the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Mr. Marvit is a well-qualified nominee strongly supported by the United Mine Workers of America and the United Steelworkers, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

VOTE ON MARVIT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Marvit nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Sanders |
| Booker | Kaine | Schatz |
| Brown | Kelly | Schumer |
| Butler | King | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cardin | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Carper | Manchin | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Menendez | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Welch |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Grassley | Risch |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rounds |
| Braun | Hoeven | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sinema |
| Cornyn | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lummis | Thune |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Moran | Vance |
| Daines | Mullin | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Young |
| Fischer | Paul | |
| Graham | Ricketts | |

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 456, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Chris Van Hollen, Mark R. Warner, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Mark Kelly.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 72 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Sanders |
| Booker | Kaine | Schatz |
| Brown | Kelly | Schumer |
| Butler | King | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Cardin | Lujan | Smith |
| Carper | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Casey | Markey | Tester |
| Coons | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warnock |
| Durbin | Murray | Warren |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Welch |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Hassan | Peters | Wyden |

NAYS—48

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Paul |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Braun | Hawley | Romney |
| Budd | Hoeven | Rounds |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Rubio |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Collins | Kennedy | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lummis | Thune |
| Crapo | Marshall | Tillis |
| Cruz | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Daines | Moran | Vance |
| Ernst | Mullin | Wicker |
| Fischer | Murkowski | Young |

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, tomorrow night, we will have the annual State of the Union Message from the President of the United States. Each year, Members of Congress are given a ticket to invite a guest to the State of the Union. I have invited several people over the years whom I will never forget. One of them, 15 years ago, was a woman in military uniform who came to see us from her hospital room. She had just been shot down in her helicopter over Iraq, and there she was a few weeks later as my guest at the State of the Union. Her name was TAMMY DUCKWORTH. Now she is my colleague in the U.S. Senate. So you never know what might happen when a Member of Congress offers an invitation to the State of the Union.

Tomorrow night, I am going to have a special guest and a special friend. I am hosting an extraordinary resident of my State, Dr. Zaher Sahloul. Dr. Sahloul is a critical care specialist at Advocate Christ Medical Center at Saint Anthony's Hospital.

He is an associate professor of clinical medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago, but he is much, much more than that.

Dr. Sahloul has a long history of leading timely and often dangerous medical missions to some of the most desperate parts of the world, including recently a trip to Gaza. You see, Dr. Sahloul is the president of MedGlobal, a nonprofit that provides critical medical services in areas of crisis all over the world. His work was recently featured on "60 Minutes."

Before that, he led the Syrian American Medical Society, which led similar lifesaving missions. Through these efforts, he and other volunteer doctors have provided urgent care to desperate populations, including in Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and Bangladesh. In fact, in 2017, when the Burmese military was attacking that country's Rohingya population with unspeakable cruelty, Dr. Sahloul and his colleagues helped the war-weary refugees who were fleeing into Bangladesh.

I had a chance to visit him and witness those efforts firsthand at one such camp in the Bangladeshi city of Cox's Bazar. I will never forget walking through that sea of humanity, desperate humanity, and seeing what Dr. Sahloul and his colleagues were doing to bring basic dignity and basic medical care to this traumatized population. It was truly heroic.

And what he and his colleagues similarly have done in Syria, with barrel bombs falling from the sky, or in Ukraine or in Gaza, has been equally moving. It is no wonder he has been awarded the Gandhi Award for Peace, the Heartland Alliance Kovler Center Dr. Robert Kirschner's Award for Global Activism, and UNICEF Chicago's Shine a Light on Global Refugee Crisis annual humanitarian award.

I believe that Dr. Sahloul epitomizes humanity's goodness during times of conflict and trauma. And it is my honor to have him as my guest tomorrow night. His most recent work in Gaza is a stark reminder of the dire humanitarian needs facing us in the unfolding crisis that started with the horrific October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

He shared with me and several of my colleagues deeply troubling stories of innocent people caught in this conflict who are in desperate need of basic medical attention and supplies. Operations and amputations occurring using vinegar as an antiseptic or Tylenol for anesthesia in the amputation of children's limbs, expectant mothers without safe medical facilities to give birth.

The United States has started airdropping emergency supplies into Gaza. It is a relatively small step, but

it is a step in the right direction, although not a long-term solution to the conflict. I have long called for a ceasefire by all sides that includes the release of the remaining Israeli hostages. That seems to be the direction negotiators are aiming for before the start of Ramadan. I hope that is the case, and I hope that any such pause can be used to reunite hostages with their families and deliver desperately needed humanitarian aid into Gaza.

I continue to believe in the two-state solution, one with new leadership on all sides. I think it is the only viable long-term path forward. In tomorrow's State of the Union Address, President Biden will not only fulfill one of his most important constitutional obligations, he will also have the opportunity to highlight to America how his administration has been working with congressional Democrats to improve the lives of our Nation's working families.

In addition to the millions of Americans who will tune in to hear the address, there is no doubt that people across the world will be watching and hoping that he will say something that will lead us toward a more peaceful globe because, as we all know, America's influence extends way beyond our borders, and as Dr. Sahloul has proven, so, too, do our citizens.

I am honored to be joined by a guest who embodies the best of America—selflessness, a commitment to service, and a belief that a single individual has the ability to make the world a better place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 160

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I rise to tell a preventable, horrific story: 22-year-old Laken Riley, a nursing student, was killed by an illegal immigrant. This bright, young woman had her whole life ahead of her. She represented what our country needs more of, a life dedicated to caring for others.

Like all Iowans, my heart goes out to her family and her friends who continue to grieve this tragic loss.

The reality is, Laken's heartbreaking story did not have to happen. In 2022, Jose Antonio Ibarra illegally crossed over the border into El Paso and claimed asylum. Instead of being detained while he was processed, he was released into our country, never to be heard from again; that is, folks, until he was arrested in New York City for endangering a child. Was he held to face trial for this crime in New York City? Nope. Nope.

Was he deported for this crime or even for coming here illegally? Nope.

New York officials released him so quickly that ICE couldn't even try to lodge a detainer, even if they wanted to. Meanwhile, Ibarra made his way to Georgia, where he disfigured and killed an innocent young girl who was simply out for a jog.

This could have been avoided, but Biden's failure to enforce the laws at

our border allowed it to happen. How many young Americans must die? How many families must be ripped apart for this administration to wake up and take border security seriously?

For more than 8 years, I have warned against the dangers of letting illegal immigrants, who have already broken our laws—again, those who have broken our laws—roam the country and continue their lawlessness. I have repeatedly called on this body to step up and protect innocent Americans from criminals who are here in our country illegally and pass my bill, Sarah's Law.

Eight years ago, Iowans Michelle and Scott Root woke up to every parent's worst nightmare, their daughter Sarah—right here, beautiful Sarah Root—was killed by a drunk driver. Sarah, a 21-year-old from Council Bluffs, had just graduated from Bellevue University in Nebraska with a 4.0 GPA and a bachelor's degree in criminal investigations. She was headed home after celebrating her important life milestone with family and friends. She had her entire life ahead of her. But while she was stopped at a traffic light, Sarah was struck and killed by Edwin Mejia, an illegal immigrant.

His blood alcohol level was three times over the legal limit. One would think her killer would clearly meet Immigration and Customs Enforcement's "enforcement priorities." But no—nope. Citing the Obama administration's November 2014 memo on immigration enforcement priorities, ICE declined—declined—to take custody of Mejia, despite his repeated driving offenses and history of skipping court dates.

Before the Root family could even lay their daughter to rest, Mejia posted a \$5,000 bond—5,000 bucks. He was released, and, just like in the past, folks, he disappeared never to be seen again.

Now, here we are, folks. We are over 8 years later. Sarah's killer is still at large, after that 5,000 bucks, and able to carelessly harm others. To rub salt in the wound, the Biden administration has removed Mejia from ICE's Most Wanted list.

No big deal, right?

No parent should have to endure the pain of losing a child, like the Root family did—and I know them personally—but, unfortunately, the Riley family is experiencing this same heartbreak. A loophole in our law means Sarah's killer escaped justice, but, today, we can do something to ensure no other family has to go through the pain Sarah's parents have felt every day for 8 long years.

My bill, named in Sarah's honor, would close the alarming loophole that let Sarah's killer go free. It would just require ICE to detain—just to detain—otherwise deportable illegal immigrants charged with killing or seriously injuring another person.

Is that too much to ask? To detain someone who has killed another American?

It also requires ICE to inform victims and family members of critical infor-

mation pertaining to the investigation. Right now, family members are left in the dark. Had Sarah's Law been enacted at the time of her death, law enforcement would have detained her killer instead of allowing him to flee from justice. The Root family would have been kept up-to-date on his status and Federal immigration authorities' efforts to remove him from the country.

Simply put, this should be an easy one, folks. Sarah and Laken's deaths are both tragic and, unfortunately, are doomed to be repeated, thanks to this administration's broken and ill-informed policies.

Those who come here illegally and harm our citizens should, without question, be a priority for removal. It is just common sense, folks.

Otherwise deportable illegal immigrants who commit violent crimes—they commit them here. They should face justice. We can no longer prioritize illegal immigrants over public safety. We must pass Sarah's Law to send this message loud and clear—for Sarah's family, for Laken's family, and for the countless American families that Sarah's Law would protect.

Madam President, as if in legislative session and not withstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 160 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and reserving the right to object, I want to make it clear that we can all agree: Noncitizens who are convicted of committing violent crime should be detained and removed from the United States, period.

Under current law—under current law—any noncitizen who entered the country illegally, violated the terms of their status, or had their visa revoked, can be ordered detained by ICE officials. Current law—current law—also requires the detention of individuals with serious criminal convictions and those who have committed murder, rape, or any crime of violence or theft offense with a term of imprisonment of at least 1 year.

The law also gives ICE the discretion to detain or release a noncitizen in cases where a noncitizen has merely been charged but not convicted.

This bill that we are considering now from the Senator from Iowa would require ICE to detain any individual charged with a crime that resulted in death or serious bodily injury of another person, pending their criminal case, no matter what the circumstances or the nature of the crime, and no exceptions.

As just one example, a victim of trafficking or domestic violence who defended themselves against an abuser would have to be detained under the law.

Most immigrants in the United States are law-abiding individuals who are seeking a better life. Studies have shown that immigrants have no impact on crime rates, and immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than ordinary U.S. citizens. But the sweeping approach in this bill would deprive immigrants of the due process that everyone is afforded to prove that they are innocent of a crime.

And I agree with many of my colleagues that we need a more orderly system to process recent arrivals at the border and assure that bad actors are detained, if they have serious criminal convictions.

Recently, a bipartisan group of Senators and the White House began negotiating a change in our immigration laws and a tough border deal. It was written by the Republican's designated negotiator, Senator JAMES LANKFORD of Oklahoma, along with two other Senators—one, an independent from Arizona, and the other, a Democrat from Connecticut. The bill that they wrote to make our border safer and to deal with immigration was endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, which represents the men and women on the border who are risking their lives every day to keep us safe.

I had personal concerns about this bill, but I wanted to move it forward. And yet, when it came to a vote, the vast majority of Senators on the other side of the aisle opposed it, at the request of Donald Trump, who tanked the border agreement for his own cynical reasons.

What were those reasons? One House Republican said:

Let me tell you, I'm not willing to do too damn much right now to help a Democrat and to help Joe Biden's approval rating.

President Trump himself was crystal clear. He said: "Blame it on me" if the bill fails.

That bill was our vehicle and opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis, to change many of the provisions in immigration law, to make America safer, and to make our borders secure and more effective.

Some extremists have said the quiet part out loud: Donald Trump doesn't want a solution to our challenges at the border; he wants a political issue for November.

It is time that my Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues stop talking about the border in one-off responses to it and start legislating, rather than vilifying all immigrants based upon a few bad actors.

It is a tragedy what happened to these two young women. There is no excuse for it, and those responsible should be held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to do the best that we can to come up with an immigration reform that resolves not only

this serious issue but all of the other issues we are haunted with on a regular basis.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I am very sad that we are on the floor today and that Sarah's Law has been objected to. We have been down this road before, many times over, through the years since Sarah Root's death.

Now, I do understand that ICE has discretion, and that is what we are discussing today. It is the fact that ICE had discretion and chose to allow Edwin Mejia to post bond of \$5,000 to disappear into the night. Before Sarah was even laid to rest, Edwin Mejia was long gone, and he has yet to face justice for Sarah's family.

In July 2020, a Mexican national was drunk-driving in Texas and struck and killed a Chicago resident and two retired U.S. Army officers. All were part of a pro-law enforcement motorcycle club. The Mexican national was out on bond and awaiting trial for allegedly striking a man with his truck in 2018, biting the victim's back, and biting off a portion of his ear. If Sarah's Law had been on the books, he would have been detained in 2018 to await trial.

In June 2011, a Chicago resident was killed in a drunk-driving accident. The driver, a Mexican national, was driving with a blood alcohol level four times over the legal limit. He struck and killed a Chicago resident, dragged the victim's body 300 feet, and then attempted to run away on foot. He was bailed out—again, bailed out, not held. He bailed out and fled to Mexico. He was extradited back to the United States in 2022.

If Sarah's Law had been on the books, he would have been detained and not been able to flee to Mexico.

In March 2021, a Mexican national shot and killed his next-door neighbor in Chicago. He then injured the three officers attempting to arrest him. The Mexican national was arrested in 2011 for driving with an open container. In 2015, he was arrested again for aggravated assault. In 2012, he attempted to lie his way into a visa reserved for victims of criminal activity. And he also twice unsuccessfully applied for the DACA Program in 2014 and 2015.

If Sarah's Law had been on the books, he would likely have been detained after the aggravated assault in 2015, and, again, we would have another innocent who was killed still alive today.

So these are just a handful of examples of where Sarah's Law would have made a difference.

I do understand that there is an objection to the discretionary part of this bill, and the example that was given is of those who are being trafficked for sex-type operations. Sex trafficking is very real. Because I have worked in this space of domestic violence and violence against women, I do and have

heard from those who have been sex-trafficked that sometimes the only way to break away from those who are trafficking them is actually to be arrested and pulled away from those johns or those sex traffickers. So maybe to put them in an area of safety would be the right thing to do.

So I appreciate having been heard. I will continue to work on behalf of the Root family, on behalf of the Riley family, and others who have lost loved ones to those who should not be here in our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I believe we have 15 minutes, and just for the order of battle here, I would like to recognize Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, and HAWLEY to make some brief remarks. I will make some brief remarks, and we will make a unanimous consent for the bills that I have indicated we are trying to call up.

With that, I would turn it over to Senator GRASSLEY.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, first, I would like to thank Senator GRAHAM for his leadership for protecting our kids, and also I would like to thank him for giving me this opportunity to help him advance three bipartisan bills which could revolutionize child safety in the digital era.

As child predators have exploited the development of technology to harm and endanger our Nation's most vulnerable, our laws to address this grave and growing threat to our kids have fallen way, way behind.

We have three bills to talk about. One goes by the title of "STOP CSAM." It strengthens reporting requirements of suspected abuse by expanding mandatory reporting and enhancing the CyberTipline, and it also protects child victims in court.

Another bill goes by the title of "EARN IT." It modernizes section 230 to ensure that victims can secure justice.

And the last one, the SHIELD Act, would impose necessary criminal penalties for distributing illegal explicit material and hold sexual predators accountable.

I am proud to cosponsor both the STOP CSAM and the EARN IT Act and have supported all three bills in the Judiciary Committee as part of my efforts, joining with Senator GRAHAM, to protect American youth. These bills are essential to protect our children and are examples of the fine bipartisan work that this body is capable of doing when we put constituents first.

Nothing is more important than protecting our youth, their childhood, and their futures. It is time to send these bills to the House and then hopefully through the House to President Biden. The longer we wait, the more children

are victimized and more childhoods are lost. We owe it to them to do what is right.

Thanks again to Senator GRAHAM for deferring to me, and thank you for your leadership.

Mr. GRAHAM. I see the chairman of the committee, Senator DURBIN. Go anytime you like or, Senator CORNYN, if you want to go next, then we have KLOBUCHAR and HAWLEY and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last year the Center for Missing & Exploited Children received 32 million—32 million—reports of suspected child sexual exploitation.

As we are demonstrating here on a bipartisan basis, the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by the Senator from Illinois, passed six bipartisan bills that aim to protect those children, and you have heard of some of them.

Two of the bills have already passed the Senate, including my Project Safe Childhood Act. Four others still need to pass, including the SHIELD Act, which Senator from Iowa just mentioned, which I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, from Minnesota, to ensure that criminals who share explicit photos of children online are held accountable.

Children are our Nation's most valuable resource, and yet we neglect them far too often when they fall prey to predators on line and in our streets.

But we need to move on these bills. It is not enough for us to pat ourselves on the back and say the Judiciary Committee did its job on a bipartisan basis. We need these bills to be taken up, passed, and sent to the President of the United States without further delay.

I want to thank Senator GRAHAM for his leadership on this issue, and I hope the Senate can finally advance these bills.

Mr. GRAHAM. Before I turn it over to Senator DURBIN and the Senator speaks, Senator DURBIN has been terrific. The committee worked together to get these bills passed unanimously. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator for bringing us together on the floor today.

Are you worried about what your kids are looking at on those phones they carry around all the time? You try to get their attention, and they just can't take their face away from the phone. You often may wonder, What is on there? They say: Don't worry, Mom and Dad, we are just fine. Grandparents feel the same way. They look at it and think, What in the world are they looking at?

Sadly, we know that some of them are looking at horrible things that they should never look at in that stage of their life, and we also know that exploitation is taking place.

In January, we joined together on a bipartisan basis. Senator GRAHAM and myself, as chairman and ranking member of the committee, called a historic

hearing with five CEOs from Big Tech companies. That hearing demonstrated that kids' online safety has widespread bipartisan support. Perhaps no other topic—in fact, I can't think of another topic where we had a unanimous vote on these bills by every member on the committee, Democrat and Republican, all 21.

The emotion I witnessed during that hearing and the faces of survivors, parents, and family members were unforgettable. There were parents who lost their children to the little cell phone they were watching day in and day out. They committed suicide by the instruction of some crazy person on the internet. They were children then and had grown up into adults, still haunted by the images they shared with some stranger on that little telephone years and years ago.

And you think to yourself, Well, why didn't they step up and say something? If those images are coming up on the internet, why don't they do something about it? Why don't they go to the social media site? In many and most instances they did and nothing happened.

That is the reason why we need this legislation. The STOP CSAM Act will allow survivors of online child sexual exploitation to sue the tech companies that have knowingly and intentionally facilitated the exploitation.

In other words, one young woman told a story. She shared an image of herself, an embarrassing image of herself, that haunted her for decades afterward. She went to the website that was displaying this and told them: This is something I want to take down. It is an embarrassment to me. It happened when I was a little girl and still I am living with it even today. They knew that it was on their website because this young woman and her family proved it, and yet they did nothing—nothing—but continued to play this exploitation over and over again.

Why? How could they get away with it?

They asked and many people asked: I thought we had laws in this country protecting children; what is going on? Well, there is a section 230 which basically absolves these companies—these media companies—from responsibility for what is displayed on their websites on their social media pages.

That is exactly what we have changed here. We say something basic and fundamental. If the media, social media site knowingly and intentionally continues to display these images, they are subject to civil liability. They can be sued.

Want to change this scene in a hurry? Turn the lawyers loose on them. Let them try to explain why they have no responsibility to that young woman who has been exploited for decades.

That is what my bill works on. I am happy to have the cosponsorship of Senator GRAHAM and others. We believe that this package of bills should come to the floor today, and that is what Senator GRAHAM is asking for.

Let's have a debate. Let's hear the other side of the story if there is one. But for goodness' sake, for parents and grandparents across America and particularly for the kids, let's do something to protect them that is fundamental and basic.

To say that this industry is somehow beyond liability and beyond the law is not right; it is not American; and it shouldn't be allowed in this country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. I just want to say amen and now pass it to Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to join Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM—thank you for organizing this—Senator CORNYN and Senator HAWLEY and others who believe it is long past time to update and change our laws in this digital world.

As my colleagues know, I have been trying to do this in the area of competition policy. We had a setback this week with losing the increased anti-trust fees that were supposed to go to the Justice Department. But we carry on and hope that won't be the same next year and then join our colleagues across the aisle to try to change the law. If we are not going to give the resources, we better change the laws.

For too long social media companies have turned a blind eye when children joined their platforms and built algorithms that pushed harmful content out to kids. Despite hollow apologies and empty promises, these companies haven't fixed the problem.

The problem has gotten worse and every single parent knows it and every single person in this room. You don't even have to have a kid or grandkid to know it. You heard it from your friends, and we certainly heard it in testimony before our Judiciary Committee.

That is why I support Chair DURBIN's bill, the STOP CSAM Act—I am a cosponsor—the EARN IT Act that Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator GRAHAM have, and that is why I am working with Senator CORNYN to pass the SHIELD Act.

I am going to focus on the SHIELD Act because that is my bill, but I support these other bills.

In 2016, 1 in 25 Americans reported being threatened with or being a victim of so-called "revenge porn." Now, just 8 years later, studies show that 1 in 12 people report being a victim. Yet there is no current statute addressing these serious privacy violations, violations which have enormous social, emotional, and even financial impacts on victims.

According to one survey, 93 percent of victims report suffering significant emotional distress due to having intimate images shared against their will; 13 percent report difficulty getting a job or getting into school because these images are on the internet; and more than half experienced suicidal thoughts as a result of the violation.

FBI Director Wray—if you don't want to believe us—FBI Director Wray testified that the Bureau has recently reported an increase in sextortion scams, which in 2022 alone resulted in at least 20 victims committing suicide—20 victims committing suicide—including Jordan DeMay, a high school senior and straight A student who took his life after he was blackmailed with the threat of distributing nude photos over Instagram.

What happens is these kids think they have met a girlfriend or a boyfriend. They give them a photo, and it turns out to be a scam. And then they threaten them that they are going to put the pictures online, and these kids don't know who to turn to. They are just dumb kids—and they commit suicide. It is that straightforward. The Washington Post has done a review of a number of these cases.

So are we just going to sit there and let this get worse and worse and worse? I just don't think that is the answer. The Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution, or, as it is known, the SHIELD Act, gives law enforcement the tools it needs to stand up for victims of serious privacy violations.

Our bill establishes Federal criminal liability for people who distribute or threaten to distribute others' explicit images online without consent. It also fills in gaps in existing Federal law so that prosecutors can hold all those who share these images intentionally of these kids accountable.

Let me make clear that we have—of course, as a former prosecutor and as the Presiding Officer is from the great State of Nevada—we understand that you have to narrowly define these bills and these laws. That is what we have done, and we made many changes after the markup of this bill. We listened, and we made changes to the bill. I have worked to refine the bill to address the concerns, and I continue to work with my colleagues to do so. But at some point—this was last May, and we are still sitting here. So that is why I join my colleagues in asking to get these bills through now, not tomorrow, not a month from now—now.

When that Boeing plane lost a door midflight in January, nobody questioned the decision to ground the planes to see what was wrong. No one thought that it was the mom who should have done something and checked out those bolts ahead of time or that it was the kid who should have been able to figure out that something was going wrong here.

We have laws on the books. As Senator DURBIN said, we have the ability to sue. We have laws on the books. These companies are no longer little companies that started in a garage and that should be shielded from all liability and that should have no rules applied to them. If we just want to leave the status quo and leave it to parents and see how it works out for these kids, I am not going to go that path. That is

why I am joining my colleagues across the aisle to get these bills done, and when they do their unanimous consent, I will join in that as well.

Mr. GRAHAM. I just want to say that Senator KLOBUCHAR has been tenacious in trying to find common ground and in bringing people together but also in getting a result.

Senator HAWLEY will be next. Then I will wrap it up and make the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, a few weeks ago, Mark Zuckerberg and a train of other tech executives traipsed in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, took their oaths, and answered questions.

Mark Zuckerberg did something really quite remarkable for the first time, I think, ever. Zuckerberg stood up and turned to the parents who were there that day and spoke to every parent in America and said that he was sorry for what his company has done to the young people whose lives have been lost, to the families whose lives have been destroyed, to the parents whose dreams have been dashed and shattered. He apologized.

You know, I will say apologies are good, and his apology was long, long overdue, but an apology is not enough.

Now, these tech companies—they are bad actors. We all know that. If you are a parent—I have three kids at home—you know they are. What are they trying to do to your kids? They are trying to get them to spend as much time on that cell phone as possible. They are willing to push anything to them. Child exploitation material? You bet. You bet. Whatever it takes to get them online longer so they can take their data and sell them stuff. That is their bottom line—money, money, money. Those are the companies.

But what about this body? See, I think the question today is not so much about these companies. We know what they are doing. We know what their bottom line is. What about the U.S. Senate?

I think the question we have to ask is, Is this Senate—are they going to demonstrate some independence? Because here is what it looks like to me: It looks like, to me, the biggest corporations in the world, the biggest corporations in the history of the world, have a hammer lock on the U.S. Senate. It looks like, to me, no piece of legislation that those companies don't want will move across this floor. If they don't want it, it doesn't move on the floor. If they don't want it, it doesn't get a vote. If they don't want it, it doesn't happen. They call the shots.

We have seen this before in American history. We have seen corporations try to buy this body. The railroads did it. Other companies tried it a century ago. Here we are. The robber barons of this era want to own the Senate just like they have owned it in the past. It is

time that we stood up and demonstrated that our oath is not to some corporation and their bottom line, which comes at exploiting our children. Our oath is to the Constitution of the United States and to serve our constituents—to serve the families, to serve the children, to serve the people who have no voice. That is the choice in front of us.

It is time for the Senate to show that the Senate is not bought and paid for. It is time for the Senate to show that the people are in charge of this House, not the corporations—not Mark Zuckerberg, not the people who write campaign checks, but the people. That is what we are doing here today on this floor.

I am proud to join Senator GRAHAM and Senator DURBIN and to come as many times as it takes until we can get a vote to protect our children and to reclaim the independence of the United States Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, to my colleagues, thank you for coming down. I really appreciate it.

Senator DURBIN, you have been a great partner on this journey. We have some victims groups, and we are going to keep doing this until we get the result we think America needs.

Very quickly, in 2024, here is the state of play: The largest companies in America, social media outlets that make hundreds of millions of dollars a year, you can't sue if they do damage to your family by using their product because of section 230.

Now, if you wanted to give complete liability protection to a group of people, this would be the last group I would pick. So in the 1990s, there was a law on the books that, to make sure the internet could get up and running, the platforms couldn't be sued for the content that is on their platforms.

Now these platforms enrich our lives, but they destroy our lives. These platforms are being used to bully children to death. They are being used to take sexual images involuntarily obtained and send them to the entire world, and there is not a damned thing you can do about it.

We had a lady come before the committee, a mother, saying her daughter was on a social media site that had anti-bullying provisions. They complained three times about what was happening to her daughter. She killed herself. They went to court. They got kicked out by section 230.

The sexual exploitation of children is just mind-boggling, so we have legislation to strip away section 230 absolute liability protections. One is called the EARN IT Act, and I will make a request for that to come to the floor.

All of these bills have passed the Judiciary Committee—made up of the hardest of the hard in the body—unanimously. We have seen and heard the same thing. We have different views about the way the world should work, about the role of government in our

lives, but we come together on this. DICK DURBIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM and JOSH HAWLEY and—you just name it; all of us—we see the problem the same. We hear from our constituents, who are helpless and hopeless. So we are going to keep this up until we bring these people to heel.

There are three ways to protect the consumer. If the consumer is damaged, they can go to court and seek relief. They have the burden to prove their case, but they have a chance to right a wrong that they believe has been done to them by a business. You can't do that here.

Another way to protect the consumer is to have regulatory agencies, licensing agencies, deride hurt on businesses to make sure they perform effectively and don't abuse the consumer. There is no such thing here.

The third is to have a series of laws on the books to protect consumers. There are no laws on the books. We are zero for three—you can't sue them, there is no regulatory body, and there are really no laws on the books to protect the consumer. That needs to change.

With that, I want to call up—as in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 70, S. 1207; that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate on the EARN IT Act. That is my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I reserve my right to object.

I have heard this discussion about parents. My wife and I are older parents, the youngest child being a charming 11-year-old redhead. As I say, she is 11. So we are all in for protecting kids from these monsters, and there is no disputing that that is what we are talking about.

I say to Senator GRAHAM, we have talked about a lot of issues over the years—no disagreement about these people being monsters. CSAM is a toxic plague on the internet, perpetrated by people who, in my view, are evil to their core. These are real victims, and they need support. The criminals have got to be hunted down and locked up.

I want to be clear. As I have said in the Senate before, I don't take a back seat to anybody when it comes to helping kids and punishing predators. In a minute, I will talk about my approach, which I think is going to be effective. It might not sound effective, but it is going to be effective, and it has been endorsed by the National District Attorneys Association, made up of district attorneys across the land.

Now, the specific reason I oppose EARN IT is that it will weaken the sin-

gle strongest technology that protects children and families online, something known as strong encryption. It is going to make it easier to punish sites that use encryption to secure private conversations and personal devices. This bill is designed to pressure communications and technology companies to scan users' messages. I, for one, don't find that a particularly comforting idea.

The sponsors of the bill have argued—and Senator GRAHAM is right; we have been talking about this a while—that their bills don't harm encryption. Yet the bills allow courts to punish companies that offer strong encryption. In fact, while it includes some vague language about protecting encryption, it explicitly allows encryption to be used as evidence for various forms of liability. Prosecutors are going to be quick to argue that deploying encryption was evidence of a company's negligence in preventing the distribution of CSAM, for example.

The bill is also designed to encourage the scanning of content on users' phones or computers before information is sent over the internet, which has the same consequences as breaking encryption. That is why 100 groups, civil society groups, including the American Library Association—people whom I think all of us have worked for—and the Human Rights Campaign and Restore the Fourth—all of them oppose this bill because of its impact on essential security.

Weakening encryption is the single biggest gift you could give to these predators and these god-awful people who want to stalk and spy on kids. Sexual predators are going to have a far easier time stealing photographs of kids, tracking their phones, and spying on their private messages once encryption is breached.

It is very ironic that a bill that is supposed to make kids safer would have the effect of threatening the privacy and security of all law-abiding Americans.

My alternative—and I want to be clear about this because I think Senator GRAHAM has been sincere about saying that this is a horrible problem involving kids. We have a disagreement on the remedy. That is what is at issue. What I want us to do is to focus our energy on giving law enforcement officials the tools they need to find and prosecute these monstrous criminals who are responsible for exploiting kids and spreading vile, abusive materials online. That can help prevent kids from becoming victims in the first place.

So I have introduced a bill to do this, the Invest in Child Safety Act, to direct \$5 billion to do three specific things to deal with this very urgent problem.

What I have proposed in the Invest in Child Safety Act—I am very pleased to be able to say it has been endorsed by the National District Attorneys Association—is, one, give law enforcement

agencies the tools and personnel they need to catch the predators who are creating and spreading CSAM; two, fund community-based programs to prevent at-risk kids from becoming victims in the first place; and three, invest in programs to support survivors of abuse.

Any legislation that doesn't include these pieces, I would just say particularly to Senator GRAHAM because he and I have talked about this many times over the years and just have a difference of opinion, any legislation that doesn't include the three pieces I mentioned, I don't think is up to the task of protecting these kids that we all feel so strongly about.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. GRAHAM. Very quickly, and I will move to CSAM, Senator DURBIN's bill.

There is nothing in this bill about encryption. We say that this is not an encryption bill. The bill, as written, explicitly prohibits courts from treating encryption as an independent basis for liability. We are agnostic about that. What we are trying to do is hold these companies accountable by making sure they engage in best business practices.

The EARN IT Act simply says: For you to have liability protections, you have to prove that you have tried to protect children. You have to earn it. It is just not given to you. You have to have the best business practices in place, have voluntary commissions that lay out what would be the best way to harden these sites against sexual exploitation. If you do those things, you get liability. It is just not given to you forever. So this is not about encryption.

As to your idea, I would love to talk to you about it. Let's vote on both. But the bottom line here is there is always a reason not to do anything that holds these people liable. That is the bottom line. They will never agree to any bill that allows you to get them in court—ever. If you are waiting on these companies to give this body permission for the average person to sue you, it ain't never going to happen.

Now, CSAM, Senator DURBIN has been tenacious on this. We are talking about making sure that sexually explicit material is taken down when you notify people. Is that unreasonable?

And if they don't take it down, knowing that it is up there, you ought to be able to sue them. My God, if we can't do that, what good are we? There are millions of these photos out there.

Senator DURBIN has been terrific to empower consumers with some hope they don't have to live this over and over and over again. Is it too much to ask the company, once notified, to take this stuff down?

With that, as in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 69, S. 1199; that

the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, again, I have made my point that I don't disagree in the least with Senator GRAHAM on the seriousness of the problem. Unfortunately, this bill suffers from exactly the same matters that I objected to earlier.

So I am not going to repeat myself and put everybody through that. But here are the main points to make sure they are heard on CSAM, as I did with respect to EARN IT.

CSAM is a horrifying plague on the internet. Senator GRAHAM and I do not disagree on that point at all. Again, weakening encryption, though, is not going to help victims or make kids safer. And that is what this bill does.

The Leadership Conference for Civil Rights opposes this bill and the earlier bill because they threaten secure private communications that are essential for communities of color and every single family in the country.

I would only say, in terms of wrapping this up—and Senator GRAHAM and I have talked about this—my door is open in terms of talking about approaches that will work. I believe that focusing our energy on giving law enforcement, finally, the tools to lock these horrible criminals behind bars for exploiting kids is something that we ought to get on with. And we ought to invest in programs that support survivors.

The Invest in Child Safety Act that I have written, with the support of the National District Attorneys Association, is endorsed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and leading child welfare groups.

That is what this bill does. It finally offers a measure of real protection for these kids who we have been talking about over the last hour or so who deserve it. Their families deserve it. The legislation that I have proposed, endorsed by influential voices like the National District Attorneys Association, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, with respect to CSAM, are the way to go. Again, anything less—and I don't criticize anybody's motives—just doesn't solve the problem. For that reason, I object to this bill as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. GRAHAM. We have one more. And I will just respond that I will take you up on your offer. You are a good friend and a good man. The bottom line is, there are 21 of us on the committee from every corner of the political spec-

trum, and we are not buying any of this.

Again, what does Senator DURBIN want to do? He wants to make sure companies, when they are notified that there are sexually explicit material involving you or somebody you love, that they will have to take it down. If they don't, you can sue them. Who in America is against that, except the people making money off the images?

We will keep talking, but this ain't going to stop. There will be a day when every seat is full up here because word is going to spread about what we are trying to do.

Senator TILLIS, you have been terrific. I don't think you are a lawyer, are you? You are the smartest guy on the committee, then.

He figured this out really quickly. You don't have to be a lawyer to figure this out, just common sense and human decency.

The SHIELD Act—as in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 78, S. 412; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I want to thank the Presiding Officer, and I also want to thank my friend Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, who has been a partner on so many things involving criminal justice, on so many good things involving safety, has been a partner on, obviously, many things, and foreign policy as well.

I want to object to the request by the Senator from South Carolina to pass the SHIELD Act by unanimous consent. But I really want to start by saying that I know we are talking about a deeply vital issue today that we must address as the U.S. Senate.

I believe that the Senator from South Carolina and I have a common goal, and we see eye to eye. Anytime a person's privacy or bodily autonomy is violated, we have a duty to address the harm that they have experienced and seek solution so that we prevent the same thing from happening to others. He and I have talked about this in the committee multiple times.

Congress must act when there are people who exploit others or harass them or set out to exact some twisted revenge on them by sharing nonconsensual images. They should be held accountable for the serious, emotional, psychological, and professional harm it can cause to victims. I believe this is what the sponsors of the SHIELD Act intend to do.

But the bill offered today stands to have unintended consequences that I

have discussed in committee and that need to be addressed. Many of these issues were addressed in committee in our markup of the bill. Senator KLOBUCHAR, who leads this bill, has been working with me to correct those problems. We are working diligently and in good faith to address these issues so that this Congress can pass a bill to vindicate the victims. When we were in committee, I spoke and asked for the opportunity to do that work, and I am hoping that we continue to have that now.

It is our obligation to get this right, and I am grateful to the Senator from Minnesota and her staff who are working with me to make sure we do so. Thus, I object.

As in legislative session and notwithstanding rule—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, the objection is heard.

Mr. BOOKER. Oh, thank you very much. I was doing what I was told. Forgive me.

Mr. GRAHAM. If you want to keep going, I will yield you some time.

Mr. BOOKER. Anytime you defer to me, Senator, to give me a chance to speak to you, that is one of my higher honors in the U.S. Senate. Thank you very much.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, we will be back. We will work with Senator BOOKER. We have tried in committee. Senator WYDEN will keep talking, but I think 21 of us are pretty determined that there be some consumer protection laws in this space on the books this year.

I am going to talk to President Trump. Looks like he is going to be the Republican nominee. I have known President Biden a long time. He has been on the Judiciary Committee. I hope both of them will see this as something they would agree to.

Senator DURBIN, I will let you wrap up. I just cannot thank you enough. We have our differences for sure; but on this, you have been a great leader of the committee.

No matter what happens in 2025, if we take over or you all keep the Chamber, we are going to keep doing this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to thank Senator GRAHAM. This has truly been a bipartisan effort.

People are saying: Why don't they work together? Why don't the two parties work together? Well, 21 members of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously voted for these six bills—unanimously. And we come to the floor today saying we want to bring these to the floor for consideration.

This Chamber is largely empty day in and day out. We have got plenty of time and opportunity to use these desks and these microphones to consider issues.

What are the issues we might take up? The issues that keep families up at night. Why in the world is our little girl on that telephone night and day?

What is she doing on there? She promises us she is safe and not to worry, Mom and Dad. But we don't know any better. And for goodness' sake, what is a parent supposed to do?

Now consider the worst case scenario: Someone takes advantage of your little girl or granddaughter on the internet and displays an image which is horrifying. You know it, you see it, and you can't believe it. You finally go to the media platform and say: For goodness' sakes, take that image down. This is exactly where you will find it. Bring it down. We don't want that to be broadcast anymore.

And if the media platform, at that point, knowingly and intentionally ignores the information you have given them to protect your family, then they can be held civilly liable. They can be sued. Do you think they will pay attention then? Why, of course, they will. That is why the objections are being heard.

I am going to keep working on this. I thank Senator GRAHAM for making it a bipartisan effort. He is a wonderful partner on these issues.

We are coming back. I am working on a modification of my bill to bring some more support and make sure we consider everybody's point of view. But we do not take any position on encryption. As Senator GRAHAM said, we are agnostic on that subject, but we do believe that something should be done to protect these families once and for all and to let these media platforms—these multimillion-dollar, profitable platforms—know they have a responsibility to the people of this country.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled vote: Senator COLLINS for up to 5 minutes and Senator MURRAY for up to 10 minutes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to support the six-bill fiscal year 2024 appropriations package that is before us.

I am pleased to report that the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed this bill earlier today by a vote of 339 to 85. It was strongly bipartisan. And now the Senate should follow suit.

I want to express my thanks to the Republican ranking members on each of the six subcommittees—Senators MURKOWSKI, MORAN, HOEVEN, BOOZMAN, KENNEDY, and HYDE-SMITH—for their tremendous work in assembling this package.

I also want to recognize the chair of the committee, Senator PATTY MURRAY, who has worked so hard—since she was named chair and I, vice chair—in order to bring us to this point.

I also want to salute the Democratic chairs for their work.

My point is that everyone involved, including our incredibly hard-working

staff, has worked night and day to bring us to this point.

The measure before us includes the following fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills: Interior; Commerce, Justice, and Science; Agriculture-FDA; Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs; Energy and Water Development; and Transportation and Housing.

And, again—although I wish this had happened months ago—these are full-year appropriations bills. In other words, this is not another continuing resolution, not a short-term patch, but, rather, a package of bills that will fund these important programs and Agencies and Departments through the end of the fiscal year.

This package fully funds veterans' medical care; supports our farmers, fishermen, and ranchers; protects our Nation's food and drug supply; provides critical resources for law enforcement; helps us better compete with China; advances American energy independence; and invests in our Nation's infrastructure and public lands.

This legislation also complies with the Fiscal Responsibility Act, as well as the top-line spending agreement reached between Speaker JOHNSON and Senator SCHUMER. Under that agreement, defense funding for this fiscal year will increase by 3.3 percent relative to fiscal year 2023 enacted levels, while nondefense funding will be held flat.

That is not easy to do, particularly given the impact of inflation and the 5.2 percent Federal employment pay raise, which many of these Agencies are going to have to absorb. So it took a great deal of negotiation and hard work for us to get to this point.

It certainly has not been easy, but I am proud of the legislation we are bringing to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to move this important legislative package forward toward enactment.

I look forward to further floor discussion tomorrow, but, right now, I do urge a "yes" vote on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I want to thank the vice chair, who spent innumerable hours with me for a very long time, through many, many different discussions and meetings and hearings, and for her incredible work to get here tonight to this vote. Thank you so much.

This week, we will, at long last, be voting on our bipartisan, bicameral full-year funding bills. In fact, this package passed the House in a huge bipartisan vote today, with over 300 Members voting in favor.

It has been a long road and a tough negotiation to get here. We are not done yet, and I will have more to say. But I come to the floor tonight to briefly talk a bit about what is actually in these bills and why this is so important to families across the country and to people in States like mine everywhere.

My focus all the way through this process, from day one, has been: How can we produce the strongest bills given some very tight constraints? And how can we get a result that will make people's lives better?

While this package may not be what I would have written on my own—and I am sure my vice chair would say it would not have been what she would have written on her own—we fought very hard to protect investments that matter to working people everywhere and to help keep our economy strong, rejecting devastating cuts to housing, nutrition assistance, and a lot more.

Importantly, we blocked countless extreme Republican policies, like efforts to restrict abortion rights, that would have set our country back decades.

This package includes investments in our economy, like cutting-edge research, renewable energy, key programs to continue rebuilding America's infrastructure, and funding for my 21st Century Cures Act to support America's world-class biomedical research enterprise.

Democrats fought hard to protect investments in rural communities in support of our farmers.

It includes investments to keep America safe, like funding for more air traffic controllers, rail safety inspectors, food safety inspectors, and to implement the law I passed, along with Senator COLLINS, starting up FDA's cosmetics oversight. That is a major achievement in this bill.

And our bills reject unthinkable cuts proposed by House Republicans to Federal law enforcement—the people who go after drug traffickers and do so much else to keep our families and communities safe.

Not to mention, these bills protect pay for Federal firefighters, boost our investments in preventing violence against women, and fund a new program to increase sexual assault nurse exam access that I have worked on.

This package also includes investments in our environment and allows Democrats to continue to deliver on historic climate action, even as House Republicans sought to gut Agencies like EPA and Interior.

We deliver in this bill investments to keep our commitments to Tribes, including by continuing to provide advance appropriations so the Indian Health Service can serve patients with certainty and hire staff for hospitals.

It also includes investments supporting our servicemembers, which is especially important to me as a daughter of a World War II veteran.

It has crucial resources for military construction projects, including childcare centers, housing, and other quality-of-life improvements for our troops and their families.

It increases funding for the Veteran Caregivers Program that I helped establish and expands and makes record investments to help end veteran homelessness, deliver mental healthcare for

our veterans, and support women veterans' healthcare—all longtime priorities for me.

And, of course, it includes support for American families. And that means protecting investments to address the housing crisis—something important to my home State of Washington—programs that the House Republicans wanted to hollow out. But we together were able to protect and strengthen essential rental assistance, boost investments to reduce homelessness, and increase our Nation's affordable housing supply.

And it means full funding for food assistance programs families rely on, like SNAP, the Summer EBT Program I helped establish, which will help half a million kids in Washington State alone, and WIC.

As someone whose family relied on food stamps after my dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, I know firsthand that action here can be the difference between families having food on the table for dinner or kids going to bed hungry.

So when I saw that the House Republicans proposed devastating cuts that would have forced States to deny families with benefits for the first time ever, that was never going to be an acceptable outcome.

I said from the outset I would move mountains to fully fund WIC, and that is exactly what I did. But let's be clear: WIC should never have even been put into question, because ignoring the mountains of evidence that this program works, the long history of bipartisan support for WIC, and the fact that this program actually saves us money in the long term—ignoring all of that, there is still just no ignoring the fact that the basic question with WIC is: Can the richest country in the world afford to feed babies? And the answer is yes. It has to be.

I can't believe I have to say that, but I will say it as many times as it takes. And I am glad that we were able to work together to reach a good outcome and fully fund WIC in this bill.

And here is the thing about our appropriations bills. They reflect the input and priorities of nearly every Senator. As a voice for Washington State, I am proud of the ways these bills invest in the communities that I know from every part of my State, with funding for researchers, salmon recovery, infrastructure projects, fixes to make sure that our ferries and harbors are getting their fair share, a historic amount of funding for Hanford Cleanup, and more.

I will have a lot more to say about these efforts and other Washington State projects I fought hard to include in these bills, but I am so excited to see this funding make progress and make a difference for folks back home.

We said from day one that partisan poison pills were nonstarters. We said that together. Getting a result in divided government means putting aside that partisanship and working to find

common ground. That is how we managed to put together these six strong, bipartisan, bicameral bills. And it is the only way we will wrap up the next six as well, which, you should all know, we are working very hard on right now.

I think we all recognize that some far-right House Republicans have been trying to derail this entire process from the start. But as we saw today in the House, an overwhelming 300-plus Members voted to pass this bill. The vast majority from both sides want to get this done. By passing these bills, we can turn the page and show America that the vast majority of Congress is still focused on doing its job, working through tough negotiations so we can help people and solve problems.

Again, I want to thank my partner, Senator COLLINS, who has been just tremendous in working with us, and all of our staffs, who have been working on this 24/7 for so long. They are exhausted, and they still have six more bills to go.

I want to thank our chairs of the Appropriations subcommittees that are in this bill: Senators SCHATZ, HEINRICH, SHAHEEN, and MERKLEY for their tremendous work, and their Republican counterparts as well, who having really put in a lot of time and energy and have had to say "yes" and "no" way too many times. But we got this done.

So I hope all of our colleagues tonight will join us in sending that message by voting on the motion to proceed this evening—voting yes—and then working together to make sure we get this to the President's desk before the deadline on Friday.

VOTE ON HARRIS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Harris nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 73 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Sanders |
| Booker | Kaine | Schatz |
| Brown | Kelly | Schumer |
| Butler | King | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Cardin | Lujan | Smith |
| Carper | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Casey | Markey | Tester |
| Coons | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warnock |
| Durbin | Murray | Warren |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Welch |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Hassan | Peters | Wyden |

NAYS—48

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Paul |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Braun | Hawley | Romney |
| Budd | Hoeven | Rounds |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Rubio |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Collins | Kennedy | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lummis | Thune |
| Crapo | Marshall | Tillis |
| Cruz | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Daines | Moran | Vance |
| Ernst | Mullin | Wicker |
| Fischer | Murkowski | Young |

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Washington.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 4366.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the message as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 4366) entitled "An Act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., John W. Hickenlooper, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1618

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to concur in the House amendment with an amendment numbered 1618, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment numbered 1618.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1619 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1618

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to amendment No. 1618, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1619 to amendment No. 1618.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

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

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1620

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to refer the House message to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 1620.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to refer the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations with the instructions to report back forthwith an amendment numbered 1620.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1621

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to the instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1621 to the instructions of the motion to refer H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1622 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1621

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to amendment No. 1621, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1622 to amendment No. 1621.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike "4 days" and insert "5 days".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be waived.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am back today for the 29th time on my "scheme" series to explain to the

American people how the rightwing managed to capture the Supreme Court. Today, I would like to discuss the scheme's deliverables—how the Court rewarded its big donors with favorable outcomes that benefited partisan Republican or corporate interests and, particularly today, how the Roberts Court used false facts to produce decisions like Shelby County and Citizens United.

This speech is the short form. For the full analysis or the long form, you can read my recently published law review article in the Ohio State Law Journal, 84 Ohio St. L.J. 837 (2023).

False factfinding is the trick that has enabled the Court to do a lot of damage in recent years. Let's start with some basic principles about how factfinding is supposed to work in the American judicial system.

Facts are an important part of every case, and it matters to get them right, and it also matters that courts stay within their constitutional boundaries. To achieve those two purposes, the American system has facts ascertained at the trial court level—the trial court level.

First, the trial judge is closest to the facts on the ground. That is where the evidence comes in. That is where each party can challenge each other's facts, where facts receive robust adversarial scrutiny. That is where the judge can evaluate credibility and dedicate the time to compiling a robust factual record.

In all of this, one key point is that the judge relies on the parties to bring the facts to the court. With only limited exceptions, a court isn't supposed to venture off looking for its own facts.

Once the trial court makes its decision and assembles its record of the facts, that record travels with the case when a party appeals to a higher court.

As to facts, an appellate court is not supposed to find its own; it is supposed to give the lower court a lot of deference.

A lower court's factfinding can usually be overturned only if there was what is called clear error—a very hard standard to meet, as any lawyer will tell you. Even after a clear error finding, the ordinary rule is that the case is remanded back to the trial court for whatever further factfinding is required to comply with the appellate court's edict.

These rules make our system honest and efficient. They allow robust challenge to the facts at trial but deference to the judge's findings on appeal. They do not set appellate courts up as factfinders. Appellate courts focus on questions of law using the record established by the trial court.

These factfinding rules also protect our American separation of powers. Under the Constitution, courts are limited to deciding only what the Constitution calls "cases or controversies." By obvious implication, that means actual cases or controversies with their actual facts. Without that,

judges could make decisions based on hypothetical facts—in effect, offer unconstitutional advisory opinions.

A court can't honor the Constitution's case or controversy requirement without cabinining its decision to the actual facts of the case or controversy and to this established factfinding process. If that limitation did not exist, appellate judges could become, as one famous judge warned, "a knight-errant, roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty or of goodness."

One other factfinding body needs to be mentioned, and that is Congress. Congress is the Constitution's policy-making body—that is our job—not because we are geniuses but because if our ideals of beauty or of goodness don't match the public's, the public can throw us out. That is democracy. The democratic process provides the public protection.

Congress has its own factfinding authority under the Constitution. We often find facts ourselves, creating a legislative record—not the trial record of a trial court, a legislative record of the proceedings leading to a bill. This factfinding authority merits deference from courts—again, not because we are smarter, but because we are correctible through democratic process.

Which brings us to the mischief at the Roberts Court. For more than a decade now, the Roberts Court has violated these basic principles, replacing facts found by Congress and facts found by lower courts with fake facts that they made up on their own—fake facts that over and over just happen to suit the big donors who put so many Republican-appointed Justices on the Supreme Court.

Shelby County and Citizens United—both of those decisions—stood upon falsehoods presented as facts. These weren't just drive-by errors in passing, of no moment; these were false factual findings that were essential to prop up the logic of the Court's holdings. No false facts; no desired outcome.

Tellingly, even after events thoroughly disproved the false facts, the Republican Supreme Court refused to correct its mistakes, and so these faulty decisions founded on false facts live on like zombies plaguing our democracy.

Let me talk about those two cases because they are probably the worst examples.

In Shelby County, the Supreme Court said that the most important part of the Voting Rights Act—the part that required States with a history of racist voter suppression to get clearance before new voting laws went into effect—was no longer justified. That part of the law was just no longer justified because "things had changed."

According to Chief Justice Roberts, conditions in those States had improved so much that Congress should no longer screen their laws for racist voter suppression. That false fact was key to the analysis overturning this

part of the Voting Rights Act, but there was no record support for that false fact. It just popped out of the heads of the Justices who wrote that decision.

In actuality, in Shelby County, Congress had compiled thousands of pages of evidence, a record of facts collected through extensive hearings and research regarding the danger of minority voter suppression in those so-called preclearance States. The Court ignored that.

Worse still, preclearance States, no longer subject to these Voting Rights Act protections, immediately proved that the dangers that the Court said weren't there were, in fact, there, that these dangers were true, moving immediately to enact laws that targeted minority voters "with almost surgical precision," as one court put it. Despite the evidence before and after disproving the Court's so-called finding in Shelby County that everything was OK now, the Roberts Court has refused to budge, leaving that zombie decision in place.

The trick was even clearer in Citizens United. The bipartisan campaign finance law at issue was supported again by a robust congressional, factual record. Congress had held hearings, gathered firsthand accounts, and wrote lengthy reports on the problems plaguing our campaign finance system. Lower courts had also assembled similar records with evidence of these problems, many of which suggested corruption. All of that was ignored.

The Republican-appointed Justices in Citizens United had a problem. Congress gets to legislate to protect the integrity of elections. We get to legislate to protect elections from either corruption or the appearance of corruption. So to get around that—to keep Congress out of protecting the integrity of our elections—the Justices had to come up with a way of arguing that unlimited political spending in politics wouldn't and, indeed, couldn't harm election integrity. They had to manufacture that finding to subvert Congress' power, and to get there, they had to make two factual findings.

First, they argued that there was no risk of corruption or even the appearance of corruption because all this new spending they were going to unleash would be independent—independent—from the campaigns the spending was supporting. Well, that has been proven abundantly false.

Even more obviously, they said that all this new political spending they were unleashing would be transparent—not just independent but also transparent. The voters would know who was behind the big, unlimited political spending and could make their decisions accordingly; and therefore, the danger of corruption was lifted by the fact that the voters would know whose money was behind the ads.

Well, folks, it is nondebatable that that fact is false. Partisan billionaires and corporate special interests have

spent billions in dark money. This is so widely reported and incontestable that an honest court could probably even take judicial notice of the billions in nontransparent and, therefore, corrupting political spending. A lot of this money is supposedly independent, but in reality, the groups that spend it use all sorts of well-documented loopholes to coordinate with candidates and campaigns right in broad daylight. The tsunami of dark money that Citizens United unleashed has, as predicted, corrupted our democracy.

The Court didn't have to wait for the newspaper to know that the facts it found were false. Shortly after Citizens United, a State campaign finance case came to the Supreme Court from Montana. The Montana Supreme Court upheld a 100-year old State campaign finance law on the basis of an extensive factual record about the history of campaign corruption specific to Montana. John McCain and I submitted a bipartisan brief to the Supreme Court in that case. Our brief pointed out the factual falsity of the Citizens United decision—that the spending was not independent; that the spending was not transparent; and, therefore, those factual predicates of Citizens United failed, and the decision should fall.

Not only did the Republican-appointed Justices summarily reverse the Montana Supreme Court, not even allowing oral argument where, perhaps, this false factfinding might have been pointed out, the Court did so on the grounds that the Montana decision was inconsistent with Citizens United—no mention of the problem that Citizens United was inconsistent with the truth. Talk about a zombie decision. Since then, the Court has stubbornly refused to reexamine its false facts despite several billion instances of disproof of the transparency of the funding.

Worse, a couple of terms ago, these Federalist Society Justices started paving the way even for a constitutional right to spend dark money. The billionaire rightwing donors who packed the Court did very well by these two decisions—by Shelby County and Citizens United. The suppression of minority voters across the South post-Shelby County likely flipped some elections to the Republican Party. The flood of dark money by billionaires and corporate interests was, for years, essentially entirely dedicated to funding Republicans in elections.

If you want a specific example of corruption, look at how fossil fuel industry dark money has, since Citizens United, stopped Congress from passing any serious bipartisan climate legislation. I was here in 2007, 2008, and 2009 when climate legislation was very current in the Senate and very bipartisan—three or four major bills being worked on, strong bills, that would have helped solve the climate problem. Then came January of 2010, that date of infamy when Citizens United was decided. Since then, that is it—no serious bipartisan climate bill.

These cases happened because the Court disregarded rules about proper factfinding, ignored mountains of evidence that Congress and that lower courts had assembled, and made up facts—just made up their own facts—that helped them strike down the laws, delivering those big wins for Republican donor political interests.

This free-range factfinding problem at the Court is going to get worse after the Court's recent move in cases like *Dobbs* and *Bruen* to base constitutional decisions under their new theory of history and tradition. This new theory opens whole new fields to judicial factfinding knight-errantry, cherry-picking historical facts to get the outcomes that they want to reach.

Dobbs, the case that overruled *Roe v. Wade*, stood on dubious historical sources—like a 1600s treatise by someone who sentenced accused witches to death and defended marital rape—to subject women's reproductive autonomy to the whims of State legislatures.

Bruen, the guns case, stood on an NRA-funded version of history that one historian called an “ideological fantasy” to put the proliferation of guns on our streets behind constitutional protection.

When the Supreme Court goes on these last-minute, no-argument, “made it up in our chambers,” “no chance of correction” factfinding expeditions, there is no one to tell them: Hey, you got some stuff wrong. There is no one else the parties can appeal to. The factual errors slipped in at the end are protected from correction, and then the zombie cases march on.

I wrote my law review article because this factfinding trickery hasn't gotten the attention it deserves either here in Congress or by professors and judges. There is no shortage of mess to clean up at the Supreme Court, whether it is the Court's ethics crisis or the phony front group amici curiae, who often show up to offer those false facts to the Court without any transparency or vetting themselves. My Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act would clean up a lot of the mess. But even if we passed that law and it helped clean up the ethics mess and even if we managed to unpack the Court that dark money built, these zombie decisions standing on false facts would remain effectual unless—unless—we have the legal theory to address them. My article proposes one way to scrub away these tainted decisions—by returning to the historic, basic, well-established factfinding principles of the American system of justice.

Why should we in Congress not confront the false facts of this stubbornly wrong Court? Why should lower court judges be expected to blindly adopt false facts that never went through proper factfinding procedures? Why should Congress honor decisions that are, on their face, founded on false facts?

Remember in *Marbury v. Madison* that the Supreme Court famously gets

to say what the law is, but it is not the last word on what the facts are. Nothing in the Constitution says: We in Congress have to pretend that we really live in the alternative bizarro world of the Supreme Court's false facts. Congress need not be an idiot and accept rulings that we plainly see could not stand without indisputably false facts propping them up. The fact that the Supreme Court won't go back and clean up its false facts mess should not disable us from addressing the zombie decisions. If this requires circumscribing the Court's authority, as far as I am concerned, too bad. Better that than to have citizens have to obey flawed decisions founded on false facts just because the Court liked who the winners were.

This should not even be an issue. These factfinding rules have stood for centuries. It is only this politically driven Court that has stepped outside the bounds of history and tradition to go on these false factfinding galivants that have no proper role in judicial factfinding and that violate the boundaries of separation of powers. Reining it back in, in that circumstance, is a proper response, and if the Court doesn't like this, I would say: Heal thyself; quit breaking the historic process of factfinding, and quit finding obviously false facts, and go back and clean up those false-fact decisions.

That is one option. They could do it, but, of course, the Federalist Society Justices won't because this is a captured Court, and the false fact outcomes are the outcomes the billionaires who pack the Court want.

To be continued.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MATT DAVIS

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, today I rise to honor Officer Matt Davis from the Bowling Green Police Department. On July 6, 2023, Officer Davis responded to a call of a disturbance at a used car dealership in Bowling Green, unknowingly stepping into an incredibly volatile and dangerous situation.

Upon entering the establishment, Officer Davis encountered an armed suspect. Without hesitation, he raised his voice, alerting and instructing others to take cover. The assailant fired at Officer Davis, resulting in multiple gunshot wounds and severe, life-threatening injuries. Despite his injuries, Of-

ficer Davis was able to neutralize the assailant, and no one else was injured.

Thankfully, Officer Davis survived the shooting. However, he has had to endure a long road of surgeries and rehabilitation. He plans to one day make it back to the force, and I look forward to the day that he returns to work.

Despite the grave risks, Officer Davis put his life on the line and likely saved the lives of many of the patrons in the car dealership that day. His bravery exemplifies the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve and protect our communities. Officer Davis' actions that day are a testament to the resilience and valor exhibited by members of law enforcement and first responders across Kentucky and our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ANTHONY ROACH AND OFFICER RICHARD ISAACS

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, today I rise to honor Officers Anthony Roach and Richard Isaacs of the Louisville Metro Police Department. On August 16, 2023, Officers Roach and Isaacs responded to a call of a woman screaming for help from a home in West Louisville. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers saw a woman in distress on the second floor but discovered that all the windows and doors on the first floor were barricaded. Fortunately, neighbors lent a ladder to the officers, and they were able to enter a window on the second floor that had been shattered.

Once inside the house, Officers Roach and Isaacs found the woman with a chain around her neck that was bolted to the floor. The officers sprang into action with a hatchet found in the room, and they freed her from the floor. Once outside, first responders used bolt cutters to remove the chain and finally free the victim. Within 2 days, Louisville Metro police officers were able to make an arrest in the case.

Officers Roach and Isaacs are to be commended for their heroic and lifesaving actions. Despite the potential risk to themselves, the officers put the life of victim before their own. Louisville is fortunate to have these brave men serving our communities and protecting Kentuckians. May the actions of each of these officers be forever remembered as a clear display of heroism in action.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRUCE “ORVILLE” WRIGHT, USAF (RET.)

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I congratulate Lt. Gen. Bruce “Orville” Wright, USAF (Ret.), upon his retirement as president and chief executive officer of the Air and Space Forces Association, or AFA.

Not satisfied with serving only 34 years in the Air Force, General Wright continued his service to our airmen, guardians, their families, and our Nation's veterans by leading the AFA and

its 113,000 plus members for another 5 years, through a dramatic period of growth and transformation for the storied association.

In fact, for this latest period of service, General Wright was recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force for distinguished public service and was presented the highest award issued by the Air Force to a non-employee civilian.

Retiring as a three-star general, General Wright's last assignment was commander of 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan. During his time in the Air Force, he was extensively involved in joint and coalition combat operations. He led 65 combat missions as an F-16 squadron commander during Operation Desert Storm and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1991 during that conflict. He also commanded a composite operations group during Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq and Operation Deny Flight in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also commanded the U.S. Air Force Intelligence Agency and then rose again to become vice commander of Air Combat Command. In this role, General Wright successfully fielded the F-22, the Sniper targeting pod, which was critical to the close air support mission for the next 15 years, and the Predator UAV capabilities into combat operations.

General Wright earned a bachelor of science degree in aerospace physiology from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master of arts degree in public administration from Golden Gate University. He is also a graduate of Syracuse University's Senior Executives in National Security Course, the Air War College, the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, and MIT Seminar XXI.

On a personal note, I would like to add that I know of no one who cares more about achieving the Air Force's mission and taking care of our airmen, guardians, their families, and veterans than General Wright. I know I join the entire Senate in wishing him well in this next phase of his life and extending our heartfelt thanks to him. We give special thanks to his wife Kerri and their daughters for all the support they have shown General Wright over the years.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 498. An act to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3277. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3385. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a transAtlantic submarine

fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria.

H.R. 3391. An act to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3836. An act to facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid.

H.R. 3838. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4403. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4467. An act to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5969. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to revise certain regulations to permit certain children to accompany their parents or legal guardians through Global Entry airport lanes, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule 1, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER of Oregon, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR of Texas, and Mr. CARBAJAL of California.

At 4:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with an amendment in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

At 5:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4366.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 498. An act to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3385. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3836. An act to facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4403. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4467. An act to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5969. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to revise certain regulations to permit certain children to accompany their parents or legal guardians through Global Entry airport lanes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6976. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3838. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3716. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reauthorization of Dairy Forward Pricing Program" ((RIN0581-AE27) (Docket No. AMS-DA-23-0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3717. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural eConnectivity Program for Fiscal Year 2024" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3718. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to waiving the Full-Up System Level requirement for survivability testing of the Armed Overwatch OA-1K aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3719. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to fiscal year 2022 data mining (OSS-2024-0303); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3720. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a strategic assessment of the Joint Force readiness to accomplish the National Security Strategy (OSS-2024-0126); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3721. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3722. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3723. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Branch Office Registration Requirements" (RIN2502-AJ63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3724. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2024" (RIN2501-AE10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3725. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rent Adjustments in the Mark-to-Market Program" (RIN2502-AJ48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3726. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Form PF; Reporting Requirements for All Filers and Large Hedge Fund Advisers" (RIN3038-AF31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3727. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Com-

mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Form PF; Reporting Requirements for All Filers and Large Hedge Fund Advisers" (RIN3235-AN13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3728. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that terminates the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, and revokes that Executive Order; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3729. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products" (RIN1904-AF57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:

S. 1274. A bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Corey Anne Tellez, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be a confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3875. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide further transparency for the use of content that is substantially generated by artificial intelligence in political advertisements by requiring such advertisements to include a statement within the contents of the advertisements if generative AI was used to generate any image, audio, or video footage in the advertisements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3876. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3877. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to permit greater flexibility in carrying out incumbent worker training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3878. A bill to establish a regional trade, investment, and people-to-people partnership of countries in the Western Hemisphere to stimulate growth and integration through viable long-term private sector development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3879. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of red snapper imported into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3880. A bill to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3881. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3882. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with resources to support efforts to integrate or coordinate Medicare and Medicaid benefits for individuals that are eligible for both programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3883. A bill to appropriate funds for the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3884. A bill to establish a grant pilot program to provide child care services for the minor children of law enforcement officers to accommodate the shift work and abnormal work hours of such officers, and to enhance recruitment and retention of such officers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3885. A bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3886. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive certain domestic content procurement preferences with respect to certain State home projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3887. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for rioting; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. WELCH):
S. 3888. A bill to mandate the use of artificial intelligence by Federal agencies to adapt to extreme weather, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3889. A bill to provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. WICKER):

S.J. Res. 63. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. Res. 574. A resolution expressing support for starting and growing a family through in vitro fertilization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BUTLER, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 575. A resolution declaring racism a public health crisis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 576. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 4 through March 8, 2024, as "National Social and Emotional Learning Week" to recognize the critical role social and emotional learning plays in supporting the academic success and overall well-being of students, educators, and families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 577. A resolution recognizing and honoring Burnsville, Minnesota, law enforcement and first responders for their heroic actions; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 578. A resolution congratulating the Kansas City Chiefs on their victory in Super Bowl LVIII in the successful 104th season of the National Football League; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 579. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Kenyon; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 70

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 70, a bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to require a background check for every firearm sale.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1336

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1336, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the low-cost food plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1656

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1656, a bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2821

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for prostate cancer screenings without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2937, a bill to increase the rate of duty applicable to certain ferrosilicon produced in the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus and to require a domestic production assessment before increasing rates of duty applicable to products of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus under the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3220, a bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage prevention and treatment of coccidioidomycosis.

S. 3324

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3324, a bill to modify the penalties for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1993.

S. 3423

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3423, a bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3593

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3593, a bill to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

S. 3825

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3825, a bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a State innovation demonstration authority.

S. 3853

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3853, a bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining.

S.J. RES. 62

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 62, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relating to "Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 574—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR STARTING AND GROWING A FAMILY THROUGH IN VITRO FERTILIZATION

Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 574

Whereas in vitro fertilization (IVF) is a type of assisted reproductive technology developed and used for infertility treatment in adult women;

Whereas the first successful birth of a child conceived through the IVF process occurred in 1978, and since that time, millions of children worldwide have been conceived using IVF;

Whereas, according to a 2015 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 1,000,000 children have been born in the United States between 1987 and 2015 through the use of assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF; and

Whereas, according to the CDC, in the United States—

(1) about 1 in 5 women with no prior births are unable to get pregnant after 1 year of trying to conceive a child, leading to a diagnosis of infertility;

(2) about 1 in 4 women experiencing infertility have difficulty carrying a pregnancy to term; and

(3) in 2021, more than 97,000 children were born using assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the desire of parents trying to conceive a child to start or grow a family;

(2) expresses sympathy for the millions of parents experiencing infertility issues as they strive to start or grow a family and recognizes the immense physical, emotional, and psychological toll of pursuing medical assistance for infertility, including in vitro fertilization;

(3) cherishes the millions of children born through the use of medical assistance to overcome infertility, including through in vitro fertilization;

(4) recognizes that medical assistance for infertility, including in vitro fertilization, is, and remains, legal in all States and territories of the United States;

(5) affirms that laws enacted by Congress should promote the sanctity of human life and support the development and growth of families in the United States;

(6) encourages further clinical research to improve outcomes for parents seeking medical assistance to overcome infertility as they strive to start or grow a family; and

(7) supports State legislative and regulatory actions to establish health, safety, and ethical standards for medical facilities offering assisted reproductive technologies, including in vitro fertilization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BUTLER, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 575

Whereas a public health crisis is an issue—
(1) that affects many people, is a threat to the public, and is ongoing;

(2) that is unfairly distributed among different populations, disproportionately impacting health outcomes, access to health care, and life expectancy;

(3) the effects of which could be reduced by preventive measures; and

(4) for which those preventive measures are not yet in place;

Whereas public health experts agree that significant racial inequities exist in the prevalence, severity, and mortality rates of various health conditions in the United States;

Whereas examples of significant racial inequities include that—

(1) life expectancies for Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native people in the United States are significantly lower than those of non-Hispanic White people in the United States;

(2) Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native women are 2 to 4 times more likely than White women to suffer severe maternal morbidity or die of pregnancy-related complications;

(3) Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Alaska Native infants are 2 to 3 times more likely to die than White infants;

(4) the Black infant mortality rate in the United States is higher than the infant mortality rates recorded in 27 of the 36 democratic countries with market-based economies that are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(5) Hispanic women are 40 percent more likely to be diagnosed with, and 30 percent more likely to die from, cervical cancer compared to non-Hispanic White women;

(6) Asian Americans are the only racial group in the United States who experience cancer as the leading cause of death; and

(7) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are 2.5-times more likely to die from diabetes than non-Hispanic white women;

(8) Native Hawaiians suffer from coronary heart disease, stroke, heart failure, cancer, and diabetes at a 3 times greater rate than other ethnic populations in Hawaii, and become afflicted with those diseases a decade earlier in their lives compared with other ethnic populations; and

(9) during the COVID-19 pandemic, Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities experienced disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and mortality compared to the White population of the United States;

Whereas inequities in health outcomes are exacerbated for people of color who are LGBTQIA+;

Whereas inequities in health outcomes are exacerbated for people of color who have disabilities;

Whereas, historically, explanations for health inequities have focused on false genetic science, such as eugenics;

Whereas, historically, explanations for health inequities have focused on incomplete social scientific analyses that narrowly focus on individual behavior to highlight ostensible deficiencies within racial and ethnic minority groups;

Whereas modern public health officials recognize the broader social context in which health inequities emerge and acknowledge the impact of historical and contemporary racism on health;

Whereas racism is recognized in modern public health discourse as 1 of many social determinants of health, which—

(1) are a broad range of nonmedical factors that can enhance or hinder quality of life and influence health outcomes;

(2) are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and include the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life;

(3) include factors such as housing, employment, education, health care, food, transportation, social support, poverty, crime, violence, segregation, and environmental toxins;

(4) are linked to a lack of opportunity and resources to protect, improve, and maintain health; and

(5) taken together, create health inequities that stem from unfair and unjust systems, policies, and practices, and limit access to the opportunities and resources needed to live the healthiest life possible;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has had a longstanding history and legacy of racism, mistreatment, and discrimination that has perpetuated health inequities for members of racial and ethnic minority groups;

Whereas that history and legacy of racism, mistreatment, and discrimination includes—

(1) the immoral paradox of freedom and slavery, which is an atrocity that can be traced throughout the history of the United States, as African Americans lived under the oppressive institution of slavery from 1619 through 1865, endured the practices and laws of segregation during the Jim Crow era, and continue to face the ramifications of systemic racism through unjust and discriminatory structures and policies;

(2) the failure of the United States to carry out the responsibilities and promises made in more than 370 treaties ratified with sovereign indigenous communities, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, as made evident by the chronic and pervasive underfunding of the Indian Health Service and Native Hawaiian health care, the vast health and socioeconomic inequities faced by American Indian and Alaska Native people, and the inaccessibility of many Federal public health and social programs in Native American communities;

(3) the enactment of immigration laws in the United States that scapegoated Asians, separated families, and branded Asians as perpetual outsiders, such as—

(A) the Act entitled “An Act supplementary to the Acts in relation to immigration”, approved March 3, 1875 (commonly known as the “Page Act of 1875”) (18 Stat. 477, chapter 141), which effectively prohibited the entry of East Asian women into the United States;

(B) the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which banned thousands of Chinese-born laborers, who were essential in the completion of the transcontinental railroad and development of the West Coast of the United States; and

(C) the Act entitled “An Act to regulate the immigration of aliens to, and the residence of aliens in, the United States”, approved February 5, 1917 (commonly known as the “Immigration Act of 1917”) (39 Stat. 874, chapter 29), which barred all immigrants from the “Asiatic zone” and prevented the migration of individuals from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia;

(4) during the Great Depression Era, the deportation of approximately 1,800,000 individuals based on their Mexican ethnic identity, although approximately 60 percent of the deported individuals were citizens of the United States, and the targeting of individuals of Mexican descent for “repatriation”

due to scapegoating efforts, which blamed those individuals for “stealing” jobs from “real” Americans; and

(5) in 1942, the issuance of Executive Order 9066 which began the forced evacuation and detention of Japanese American West Coast residents, placing 70,000 citizens of the United States into “relocation centers”;

Whereas, in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson established the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which concluded that White racism is responsible for the pervasive discrimination and segregation in employment, education, and housing, causing deepened racial division and the continued exclusion of Black communities from the benefits of economic progress;

Whereas overt racism was embedded in the development of medical science and medical training during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, causing disproportionate physical and psychological harm to members of racial and ethnic minority groups, including—

(1) the unethical practices and abuses experienced by Black patients and research participants, such as the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male, which serve as the foundation for the mistrust the Black community has for the medical system; and

(2) the egregiously unethical and cruel treatment of enslaved Black women who were forced to be the subject of insidious medical experiments to advance modern gynecology, including those perpetuated by the so-called “father of gynecology”, J. Marion Sims;

Whereas structural racism cemented historical racial and ethnic inequities in access to resources and opportunities, contributing to worse health outcomes;

Whereas examples of structural racism include—

(1) before the enactment of the Medicare program, the United States health care system was highly segregated, and, as late as the mid-1960s, hospitals, clinics, and doctors’ offices throughout the northern and southern United States complied with Jim Crow laws and were completely segregated by race, leaving Black communities with little to no access to health care services;

(2) the landmark case *Simkins v. Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital*, 323 F.2d 959 (4th Cir. 1963), which challenged the use of public funds by the Federal Government to expand, support, and sustain segregated hospital care and provided justification for title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the Medicare hospital certification program by establishing Medicare hospital racial integration guidelines that applied to every hospital that participated in the Federal program;

(3) that Pacific Islanders from the Freely Associated States experience unique health inequities resulting from United States nuclear weapons tests on their home islands while they have been categorically denied access to Medicaid and other Federal health benefits;

(4) that language minorities, including Spanish-speaking, Chinese-speaking, and Tagalog-speaking people in the United States, were not assured nondiscriminatory access to federally funded services, including health services, until the signing of Executive Order 13166 (42 U.S.C. 2000d–1 note; relating to improving access to services for persons with limited English proficiency) in 2000;

(5) that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated economic, health, housing, and food security barriers for Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Native American households, which already suffer from disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity; and

(6) that members of the Black, Native American, Alaska Native, Asian American,

Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Hispanic or Latino communities are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice and immigration enforcement systems and face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 within prison populations and detention centers due to the over-incarceration of members of those communities;

Whereas subtle or implicit racism in all sectors of the medical service profession continues to cause disproportionate physical and psychological harm to members of racial and ethnic minority groups;

Whereas examples of subtle or implicit racism in the medical service profession include that—

(1) the history and persistence of racist and nonscientific medical beliefs, which are associated with ongoing racial inequities in treatment and health outcomes;

(2) implicit racial and ethnic biases within the health care system, which have an explicit impact on the quality of care experienced by members of racial and ethnic minority groups, such as the undertreatment of pain in Black patients;

(3) nearly 1/3 of Hispanic or Latino Americans avoid medical care due to concern about being discriminated against or treated poorly;

(4) the United States health care system and other economic and social structures remain fraught with biases based on race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and class that lead to health inequities;

(5) women of color, including Black, Native American, Hispanic or Latina, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women, have faced and continue to face attacks on their prenatal, maternal, and reproductive health and rights; and

(6) through the early 1980s, physicians routinely sterilized members of racial and ethnic minority groups, specifically American Indian and Alaska Native women (with 1/4 of childbearing-aged American Indian and Alaska Native women being sterilized by the Indian Health Service) and African American and Latina women, performing excessive and medically unnecessary procedures without their informed consent;

Whereas structural racism perpetuates racial and ethnic inequities in the social determinants of health, which produces unintended negative health outcomes for members of racial and ethnic minority groups;

Whereas examples of that structural racism include—

(1) that there are fewer pharmacies, medical practices, and hospitals in predominantly Black and Hispanic or Latino neighborhoods, compared to White or more diverse neighborhoods;

(2) that environmental hazards, such as toxic waste facilities, garbage dumps, and other sources of airborne pollutants, are disproportionately located in predominantly Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and low-income communities, resulting in poor air quality conditions, which can increase the likelihood of chronic respiratory illness and premature death from particle pollution;

(3) that employed Black adults are 10 percent less likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance than employed White adults because of racial segregation in occupation sectors and the types of organizations in which they work;

(4) that 1 in 4 American Indian and Alaska Native people lack health insurance and that Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and certain groups of nonelderly Asian American adults have lower levels of insurance than White adults;

(5) that several States with higher percentages of Black, Hispanic or Latino, American

Indian, and Alaska Native populations have not expanded their Medicaid programs, continuing to disenfranchise minority communities from access to health care as of the date of adoption of this resolution;

(6) discriminatory housing practices, such as redlining, which have, for decades, systematically excluded members of racial and ethnic minority groups from housing by robbing them of capital in the form of low-cost, stable mortgages and opportunities to build wealth, and the use of financial power by the Federal Government to segregate renters in public housing;

(7) social inequities, such as differing access to quality health care, healthy food and safe drinking water, safe and affordable neighborhoods, education, job security, and reliable transportation, which affect health risks and outcomes;

(8) exclusionary disciplinary practices (such as detention and suspension) in primary education and even early education settings, which disproportionately affect children from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, particularly Black children; and

(9) that, as much as 60 percent of the health of a person in the United States can be determined by their zip code;

Whereas structural racism perpetuates ongoing knowledge gaps in data, research, and development, which produces unintended negative health outcomes for members of racial and ethnic minority groups;

Whereas examples of that structural racism include that—

(1) most participants in clinical trials are White, so there is insufficient data to develop evidence-based recommendations for people from racial and ethnic minority groups;

(2) medical research equipment and medical devices are typically developed by majority-White teams and therefore can have racial blind spots unintentionally built into their design, rendering them less effective for people from racial and ethnic minority groups, such as—

(A) electroencephalogram electrodes used in neuroimaging research do not collect reliable data when used on scalps with thick, curly hair; and

(B) pulse oximeters produce less accurate oxygen saturation readings when used on fingertips with darker skin;

(3) a lack of images depicting darker skin in medical textbooks, literature, and journals contributes to higher rates of underdiagnosis or misdiagnosis in patients with darker skin; and

(4) many health-related studies fail to include data on American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, or do not disaggregate data among those groups, leading to their invisibility in health data and unjust resource allocation and policies;

Whereas racism produces unjust outcomes and treatment for members of racial and ethnic minority groups, with such negative experiences serving as stressors that over time have a negative impact on physical health (leading, for example, to high blood pressure or hypertension) and mental health (leading, for example, to anxiety or depression);

Whereas there is evidence that racial and ethnic minority groups continue to face discrimination in the United States, examples of which include that—

(1) social scientists have documented racial microaggressions in contemporary United States society, including—

(A) assumptions that members of racial and ethnic minority groups are not citizens of the United States;

(B) assumptions of lesser intelligence;

(C) statements that convey color-blindness or denial of the importance of race;

(D) assumptions of criminality or dangerousness;

(E) denial of individual racism;

(F) promotion of the myth of meritocracy;

(G) assumptions that the cultural background and communication styles of an individual are pathological;

(H) treatment as a second-class citizen; and

(I) environmental messages of being unwelcome or devalued;

(2) compared to White Americans, Black Americans are 5 times more likely to report experiencing discrimination when interacting with the police, Hispanic or Latino Americans and Native Americans are nearly 3 times as likely, and Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are nearly twice as likely;

(3) 42 percent of employees in the United States have experienced or witnessed racism in the workplace;

(4) Muslims, South Asians, and Sikhs were unjustly targeted for profiling, surveillance, arrest, discrimination, harassment, assault, and murder after 9/11;

(5) xenophobic rhetoric, including anti-migrant rhetoric and the scapegoating of people of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent for the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in a surge of hate against Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, including increased harassment, discrimination, bullying, vandalism, and assault;

(6) nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders throughout the United States have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment that may be illegal and the majority of victims of discrimination name race or related characteristics as the reason for the discrimination; and

(7) more than 50 percent of Hispanic or Latino adults experience at least 1 form of discrimination due to their racial or ethnic heritage, such as being treated as if they were not smart, criticized for speaking Spanish, told to return to their country, called offensive names, or unfairly stopped by the police;

Whereas Black people in the United States experience overt and direct forms of violence that, when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas examples of such forms of violence include—

(1) that Black people are confronted and threatened by armed citizens while performing everyday tasks, such as jogging in neighborhoods, driving, or playing in a park;

(2) that Black people are 3 times more likely to be killed by police than White people, and police violence is the sixth leading cause of death for young Black men;

(3) the killings of Tamir Rice, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Elijah McClain, Jayland Walker, Jeenan Anderson, Timothy McCree Johnson, Jordan Neely, and countless other Black Americans by law enforcement;

(4) that it took the United States 66 years after the senseless and brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till to make lynching a Federal crime;

(5) that, since 2015, mass shootings around the country, such as in Buffalo, New York, and Charleston, South Carolina, serve as reminders of the unresolved history of racism in the United States and highlight the threats Black people must take into consideration when going about their daily lives, both when outside their communities and within those communities; and

(6) the threat of brutality and violence adversely impacting mental health among Black communities;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives experience historical trauma, systemic oppression, and cultural genocide that, even

when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas examples of such forms of violence include—

(1) forced relocation, termination, and assimilation policies, such as boarding schools, that contributed to health disparities and legacies of trauma inflicted on indigenous people;

(2) the Army attempting cultural genocide by instigating numerous massacres, including the mass execution of 38 Dakota men in Minnesota, and the murder of 300 Lakota people at the Battle of Wounded Knee, to eradicate American Indians and Alaska Natives;

(3) murder being the third leading cause of death for Native women, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of indigenous women experiencing violence in their lifetime;

(4) that, since 2016, there have been 5,712 cases of missing and murdered indigenous women and people across the United States, including 506 cases in 71 urban cities and 153 cases missing from law enforcement databases, with those missing cases likely undercounting the actual number of cases due to the underreporting of cases within American Indian and Alaska Native communities;

(5) that the overall death rate from suicide among American Indians and Alaska Natives is 20 percent higher compared to non-Hispanic White populations; and

(6) cycles of violence that have overburdened indigenous communities to respond to increased levels of violence, including gender-based violence, human trafficking, suicide, and homicide with minimal resources;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Natives, Hispanics or Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders experience racially motivated kidnapping, murders, and mass violence, such as shootings in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, El Paso and Allen, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, and Indianapolis, Indiana, that, even when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, members of racial and ethnic minority groups have been at the forefront of civil rights movements for essential freedoms, human rights, and equal protection for marginalized groups and continue to fight for racial, environmental, and economic justice today;

Whereas racial inequities in health continue to persist because of historical and contemporary racism;

Whereas public health experts agree that racism meets the criteria of a public health crisis because—

(1) the condition affects many people, is seen as a threat to the public, and is continuing to increase;

(2) the condition is distributed unfairly;

(3) preventive measures could reduce the effects of the condition; and

(4) those preventive measures are not yet in place;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—

(1) declared racism a serious threat to public health; and

(2) acknowledged the need for additional research and investments to address that serious threat;

Whereas a Federal public health crisis declaration proclaims racism as a pervasive health issue and alerts the people of the United States to the need to enact immediate and effective cross-governmental efforts to address the root causes of structural racism and the downstream impacts of that racism; and

Whereas such a declaration requires the response of governments to engage significant resources to empower the communities that are impacted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the resolutions drafted, introduced, and adopted by cities and localities across the United States declaring racism a public health crisis;

(2) declares racism a public health crisis in the United States;

(3) commits to—

(A) establishing a nationwide strategy to address health disparities and inequities across all sectors in society;

(B) dismantling systemic practices and policies that perpetuate racism;

(C) advancing reforms to address years of neglectful and apathetic policies that have led to poor health outcomes for members of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

(D) promoting efforts to address the social determinants of health for all racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States; and

(4) places a charge on the people of the United States to move forward with urgency to ensure that the United States stands firmly in honoring its moral purpose of advancing the self-evident truths that all people are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MARCH 4 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE CRITICAL ROLE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING PLAYS IN SUPPORTING THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND OVERALL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 576

Whereas, according to research conducted by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Harvard University, the COVID-19 pandemic heightened the urgency to provide greater assistance to students, educators, and families to address the mental health, behavioral, and other systemic challenges that impede the academic and developmental improvement and success of students;

Whereas decades of research demonstrate how social and emotional learning (referred to in this preamble as “SEL”) promotes academic achievement, mental wellness, healthy behaviors, and long-term success;

Whereas, according to a study by researchers at the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, Loyola University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, SEL programs that addressed the 5 core competencies (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making) increased academic performance by 11 percentile points, improved the ability of students to manage stress, and improved the attitudes of students about themselves, others, and school;

Whereas, according to a study by researchers at Yale University, the University of

Rochester, the University of Maryland, and Loyola University of Chicago, students participating in SEL at school had higher “school functioning”, including grades, test scores, attendance, homework completion, and engagement;

Whereas a study in the Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis found that, on average, for every dollar spent on the evidence-based SEL programs examined, there was an \$11 return on investment;

Whereas, according to a study published by the American Public Health Association, the development of social and emotional skills in kindergarten has been associated with improved outcomes for young adults later in life, resulting in reduced societal costs for public assistance, public housing, police involvement, and detention;

Whereas, in response to a Pew Research Center survey of parents of K–12 students, 66 percent of the parents said that schools teaching children to develop social and emotional skills was “very important” and another 27 percent of the parents said that such teaching was “somewhat important”;

Whereas EdWeek Research Center found that 83 percent of educators indicated that SEL is “somewhat” or “very” helpful for the academic learning of students;

Whereas research from Yale University, the University of Cantabria, Jagiellonian University, and Pennsylvania State University indicates that educators who demonstrate greater social and emotional competence are frequently more capable of protecting themselves from burnout; and

Whereas the week of March 4 through March 8, 2024, would be an appropriate period to designate as “National Social and Emotional Learning Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “National Social and Emotional Learning Week”;

(2) recognizes the role that social and emotional learning plays in promoting academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, and future career success for students;

(3) expresses support for expanding access to social and emotional learning for each student and teacher; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to identify opportunities among Federal agencies to advance social and emotional learning to support students, parents, educators, and their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS FOR THEIR HEROIC ACTIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 577

Whereas Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth died in the line of duty on February 18, 2024, while responding to a domestic situation in Burnsville, Minnesota;

Whereas Officer Paul Elmstrand dedicated over 6 years of service to the Burnsville Police Department, joined the department in 2017 as a Community Service Officer and was promoted to Officer in 2019, and served as part of the department’s mobile command staff, peer team, honor guard, and field training unit;

Whereas Officer Matthew Ruge dedicated over 3 years of service to the Burnsville Po-

lice Department, joining the department in 2020, where he was a physical evidence officer and a member of the crisis negotiation team;

Whereas Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth dedicated 5 years of service to the Burnsville Fire Department, served as a water rescue trainer and on Burnsville’s Health and Wellness Committee, and was an Army veteran serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth will be remembered as heroes who protected their community and loved their families and friends;

Whereas Police Sergeant Adam Medlicott was injured and hospitalized while responding to the call; and

Whereas Sergeant Adam Medlicott has served with the Burnsville Police Department since 2014 in various roles, including as a patrol officer, drug recognition specialist, and field training officer, and was promoted to sergeant in 2022: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses deep condolences to the families and colleagues of Burnsville, Minnesota, Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and whose sacrifice will not be forgotten;

(2) honors the bravery of Police Sergeant Adam Medlicott;

(3) recognizes all of the countless selfless and heroic actions carried out by local law enforcement and first responders;

(4) expresses strong support for law enforcement and first responders in Minnesota and across the United States who protect and serve their communities; and

(5) acknowledges the importance of honoring and remembering fallen law enforcement and first responders killed in the line of duty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—CONGRATULATING THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ON THEIR VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL LVIII IN THE SUCCESSFUL 104TH SEASON OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 578

Whereas, on Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers by a score of 25 to 22 to win Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas, Nevada;

Whereas the Chiefs made their fourth Super Bowl appearance and third Super Bowl win in 5 years;

Whereas this win marks the first time in nearly 20 years and the ninth time in NFL history that a team has won back-to-back Super Bowls;

Whereas the Chiefs came back after trailing the 49ers by 10 points with under 4 minutes remaining in the first half, making this the third time in 5 years that the Chiefs have recovered from a 10-point deficit in the Super Bowl;

Whereas head coach Andy Reid led the Chiefs to victory and became the fifth head coach to earn 3 Super Bowl victories;

Whereas quarterback Patrick Mahomes completed 34 of 46 pass attempts for 333 yards and 2 touchdowns, rushed 9 times for 66 yards, and was named Super Bowl Most Valuable Player, making him the third player to have won the award 3 times;

Whereas kicker Harrison Butker completed a perfect postseason in field goal attempts, set a new Super Bowl record with a 57-yard field goal, scored more than half of the Chiefs' total points by being 4-for-4 in field goal attempts and 1-for-1 in point-after-touchdown attempts, and made a crucial field goal at the end of the fourth quarter that tied the score and sent the game into overtime;

Whereas tight end Travis Kelce led the team in receiving with 9 receptions for 93 yards;

Whereas running back Isiah Pacheco rushed 18 times for 59 yards and had 6 receptions for 33 yards;

Whereas wide receiver Mecole Hardman had 3 receptions for 57 yards and scored the game-winning touchdown with 3 seconds remaining in overtime;

Whereas, in overtime, defensive tackle Chris Jones prevented the offense from making a critical touchdown, creating a pathway to victory for the Chiefs;

Whereas the Chiefs' defense blocked a point-after-touchdown attempt by the 49ers in the fourth quarter;

Whereas, for the second time in NFL history, the Super Bowl went into overtime, and the Chiefs completed a 75-yard drive to win the game;

Whereas the game-winning drive started with a fourth-and-1 scramble from Patrick Mahomes and ended with a pivotal 7-yard catch from Travis Kelce, setting up a first-and-goal championship-winning touchdown for Mecole Hardman;

Whereas the entire Chiefs' roster contributed to the Super Bowl victory;

Whereas the Chiefs had 3 players ranked in the top 10 of the NFL Top 100 Players of 2023, being the only team with multiple top 10 selections this year and the second team ever with 3 players in the top 10;

Whereas Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Chiefs, holds the world record for loudest crowd roar at a sporting event with 142.2 decibels;

Whereas the victory of the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVIII instills a sense of pride for Chiefs fans in the State of Missouri, the State of Kansas, and across the Midwest; and

Whereas people all over the world are asking, "How 'bout those Chiefs?": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Kansas City Chiefs and their entire staff, Mayor of Kansas City Quinton Lucas, Governor of Missouri Mike Parson, and fans everywhere of the Kansas City Chiefs for their victory in Super Bowl LVIII; and

(2) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the chairman and chief executive officer of the Kansas City Chiefs, Clark Hunt;

(B) the president of the Kansas City Chiefs, Mark Donovan; and

(C) the head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, Andy Reid.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. KENYON

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Kenyon*, Cr. No. 23-101, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Co-

lumbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Kenyon*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1616. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1617. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1618. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1619. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1618 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1620. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1621. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1620 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1622. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1621 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 1620 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, supra.

SA 1623. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1624. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1625. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1626. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1616. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division F, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) In fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) (as in effect before the date of enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.)) and section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note; Public Law 106-569), except for requirements relating to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment, in order to facilitate prepayment of any indebtedness relating to any remaining principal and interest under a loan made under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) (as in effect before the date of enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.)) for a property that consists of not more than 15 units, is located in a municipality with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, is within 5 years of maturity, is no longer effectively serving a need in the community, is functionally obsolescent, and for which the Secretary has determined that the property prepayment is part of a transaction, including a transaction involving transfer or replacement contracts described in subsection (b), that will provide rental housing assistance for the elderly or persons with disabilities on terms of at least equal duration and at least as advantageous to existing and future tenants as the terms required by current loan agreements entered into under any provisions of law.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, in order to preserve affordable housing resources, upon a prepayment of a loan described in subsection (a), the Secretary may transfer or replace the contract for assistance at such prepaid property with a project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to 1 or more multifamily housing projects located in the same State as the prepaid property, for the benefit of the elderly or persons with disabilities who are eligible to receive housing assistance under such section 8, to assist the same number of units at the receiving multifamily housing project or projects.

(2) The Secretary may fund a transferred or replaced contract described in paragraph (1) from amounts available to the Secretary under the heading "Project-Based Rental Assistance".

SA 1617. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs,

and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated \$75,000,000 to the Farm Service Agency to make livestock indemnity payments under section 1501(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)) to eligible producers that have incurred eligible losses due to wildfires occurring in calendar year 2024.

SA 1618. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1619. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1618 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 1620. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1621. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1620 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 1622. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1621 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 1620 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “4 days” and insert “5 days”.

SA 1623. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making ap-

propriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of division C, insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 9-27.260 of the Justice Manual (relating to impermissible considerations for initiating and declining charges).

SA 1624. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division F, insert the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration entitled “Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for Model Years 2027-2032 and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030-2035” (88 Fed. Reg. 56128 (August 17, 2023)), or any substantially similar rule.

SA 1625. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

LIMITATION

SEC. 4. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled “Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles” (88 Fed. Reg. 29184 (May 5, 2023)), or any substantially similar rule.

SA 1626. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division C, strike section 542.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have eight requests for commit-

tees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct an open executive session.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:30p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7454, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7454) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 7454) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 93, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 93) providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions submitted earlier today: S. Res. 577, S. Res. 578, and S. Res. 579.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in this criminal case pending in Federal district court in the District of Colum-

bia and arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In this case, brought against Jay Matthew Kenyon, trial is expected to commence on March 11, 2024, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress' counting of the Electoral College votes. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with this request by providing relevant testimony in this trial from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, this resolution would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress: the Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas, Administrative Co-Chair; the Honorable DEB FISCHER of Nebraska, Co-Chair; the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD of Oklahoma, Co-Chair; the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida; the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina; the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi; the Honorable JAMES RISCH of Idaho; the Honorable MITT ROMNEY of Utah; and the Honorable PETE RICKETTS of Nebraska.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Noti nomination; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the Noti nomination ripen at 11:45 a.m.; further,

that if cloture is invoked on the Noti nomination and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume legislative session to execute the order of February 29, 2024, with respect to S. 3853, and that the Senate vote on passage of that bill at 2:15 p.m.; further, that upon disposition of S. 3853, the Senate resume executive session and all time on the Noti nomination be considered expired; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I think that as human beings, we have a tendency to try to avoid thinking about horrifying situations. Who wants to think about, focus on things that are painful and terrible?

But whether we like it or not, there is, today, a horrifying catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of children are facing starvation because of Israel's indiscriminate bombardment and unacceptable restrictions on humanitarian aid getting across the border.

And let me remind every American and every Member of Congress, this is not some faraway natural disaster that we as Americans have nothing to do with. This is not an earthquake in Japan. It is not a drought in Sudan. It is not flooding in China. The reality is that we as American taxpayers are complicit in this humanitarian disaster. And as Americans, we must end it.

First, let me briefly recap where we are today. Hamas started this terrible war with a brutal terrorist attack that killed 1,200 innocent Israelis and took 253 hostages—more than 100 of whom remain in Hamas's hands, including Americans.

And just the other day, the U.N. reported that there is strong evidence that Hamas also committed horrific sexual assaults against Israeli women of the worst kind imaginable. Nobody will or should forgive or forget those atrocities.

As I have said many times, Israel had the right to respond to that attack and go after Hamas, but it did not—and it does not—have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people. And that is what Israel has done.

For 5 months now, Israel has unleashed total war on Gaza, relying on widespread bombardment, including the use of 2,000-pound bombs. The results have been catastrophic.

In the last 5 months, Israel has killed nearly 31,000 Palestinians and injured more than 72,000, two-thirds of whom are women and children—two-thirds of whom are women and children.

The United Nations has had 165 staff killed by Israeli forces, more than in any other previous war. Some 364 health workers—people who are there trying to take care of the sick and the wounded—and 132 journalists who are reporting on the situation have been killed as well.

As this terrible photograph shows, the Israeli bombardment has left Gaza in ruins. Now, 70 percent—let me repeat, 70 percent—of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Unbelievably, 1.7 million people in Gaza have been driven from their homes—taken out of their homes—and sent away without really knowing where they are going to go or whether or not they will ever return or, in fact, be able to return to this disaster. And that 1.7 million people is 80 percent of the population of Gaza.

The civilian infrastructure in Gaza has been devastated, making life unbearable for the people who reside there. There is virtually no electricity and little running water. There is not a single fully functional hospital for the 2.2 million Gazans, despite the enormous medical needs that the bombardment has caused. People are getting injured, no place to go.

As horrible and as unspeakable as all of this destruction is, we are seeing something today that is even worse. For months, the U.N. has warned that because of the Israeli blockade of food and water, starvation and disease were growing threats. They warned in December that a quarter of the population of Gaza—over half a million people—were one step away from famine.

Since then, the situation on the ground has only worsened. People have been reduced to eating leaves and animal feed. They are starving to death. They are starving to death.

And, in the last week, reports of children dying from malnutrition and dehydration have begun to emerge. At least 15 children have starved to death. Unfortunately, these reports are likely to be the first of many.

Despite this nearly unprecedented crisis, despite hundreds of thousands of children facing starvation, humanitarian access has actually deteriorated—deteriorated—during the last month. The needs are significantly greater, but the aid that is coming in is less.

In February, an average of 97 trucks got into Gaza each day, down from about 150 in January and well short of 500 trucks per day before the war.

The situation is now so desperate and so inhumane that many of the trucks entering Gaza are unable to reach their

destination because they are set upon by starving people who are ripping food boxes from the trucks. In other words, people are seeing the trucks coming; they are unable to get to the destinations that they are supposed to because starving people are fighting for food.

Let us be crystal clear about why this is happening. It is happening because Israel is not letting in enough humanitarian aid. And it is actually that simple. They are not letting in the food, the water, the medical supplies, the fuel that desperate people need.

Israeli restrictions on aid mean that only a tiny fraction of what is needed is getting into Gaza today. And even when that aid gets in, we are seeing Israeli military activities that result in very little of that aid reaching the most desperate areas.

In the north, almost no aid has gotten through, leading to the terrible incident of last week, where desperate Palestinians, pulling sacks of flour off of the few trucks that got through, were met with gunfire from Israeli troops. Earlier in February, Israeli forces fired on a U.N. food convoy trying to reach the north, despite it having been previously cleared by the Israelis. And just yesterday, the Israeli military turned back a World Food Programme convoy carrying 200 tons of food to starving people in North Gaza.

None of what is going on in Gaza today is a secret. Anyone who wants to know does know.

And let me share with you what some of our leading U.S. officials have said about the war and the current situation.

President Biden has repeatedly called the Israeli bombing “indiscriminate” and called Israel’s response in Gaza “over the top.”

He said: “There are a lot of innocent people who are starving. A lot of innocent people in trouble and dying. And it has to stop.”

President Biden this week said: “There’s got to be a cease-fire,” and “we must get more aid into Gaza.”

He also said: “We’re are going to insist—insist—that Israel facilitate more trucks and more routes to get more and more people the help they need. No excuses, because the truth is aid flowing to Gaza is nowhere nearly enough. Now, it’s nowhere nearly enough. Innocent lives are on the line and children’s lives are on the line.”

President Joe Biden. That is not BERNIE SANDERS. That is President Biden.

Vice President KAMALA HARRIS said, on Sunday:

We have seen reports of families eating leaves or animal feed, women giving birth to malnourished babies with little or no medical care, and children dying from malnutrition and dehydration.

The Vice President also said:

The Israeli government must do more to significantly increase the flow of aid. No excuses. They must open up new border crossings. They must not impose any unnecessary restrictions on the delivery of aid. They must ensure humanitarian personnel, sites, and convoys are not targeted.

Vice President KAMALA HARRIS.

Secretary of State Tony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan have repeatedly emphasized these points to the Israelis, pushing and urging them to be more targeted, to protect civilian life, and to let food and water into Gaza so that children do not starve.

You have got the President, you have got the Vice President, you have got the Secretary of State, you have got the National Security Advisor saying over and over again: Israel must change its policies.

And in the midst of all of that, how has Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu responded to those requests and those comments? Here is the American Government saying one thing. How has Netanyahu responded? Well, his response has not been complicated. He has ignored them. He has ignored what the President of the United States said, what the Vice President of the United States said, what many of us in Congress are saying, what the Secretary of State is saying, what the National Security Advisor is saying. He has ignored it all.

Despite all of this—despite Netanyahu’s refusal to adhere to any of the requests and concerns that our government has conveyed to him, the United States continues to pull out all the stops to support his devastating war against the Palestinian people.

Year after year, we have provided \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel—U.S. taxpayer money. More recently, the administration requested and the Senate has approved—against my vote, I should add—another \$14 billion in military aid to this rightwing extremist Israeli Government. Ten billion of that money is completely unrestricted military aid that will buy more of the bombs Netanyahu is using to destroy Gaza.

Just today—today—the Washington Post reported that the United States has delivered more than 100 military sales to Israel since the war began. That is right. Despite the scale of the devastation, U.S. taxpayers continue to fund this war, and today we learned that the administration has been breaking up these arm sales into Israel into smaller tranches to avoid triggering congressional notification requirements. That is unacceptable, and that is a brazen violation of the spirit and intent of the law.

That is not the only way that the administration is refusing to adhere to U.S. law. Israel’s interference in U.S. humanitarian operations is in clear violation of section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act, and that law and its language could not be clearer.

I want everybody to hear what the law says:

No assistance shall be furnished . . . to any country when it is made known to the President that the government of such country prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance.

That is the law. The law is that if a country prevents humanitarian assistance coming to these starving children, it is violating the law. It could not be clearer than it is, and I think very few people doubt that Israel is in violation of that law. Yet the administration and the Congress do nothing.

The State Department doesn't even pretend to apply the Leahy law to Israel, refusing to properly track U.S. arms or even identify which Israeli units receive U.S. security assistance, a basic requirement of the law and a standard applied to every other country.

As I go around Vermont and around the country, it is my strong feeling that the American people are increasingly disgusted by the destruction of Gaza and the unbelievable misery that is befalling the Palestinian people who are there. The American people want it to end. They don't want to be part of seeing children go hungry. They don't want to be part of seeing entire communities literally destroyed.

Just the other day—and I hope my colleagues in Congress hear this. Just the other day, a YouGov poll showed that 52 percent of Americans agree that the United States should halt weapon shipments to Israel until Israel stops its attacks on Gaza—52 percent. A lot of people were undecided, and those who supported it was much, much less—a small number. Fully 62 percent of respondents who voted for President Biden agreed the United States should stop weapon shipments until Israel discontinues its attack on the people of Gaza, while just 14 percent disagree. In other words, the American people, in general, and those who voted for President Biden, in particular, want this war ended. They want the destruction stopped.

The American people understand a simple truth that we here in the Nation's Capital continue to ignore, and that is that it is absurd and hypocritical to publicly profess horror at Netanyahu's inhumane war while, at the same time as we say how terrible it is, how awful Netanyahu is—at the same time—we ship tens of thousands of bombs to his army. It is absurd to criticize Netanyahu's war in one breath and provide him another \$10 billion to continue that war in the next.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this disaster is the fiction we tell ourselves here in Congress, and that is that there is nothing—just nothing—that we can do. Isn't this awful? My goodness, look at all of those buildings that have been destroyed—70 percent of the housing. It is terrible. Children going hungry—terrible. Children coming down with disease—terrible, terrible. Nothing we can do.

Really? Everybody knows what is happening. We see it every day in the news, and we see the pictures of the emaciated children, of people bombed while they sleep. And yet Congress pretends as if we are powerless to stop it.

Well, the fact is, this is not a natural catastrophe. This is a manmade catastrophe. And if we had the political will and if we had the courage to stand up to some very powerful special interests, yes, we could stop it. We could stop the destruction, and we could make sure that these kids do not starve to death.

But doing so will require that the U.S. Government and Members of Congress have the courage to stand up to Netanyahu and to use the incredible leverage that we have over the Israeli Government to secure a fundamental change in their disastrous policies.

Of course, we have the leverage. We are funding the war. And if that is not leverage, I don't know what leverage is.

The current reality is, frankly, embarrassing. I supported the President's decision to airdrop supplies to desperate civilians in North Gaza. Airdrops will buy time and save lives. I am glad the President did it. The truth is, there is no substitute for sustained ground deliveries and many, many hundreds of trucks every single day getting into Gaza.

Right now, we have the incredible situation where a U.S. ally is using U.S. weapons and equipment to block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid. We are funding them to stop us from doing what we want to do. And if that is not crazy, I don't know what is.

It is far, far past time for us to stop asking Israel to do the right thing and to start telling Israel what must happen if they want the support of U.S. taxpayers. Israel must open the borders and allow the U.N. to deliver supplies in sufficient quantities. The U.S. Gov-

ernment should make it clear that failure to open up access immediately and feed starving people will result in the Netanyahu government not getting another penny of U.S. taxpayer military aid. The United States simply cannot allow hundreds of thousands of children to starve to death. Whether Netanyahu likes it or not, the United States must do what is necessary to get supplies into Gaza.

We all know that there will be a very long and tortuous road to achieve lasting peace in the region and self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians. The people of Israel have the absolute right to live in peace and security without worrying about terrorist attacks. The Palestinian people have the absolute right to self-determination, to live in peace, and to have a state of their own.

Madam President, I hope very much that there will be new leadership that will emerge on both sides within Israel and within the Palestinian community to make that happen and to achieve a meaningful peace process. But one thing is very clear: Given the unprecedented humanitarian disaster that is occurring in Gaza right now, the United States must end its complicity.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:44 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 6, 2024:

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

CATHY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RONALD T. KEOHANE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MOSHE Z. MARVIT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2028.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLLAND TOWNSHIP

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Holland Township on its 150th Anniversary.

Bordered by the Delaware and Musconetcong Rivers, Holland Township exemplifies both natural beauty and a deep cultural history. It was officially founded in 1874 and has since grown into a vibrant center of agriculture, commerce, and recreation. Holland Township residents are protected by a dedicated police force that epitomizes resilience and selflessness, and its strong education system is helping prepare New Jersey's next generation to address the issues that continue impacting our communities.

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to all of Holland Township's residents on this special occasion. I am proud to have such an exemplary town in the 7th District, and I have no doubt that it will continue to prosper over the next 150 years and beyond.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT JADEN FACTOR OF OZARK, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jaden Factor of Ozark, Missouri, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Jaden is a junior at Ozark High School and a member of Troop 201 of the Ozark Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America where he has held numerous leadership positions ranging from den chief and historian to outdoor ethics guide and senior patrol leader, the highest youth position in a scout troop.

Jaden also is a master sergeant in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Ozark High. His Eagle Scout project combined his love of scouting with his military training. Jaden raised \$2,500 to refurbish a Conex storage container that was in poor condition, which was used to house the Ozark JROTC Raiders team gear. He hired a trucking company to transport the container from the junior high school to a sandblasting company which stripped and painted it, and it was then moved to a new home at the high school. Jaden and a team of fellow scouts prepped the site for the container at the school, touched up paint when it was returned and restored a retaining wall adjacent to the container.

Scouting has been teaching valuable lessons in leadership since it was established in February 1910, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is an important accomplishment. This young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

RECOGNIZING MR. GABE GUTIERREZ, OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE 52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gabe Gutierrez, an outstanding citizen who serves the blood donor community, both as a donor and a Board member of the San Diego Blood Bank.

More specifically, Mr. Gutierrez has donated more than 19 gallons of blood, and he continues to donate. He dedicates his time leading the San Diego Blood Bank's Community Advisory Committee, which aims to recruit and engage diverse donors throughout the region.

Mr. Gutierrez upholds a diverse professional background, including his service as a policy advisor and community liaison for former members of the San Diego Board of Supervisors, and his work for a local Fortune 500 company. Currently, Mr. Gutierrez is working within the Office of Strategy and Innovation at the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

Mr. Gutierrez possesses an array of knowledge and experience, spanning over fifteen years on various boards and commissions, including as former Chairman of the Chula Vista Planning Commission, and as former Chairman of transportation, land use and housing think tank, Circulate San Diego.

Mr. Gutierrez graduated from San Diego State University with a Master of Public Administration, and graduated from the National Urban Fellows, America's Leaders of Change program, through the University of Kansas. Through leveraging his experience as well as his relationships, Mr. Gutierrez has fostered positive change in the San Diego region.

Gabe lives in Chula Vista with his wife, Janice, and their two daughters, Mila and Ayla. He enjoys the natural beauty of San Diego, spending his spare time visiting the parks within the region.

Gabe Gutierrez was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in January 2024, when National Blood Donor Month is celebrated. He is commended for his dedication and tremendous commitment to our local community and the larger San Diego region.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA MAE WILSON ROBERTSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, I had the honor and the esteemed privilege of addressing this body in honor of Anna Mae Wilson Robertson's 90th birthday. Today, it is with great pleasure and reverence that we gather once more to commemorate the extraordinary life of Anna Mae Wilson Robertson as she celebrates her centennial birthday. Anna Mae Wilson Robertson is a cherished mother, devoted volunteer, and esteemed veteran. Mrs. Robertson, a cherished figure in the community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, marks a century of life on March 8, 2024.

Anna Mae Wilson Robertson embarked on a Journey of resilience and service, exemplified by her marriage to John Robertson, a partnership that spanned 33 years and blessed them with eight children. Throughout her career, she made meaningful contributions as an employee of Marquette University and St. Camillus Health Center, leaving a lasting impact on the hearts and lives of those she encountered.

However, Mrs. Robertson's unyielding spirit and dedication to duty truly distinguished her. In 1945, amidst the backdrop of World War II, she answered the call to serve her country, enlisting in the Army and joining the Women's Army Corps (WAC) ranks. Notably, she became a member of the illustrious 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, fondly known as the Six Triple Eight.

Comprised of 855 courageous women, the Six Triple Eight achieved remarkable feats, blazing trails as the first African American all-female battalion and the sole all-women battalion deployed overseas. Their mission was clear: to address the logistical challenges hindering mail delivery to troops stationed across Western Europe. Mrs. Robertson and the Six Triple Eight surpassed expectations and demonstrated exceptional efficiency by overcoming logistical difficulties in just three months.

Navigating treacherous waters plagued by German U Boats and facing the threat of enemy bombardment, the Six Triple Eight persevered, establishing a groundbreaking mail distribution system that became a lifeline for over 7 million military personnel and civilians. Despite adverse conditions, Mrs. Robertson and her comrades processed an astonishing 65,000 pieces of mail per shift, seven days a week.

Yet, their triumphs were muted by the harsh realities of discrimination as they confronted the barriers of "dual segregation" based on gender and race. Undeterred, they forged ahead, creating their support systems, and achieving their objectives in record time. Following their valiant service abroad, Mrs. Robertson and her fellow soldiers returned home as unsung heroes.

• 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.

On February 11, 2021, I was honored to introduce H.R. 1012, The 'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021, to recognize the service and sacrifice of Mrs. Robertson and her fellow heroes for their service. That long awaited recognition was passed in the 117th Congress and became Public Law No: 117-97 on March 14, 2022.

Today, as we reflect on Mrs. Robertson's centennial birthday, let us also honor the legacy of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion—a legacy of bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication to duty. Let us pledge to uplift and celebrate the untold stories of individuals like Mrs. Robertson, whose contributions have long been overshadowed by the passage of time.

Mr. Speaker, on this auspicious occasion, let us pin in celebrating Anna Mae Wilson Robertson's 100th birthday and expressing our profound gratitude for her exemplary service to our nation and her enduring impact on the community of Milwaukee. May her remarkable life continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING JOHN D. MCCARTHY, JR., THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2024 MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize John D. McCarthy Jr., a resident of Shavertown, PA, whose entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to selfless service and passion for philanthropy personify the soul of our community. These qualities have earned him the distinguished honor of being recognized as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2024 Man of the Year.

As the member of the House representing Shavertown, in Luzerne County, I am grateful to have this opportunity to recognize John D. McCarthy, Jr.'s lifelong devotion to serving the NEPA region. A third-generation family business owner at McCarthy Tire Service, John continues his family's multigenerational commitment to ensuring the economic success of our local economy.

Founded in 1926 by John's grandfather Joseph, the first McCarthy Tire Service store was opened on Main Street in Wilkes-Barre in 1930. John's father, John "Jack" D. McCarthy, Sr., a former Man of the Year honoree, began working in the family business at age 12 as an oil bottle cleaner, and he rose through the ranks to become president in 1957. In 1962, Jack moved McCarthy Tire to its current site at 340 Kidder Street, added services for his customers and increased the workforce.

From a young age, John understood the value of teamwork and a fair deal as he, much like his father, worked in the family business in multiple roles from gas attendant to scrap tire removal. John believes that each role has made him a better leader. Since 1997, John has served as the President of McCarthy Tire Service and has overseen considerable growth of the company without altering his core values of hard work, honesty, and handshake deals.

Under John's leadership, McCarthy Tire Service has become the fifth-largest inde-

pendent commercial tire dealer in the U.S. with over 75 locations and 1,500 teammates in eight states. In under three decades, John has added over 1,200 employees to the ever-growing company and plans to add more in the future—helping to ensure the economic success of NEPA while providing good-paying jobs and benefits for our residents.

John also knows the value of being an integral part of our community. He currently serves on the Board of Highmark Inc., AllOne Health Resources, AllOne Charities and AllOne Foundation. He has also served on past boards, including the Ecumenical Enterprises, Earth Conservancy, Villanova Business School, and Landmark Bank, along with serving on numerous tire industry councils.

In addition to these important roles, John continues to promote philanthropy throughout the communities in which McCarthy Tire Service operates, as his company has generously given to over 100 charities. John has continually expressed his intent on keeping McCarthy Tire Service headquartered in Wilkes-Barre and remains dedicated to giving back to the community that helped his grandfather start McCarthy Tire Service.

I congratulate John D. McCarthy, Jr. on being honored as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2024 Man of the Year. John's entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to selfless service and passion for philanthropy distinguish him. His character represents the very best of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, and I am proud to be his Representative in Washington.

HONORING MARK HINDMAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the professional achievements and service of Mr. Mark Hindman, City Manager for the City of North Richland Hills, Texas. Mr. Hindman is retiring following forty years of exemplary service to the public.

Upon graduation from Geneva College in Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Sociology, Hindman began his public service in 1983, working for U.S. Senate Finance Committee in Washington, D.C. Following two years on Capitol Hill, he completed management internships at the City of Olathe, Kansas and the City of University Park, Texas. Along the way, he earned his Masters of Public Administration from the University of Kansas. In 1987, he was hired by the City of Lubbock, TX as a Budget Analyst, and over the next eight years, he advanced through the ranks to be named Director of Finance/Support Services. The City of Mesquite, Texas hired him as Assistant City Manager in 1995, and for the next fourteen years, he provided oversight for multiple municipal departments. Mr. Hindman was named City Manager of North Richland Hills, Texas in 2009.

Under Mr. Hindman's capable direction, the quality of life for North Richland Hills has been enhanced through implementation of numerous community improvements, including expansion of the city's park and trail system, construction of the NRH Centre, Grand Hall, Senior Center, Animal Shelter, and a new City

Hall. He's made a priority of excellent public service and fiscal responsibility, and under his sound financial leadership, the City has seen a reduction in its tax rate to the lowest since 2016.

In the fourteen years that Hindman has helmed the City of North Richland Hills, he has spearheaded efforts to revitalize older, owner-occupied residential properties and the reuse of vacant commercial properties. He guided new development and redevelopment in North Richland Hills to ensure a vibrant economy and an attractive place for its citizens to call home.

Mark Hindman has been an outstanding public servant to the residents and businesses of North Richland Hills. His professional leadership will be missed throughout his community and all of North Texas. On behalf of the 26th District, I wish him all the best in his next stage of life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, March 5. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 60 and YEA on Roll Call No. 61.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes because of an unavoidable conflict in Houston. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 61 and YEA on Roll Call No. 60.

RECOGNIZING HURON VALLEY PACE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Huron Valley PACE on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of their founding. Their contributions over the past ten years to improving the lives of the elderly in Washtenaw County are worthy of commendation.

Huron Valley PACE was founded in 2014 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to provide medical and supportive services for the elderly in the greater Washtenaw County area. Their all-inclusive care, which is covered by Medicare and Medicaid, provides coverage for primary and specialty care, prescription drugs, medical transportation, hospital visits, dental care, medical equipment, home care, and physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Their extensive range of services have notably helped support hundreds of low-income adults with housing,

living, and medical expenses, and their dedication to serving their community is admirable.

Over the past decade, Huron Valley PACE has been a proactive member of the local community, setting up events such as Super Bowl watch parties, heart disease awareness drives, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day community service projects in partnership with other local organizations. In addition to caring for the elderly in Washtenaw County, Huron Valley PACE also works to instill a commitment to public service in local high school and university students by offering hands-on volunteer opportunities for students. Volunteers distribute hot meals to underserved communities, lead food drives, and raise awareness about senior care.

Part of Huron Valley PACE's proactive approach to providing exceptional care for the elderly includes advocating for expanding comprehensive senior care services like the PACE Expanded Act. At the state level, Huron Valley PACE works with the Michigan State Legislature to reduce the cost of medical care and to find innovative ways to help elderly people remain living in their homes. This advocacy is yet another example of how Huron Valley PACE continues to demonstrate their commitment to providing and advocating for quality and affordable elderly care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the founding of Huron Valley PACE on their 10th anniversary. They have had a tremendous impact on the Washtenaw County area and continue to find exciting ways to continue improving their services to their community, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish over the next decade.

HONORING DENNIS JOHN BENIGNO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inspiring life of Dennis John Benigno. A resident of the City of Clifton, Dennis John was debilitated by a traumatic brain injury when he was fifteen years old. The injury that befell Dennis John would have crushed weaker spirits. But instead of shrinking, Dennis John and his family used it to change the world.

Back in 1984 when Dennis John suffered his injury, few people anywhere knew about Traumatic Brain Injury. Information was sparse, even among doctors. The knowledge gap was enormous. Dennis John helped change all of that. The Benigno family drive was tireless, the founding of the Coalition for Brain Injury Research a watershed.

I first met Dennis John when I was running for Congress in 1996. His story inspired me to learn more about the issue and advocate for people with brain injuries. It is thanks to Dennis John's inspiration that I founded, alongside my friend Former Representative Jim Greenwood (R-PA), the bipartisan Congressional Brain Injury Task Force in 2001. At first, you could fit our caucus members into a phone book. Now, there are dozens of members on our task force.

For 23 years, the task force has brought together thousands of families, advocates, and

doctors. We have enacted laws, created policies, won hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, made important connections and told countless stories. These are people who would have never met and laws that would have never passed had it not been for Dennis John Benigno. Other accident victims, military servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, those participating in youth sports, and millions of people across the spectrum helped because the Congress was aware and ready to support our TBI victims.

Regrettably, Dennis John passed away on January 24, 2024. It is true that we have yet to find the TBI cure we have prayed for, and I have deep regret for that. But when people cynically say no one person can make any difference in our world, they are wrong. They did not know Dennis John Benigno. So, while we mourn a life lost, we celebrate something even bigger a life that lifted up so many others by sheer power and love.

Today, we are hosting Brain Injury Day on Capitol Hill. Hundreds of brain injury victims, advocates, and caregivers from across the nation have come to Washington to educate Congress on the steps we can take to fund and support care for brain injury victims as we fight for a cure. This year's Brain Injury Day is in honor of Dennis John Benigno's life. I do not know if I would be here fighting for this worthy cause if not for Dennis John's inspiration.

The House sends its condolences to Dennis John's parents, Dennis and Rosalind Benigno, his sister Kim Lyons, her husband William, as well as his aunts, uncles, nephews, and cousins. May God bless Dennis John Benigno. God bless his entire family. And God bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND "RAY" L. CORDOVA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues, Representatives LEVIN, SANCHEZ, and NAPOLITANO, and rise today to honor the life of Raymond "Ray" L. Cordova, a renowned labor leader who leaves behind a legacy of service.

Ray cut his teeth as an organizer in the early 1960s as part of the Freedom Summer Movement in Mississippi for almost two years. A proud veteran of the U.S. Army Airborne, his service to his country continued after the Vietnam War when he returned home to build up his community. He was always a dapper dresser and treated everyone with respect. In a short time, Ray began making his name known as one of the most effective and impactful labor leaders in Orange County.

No matter what or who you believed in—if you were a Republican, Democrat, or something in between—Ray was a champion of all people. When working men and women across America had no seat at the table, Ray fought tirelessly to make room through his leadership in the Communications Workers of America Union and as a labor organizer in Orange County.

Ray's influence and impact extends beyond his labor work. He educated and prepared the next generation of the labor movement, and

helped redefine politics in Southern California. It is because of his mentorship that so many of the leaders of today are prepared to make the changes they envision, in California and beyond.

Not only was he a deeply loved member of our community, but my colleagues and I are lucky that Ray was also a dear friend. I have personally had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him over the last 25 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me and Representatives LEVIN, SANCHEZ, and NAPOLITANO in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Raymond "Ray" L. Cordova. I thank Ray for setting an example of leadership and service that we all may aspire to and learn from.

RECOGNIZING MS. ADEL SCHNEIDER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a young Wisconsinite I have had the pleasure of meeting with throughout my time in Congress, Ms. Adel Schneider.

At nine months old, Adel was diagnosed with a severe dairy allergy. This diagnosis transformed the Schneider family's daily life. Oftentimes, Adel had to be careful with cake at birthday celebrations or at holiday events, where a main focus is food. While this could have been isolating, Adel was inspired by her allergy; she began raising awareness in her hometown of Appleton.

Adel and her mother, Kara, are seen on local television, sporting events and at schools in Northeast Wisconsin, fundraising and informing others about food allergies. Adel has been successful in her fundraising efforts, raising over \$50,000 for FARE, a non-profit that promotes food allergy awareness and research. In 2018, Adel was the recipient of the FARE Teen Achievement Award following her involvement in the annual Milwaukee Food Allergy Heroes Walk. In 2020, the Schneider family donated allergy-friendly food to Paul's Pantry in Green Bay after receiving a grant from FARE. She has partnered with Appleton's Minor League Baseball team, the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, to share information with the community on food allergies. She is a Red Sneakers for Oakley Ambassador, where she creates social media content centered on food allergy awareness. Most recently, Adel ran her annual Teal Halloween Skate, which is a community Halloween event that provides allergy-safe treats.

As Adel became more vocal in the community, her advocacy spread to Congress. I first met Adel in 2020 to discuss the FASTER Act, which requires food companies to include sesame as an allergen on their labels. After successfully passing this legislation, I have continued to meet with Adel to discuss future legislation on food allergies. Most recently, Adel and I discussed the ADINA Act, a bill I introduced in 2023. This legislation would require pharmaceutical companies to be more transparent about their allergy risks on drug labels. I always look forward to meeting with Adel and hearing about her community events in Northeast Wisconsin. I value her perspective and commend the work she is doing on food-allergy awareness.

Adel has inspired many, including myself, with her advocacy for individuals with food allergies. I take comfort in knowing there are young citizens stepping up in their communities. Adel has a long list of accomplishments, and I look forward to watching her accomplish even more.

**HONORING NICHOLAS NESSLAGE,
EAGLE SCOUT**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Charles Nesslerage. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Nicholas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nicholas created a gravel water runoff area at his local park in Weatherby Lake to combat flooding.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Charles Nesslerage for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABILITIES OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abilities of Northwest Jersey on their 50th Anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, a group of 14 grassroot advocates, including parents and members of the New Jersey community, came together to incorporate Abilities of Northwest Jersey as an organization fulfilling the vocational needs of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Starting as a small workshop serving 13 individuals in Washington, NJ and partnering with local companies, this group of advocates had a mission to improve the employability and quality of life for people with disabilities, leading to their sense of self-worth and independence. Thanks to their efforts, Abilities was legally incorporated in 1974.

Since that time, Abilities have grown exponentially, serving individuals of all levels of abilities, through the expansion of various programs and services. Abilities now serves over 375 individuals and their families throughout the northwest region of the state. They are not only the disability employment experts for this region, but the professional staff also support those who are significantly challenged with medical or behavioral needs. Their services

are both exemplary and accredited by CARE International. They have also opened a variety of Social Enterprises that offer vocational training opportunities as well as a valued service to our community—PrintAbilities, SustainAbilities Electronics Recycling and PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques.

I am so proud of their accomplishments, the positive impact they have made on thousands of lives, and the exciting future that lies ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2024, I was absent during the time of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 60, H.R. 3391, Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0, and YEA on Roll Call No. 61, H.R. 3838, Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF
CAPTAIN KEVIN MITCHELL**

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Captain Kevin Mitchell of the Kingsport Fire Department in Kingsport, Tennessee, who is retiring after more than 26 years of dedicated service to our community.

Captain Mitchell began his Journey with the Kingsport Fire Department on September 2, 1997. Over the span of his illustrious career, he has not only served as a firefighter, but also advanced to become a paramedic serving in this capacity for over two decades. His dedication to continued education extended far beyond his immediate duties as a respected instructor in both fire service and medical fields, where he taught crucial lifesaving techniques such as CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and more.

Beginning his career as a firefighter, Captain Mitchell was soon promoted to the position of engineer, where he was responsible for driving and operating complex firefighting vehicles. He continued to rise through the ranks in recognition of his exceptional service, culminating in his promotion to Captain, a role he held until his retirement. His commitment to safety and excellence led him to join the Kingsport Fire Department Technical Rescue Team, where he specialized in Search & Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Confined Space, High & Low Angle Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Structural Collapse. His leadership and expertise in these areas earned him the role of Technical Rescue Team Leader.

In addition to his remarkable service at the Kingsport Fire Department, Captain Mitchell also dedicated eight years as a member of the State of Tennessee Emergency Service Board in Nashville, where he played a pivotal role in regulating EMS activities across the state.

His service to the community extended well beyond his professional obligations to include

his participation with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program of East Tennessee, H.O.P.E. (Help Our Potential Evolve), the Kingsport Life Saving Crew, and the Kingsport Firefighters Association Local 2270. His advocacy efforts also saw him participate in state legislation, lobbying for the rights and welfare of firefighters across Tennessee, advocating on critical issues like PTSD and cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Kevin Mitchell for his outstanding service to the Kingsport Fire Department and the citizens of Kingsport, Tennessee. His retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional service and leadership, and his legacy will continue to inspire current and future generations of public servants. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

**HONORING EAGLE SCOUT JACKSON
CHOI OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackson Choi of Springfield, Missouri, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program. Since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Jackson is a junior at Kickapoo High School in Springfield, and he has been in scouting since he joined as a Cub Scout in 2013. He is a member of Troop No. 289, where he has held several leadership positions. He also has attended three of the four high adventure camps earning him the Triple Crown Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

To earn the Eagle Scout designation, each individual must complete a project. Jackson's project was to update the bamboo fencing at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at the Nathaniel Green/Close Memorial Park in Springfield. The garden was established by Springfield's Japanese sister city in 1985. The original bamboo fencing had fallen into disrepair, so Jackson studied the process and replaced 100-feet of fencing in the traditional Japanese way.

This accomplished young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

**CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OF DR. GUBAD
IBADOGLU**

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Government of Azerbaijan to immediately release Dr. Gubad Ibadoglu, a courageous pro-democracy activist, brilliant economist, and beloved husband and father, who has been unjustly detained for over seven months.

On July 23, 2023, Dr. Ibadoghlu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were forced out of their car near Baku, Azerbaijan, seized by masked individuals, detained, and beaten. Dr. Ibadoghlu had returned to Azerbaijan earlier in July from a visiting fellowship at the London School of Economics to care for his ailing mother. Though Ms. Bayramova was released hours later, Dr. Ibadoghlu was not released. Ms. Bayramova and her family have been denied communication with her husband and she continues to experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from this harrowing ordeal. The “charges” that President Ilham Aliyev’s government has used to justify Dr. Ibadoghlu’s detention and imprisonment without trial—that he organized the production of counterfeit money to support a political group and, as an avowed secularist, disseminates material that supports religious extremism—are so dubious and baseless that they would qualify as satire in another context.

Dr. Ibadoghlu’s true “crime” against the Aliyev regime is his devotion to the causes of democracy, freedom and anti-corruption in Azerbaijan. He is detained today because he bravely chose to return to Azerbaijan to care for his mother despite fleeing the country in 2017 to teach abroad after his civic activism prompted threats of retaliation. As an internationally acclaimed economist, he has also served as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Rutgers University. He was a 2015 Fulbright Scholar, a 2015 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy, a 2018 Prague Civil Society Center Fellow, and a recipient of the 2018 Civil Society Scholar Award by the Open Society Fund.

During Dr. Ibadoghlu’s seven-month detention, he has been subjected to crowded and inhumane conditions common to Azerbaijan’s jails and denied sustained access to critical medication. Dr. Ibadoghlu’s family is increasingly concerned that he has been denied the medication and medical treatment that he desperately needs to treat his chronic health conditions. He has additionally been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and has not received a fair trial while in custody. I join my fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Baku, U.S. academic institutions and organizations, the European Parliament, and others in the international community to express my deep concerns about Dr. Ibadoghlu’s health and demand his immediate release.

I commend Emin Bayramli, one of Dr. Ibadoghlu’s sons who lives in my district, and his entire family for their steadfastness in seeking their father’s freedom from his unjust imprisonment. I also commend my colleague Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for adopting Dr. Ibadoghlu through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s Defending Freedoms Project.

Dr. Ibadoghlu is one of far too many Azerbaijanis that the Aliyev regime has unjustly detained to suppress freedom and civil rights. The Government of Azerbaijan’s poor record of respecting human rights, civil rights and civil liberties is a moral stain that affects free people everywhere. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Baku, Hong Kong or Beijing, Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine their own destiny. Dr.

Ibadoghlu’s unjust imprisonment must end immediately.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOE MADISON, “THE BLACK EAGLE”

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the other week, we lost a great American, renowned civil rights activist, and legendary radio host: Joe Madison. He passed away on January 31 at age 74. Some knew Joe as “the Judge” who would hear out his callers and guests even if they had different views but cut them off if they tried to spread misinformation. Others knew him as “the Black Eagle”—his longtime radio nickname. I had the pleasure of knowing him as a friend and as a crucial member of the local community. Regardless of how we knew Joe, however, we all recognized him for who he was: a man of supreme integrity, character, and intellect.

The airwaves defined Joe’s life, and Joe’s life defined the airwaves. From the start of his radio career as a DJ for the campus station at Washington University in St. Louis to its end on SiriusXM’s Urban View with a daily listenership in the tens of millions, Joe captivated his listeners. They knew they could trust Joe. He made a point never to violate that trust.

Joe understood both the nuances of radio as a medium and its power to change minds and change the country. Before his radio career took off, Joe was a leading figure in the Detroit chapter of the NAACP. He was only 24 when he became executive director of the Detroit branch of the organization—the youngest person in history to hold the position. Never losing sight of his roots in advocacy, Joe used his platform on the radio to highlight the most pressing challenges of the day, especially those facing the Black community. His perspective was invaluable in an era when conservative talk radio dominated the airwaves.

Throughout his life, Joe proved to be a powerful force for change both on and off the air, always asking his famous question, “What are you going to do about it?” He posed that question not only to others but to himself. In 2001, he was arrested for protesting human rights abuses in Sudan. Breaking records with a 52-hour long broadcast in 2015, Joe raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He went on a 73-day hunger strike in 2021 to protest Republicans’ legislative blockade of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

I saw his passionate advocacy firsthand when we worked together on the historic Emmett Till Antilynching Act. Joe and I, along with many others, were frustrated that America still lacked a law that made lynching a federal crime more than a century after the idea was first proposed. During the 116th Congress, we worked with Rep. Bobby Rush and then-Representative Karen Bass to rectify that failure. After Republicans blocked the bill’s passage in 2020, we renewed our push in the 117th Congress. At long last, President Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law on March

29, 2022. It wouldn’t have been possible without Joe Madison. Joe’s work on the bill and on a variety of other causes over the years drew the admiration of millions. Listeners were excited to tune in every day and guests were eager to come on Joe’s show because they knew the commentary and conversation would be just as meaningful as his principled advocacy.

Whether discussing the opportunities that the new FBI consolidated headquarters will create for Greenbelt, Democrats’ efforts to address inflation, or my longstanding work to protect voting rights, I had the pleasure of coming on Joe’s show many times over the years to talk about critical issues in Maryland’s Fifth District and beyond. Many other leaders sought out these meaningful conversations with Joe, from former President Barack Obama to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. He inspired each of his guests—and each of his listeners—to reflect more deeply on their principles, their politics, and their perspectives.

Mr. Speaker, Joe’s voice was defined not by its earthy baritone but by its moral clarity and commitment to truth. Like so many others across the country and around the world, I will miss hearing it crackle through the radio in the morning. Joe may be gone, but the question he posed to his listeners remains: “What are you going to do about it?” Although he can no longer ask us that question, we can still answer.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my prayers to Joe’s incredible wife of 47 years, Sherry; his three daughters, Monesha Madison Lever, Shawna Collins and Michelle Borleske; his son, Jason Madison; his four half-siblings; his five grandchildren; and his great-granddaughter. I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing them strength and in mourning Joe Madison—a titan of the airwaves. May God bless and keep Joe Madison.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT FRANKLIN LUCORE OF MONETT, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Franklin Lucore of Monett, Missouri, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout just prior to his 15th birthday. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Franklin is a freshman in the International Baccalaureate Program at Central High School in Springfield and a member of BSA Troop 38 in Monett. He began his scouting career as a Cub Scout at the age of seven and since then has held numerous leadership positions with the troop, while also maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in school. He is a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s National Honor Society, and a member of the Tribe of the Lone Bear, an honors program of the Ozark Trails Council’s Camp Arrowhead. He also has earned 36 merit badges, camped out more than 50 nights, hiked more than 100 miles and performed more than 36 hours of community service.

His Eagle Scout project provided improvements and outdoor furnishing to South Park, a 65-acre park owned by the city of Monett that caters especially to children and adults with disabilities.

Scouting has been teaching valuable lessons in leadership since it was established in February 1910, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is an important accomplishment. This young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 11

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine worldwide threats.
SH-216

4:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy.
SH-216

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs.
SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.
SD-366

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine growing U.S. manufacturing through the tax code.
SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine voting rights in America.
SD-G50

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025.
SD-608

2 p.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
To hold hearings to examine youth apprenticeships, focusing on building partnerships and strengthening career pathways.
SD-430

2:30 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the fiscal situation of the United States.
CHOB-210

3 p.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine administration of upcoming elections.
SR-301

MARCH 13

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA.
390-CHOB

MARCH 14

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services.
SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine responding to the increasing wildfire threat.
SD-342

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. strategy in the Pacific Island region.
SD-419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2219–S2248

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3875–3889, S.J. Res. 63, and S. Res. 574–579. **Pages S2238–39**

Measures Reported:

S. 1274, to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. **Page S2238**

Measures Passed:

Airport and Airway Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 7454, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. **Pages S2245–46**

Providing for a Joint Session of Congress: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 93, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President. **Page S2246**

Burnsville, Minnesota, Law Enforcement and First Responders: Senate agreed to S. Res. 577, recognizing and honoring Burnsville, Minnesota, law enforcement and first responders for their heroic actions. **Page S2243**

Congratulating the Kansas City Chiefs: Senate agreed to S. Res. 578, congratulating the Kansas City Chiefs on their victory in Super Bowl LVIII in the successful 104th season of the National Football League. **Pages S2243–44**

Authorize Testimony and Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 579, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Kenyon*. **Page S2244**

House Messages:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs,

and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Pages S2233–36**

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 1618 (to the House Amendment to the Senate amendment), to add an effective date. **Page S2234**

Schumer Amendment No. 1619 (to Amendment No. 1618), to add an effective date. **Page S2234**

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1620, to add an effective date. **Page S2234**

Schumer Amendment No. 1621 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 1620), to add an effective date. **Page S2234**

Schumer Amendment No. 1622 (to Amendment No. 1621), to add an effective date. **Page S2234**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. **Pages S2233–36**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session to consider the message of the House on the bill. **Page S2233**

Appointments:

Senate National Security Working Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appointed the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress: Senators Cornyn (Administrative Co-Chair), Fischer (Co-Chair), Lankford (Co-

Chair), Rubio, Graham, Wicker, Risch, Romney, and Ricketts. **Page S2246**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m., on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Page S2246

Noti Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 7, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination ripen at 11:45 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, and notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate execute the order of February 29, 2024, with respect to S. 3853, to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and that Senate vote on passage of the bill at 2:15 p.m.; and that upon disposition of S. 3853, all time on the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti be considered expired.

Page S2246

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 69 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 69), Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Pages S2219–22

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 71), Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

Pages S2223–25

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 70), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S2222

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 73), Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Pages S2225–33

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 72), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S2225

Messages from the House:

Page S2237

Measures Referred: **Page S2237**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2237**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2237–38**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2238**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2239–40**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2240–44**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2236–37**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2244–45**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2245**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—73) **Pages S2220, S2225, S2233**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:44 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2246 and S2248.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1274, to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PRIMARY CARE

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how primary care improves health care efficiency, after receiving testimony from Christopher F. Koller, Milbank Memorial Fund, New York, New York; Amol S. Navathe, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and The Wharton School, Philadelphia; Bob Rauner, Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska, Lincoln, on behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians; Lisa M. Grabert, Marquette University College of Nursing, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Christina Taylor, Clover Health, Des Moines, Iowa.

NTSB INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the National Transportation Safety Board Investigations Report, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Homendy, Chair, National Transportation Safety Board.

CONSUMER PACKAGING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine extended producer responsibility policies for consumer packaging, after receiving testimony from Erin Simon, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C.; H. Fisk Johnson, S. C. Johnson and Son, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin; and Dan Felton, AMERIPEN, Springfield, Massachusetts.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Corey Anne Tellez, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine global food security, after receiving testimony from Dina Esposito, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security, United States Agency for International Development; and Cary Fowler, Special Envoy for Global Food Security, Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3664, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3558, to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1524, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 3139, to ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, Dena M. Coggins, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, and Eric C. Schulte, and Camela C. Theeler, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, who were both introduced by Senators Thune and Rounds, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 7559–7575; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 116–117; H. Con. Res. 94; and H. Res. 1060–1064, were introduced. **Pages H998–99**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1000–01**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6317, to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to submit a report describing a process for seeking public comment about proposed changes to mandatory design standards for public buildings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–409);

H.R. 6260, to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–410);

H.R. 6261, to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–411, Part 1); and

H.R. 6264, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the maximum stipend amounts provided under Upward Bound projects (H. Rept. 118–412). **Page H998**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Ezell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H827**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H833**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:51 p.m. and reconvened at 3:31 p.m. **Page H969**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024: H. Res. 1061, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4366, with an amendment, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 339 yeas to 85 nays, Roll No. 64. **Pages H842–H969**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, March 5th.

Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act: H.R. 3821, to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 413 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 65. **Pages H971–72**

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4366: The House agreed H. Con. Res. 94, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4366. **Page H972**

Expanding Access to Capital Act: The House considered H.R. 2799, to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 7th. **Pages H834–42, H969–70**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–407, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H972–88**

Proceedings Postponed:

Lawler amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that seeks to clarify the definition of “general solicitation” and “angel investor” for purposes of the federal securities laws to ensure that startups can discuss their products and business plans at certain events, known as “demo days”; **Pages H981–82**

Huizenga amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that seeks to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules with respect to the electronic delivery of certain required disclosures to investors; **Pages H982–84**

Lucas amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that seeks to amend Federal securities laws to allow 403(b) plans to invest in collective investment trusts (CITs) and insurance contracts that currently may be invested in by comparable retirement plans, such as 401(k)s; **Pages H984–86**

Wagner amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that seeks to allow a closed-end investment company, an entity that invests in securi-

ties using money raised in its initial public offering, to invest its assets in securities issued by private funds; and **Pages H986–87**

Sherman amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that seeks to allow an individual to invest not more than 5 percent of the net worth of the individual excluding the individual's primary residence in any one private offering. **Pages H987–88**

H. Res. 1052, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2799) and (H.R. 7511) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 214 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 63, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 215 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 62. **Pages H969–70**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H970, H970–71, H971, and H972.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY FROM THE HONORABLE ROSTIN BEHNAME, CHAIRMAN, COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from The Honorable Rostin Behnam, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission”. Testimony was heard from Rostin Behnam, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ARMY AVIATION REBALANCING AND THE PATH AHEAD

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “Army Aviation Rebalancing and the Path Ahead”. Testimony was heard from Douglas R. Bush, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, Department of the Army; General James E. Rainey, Commanding General, U.S. Army Futures Command; Major General Michael McCurry, Commanding General, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel; and Brigadier General David Phillips, Program Executive Officer, Program Executive Office Aviation.

PROVEN RESULTS: HIGHLIGHTING THE BENEFITS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Proven Results:

Highlighting the Benefits of Charter Schools for Students and Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a markup on legislation on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes washers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes. Legislation on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act was ordered reported, as amended. Legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes dryers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and legislation to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for clothes washers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes were forwarded to the full committee without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials

held a markup on legislation on the Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024. Legislation on the Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S SEMI-ANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Federal Reserve’s Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report”. Testimony was heard from Jerome H. Powell, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS—CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “A Voice for the Voiceless—CSAM Identification”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7343, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act”; and H.R. 7334, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Commit Robbery Act”. H.R. 7334 and H.R. 7343 were ordered reported, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 7408, the “America’s Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman; Matthew Strickler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Austin Booth, Director, Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 6482, the “Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act”; H.R. 7370, the “Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act”; H.R. 7375, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes; H.R. 7377, the “Royalty Resiliency Act”; H.R. 7409, the “Harnessing Energy at Thermal Sources Act”; and H.R. 7422, the “Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ocasio-Cortez, Hageman, Fulcher, Hunt, and Curtis; Benjamin E. Grubery, Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and

Realty, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

ADVANCING TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION: EXAMINING BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS' 638 CONTRACTING

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “Advancing Tribal Self-Determination: Examining Bureau of Indian Affairs’ 638 Contracting”. Testimony was heard from Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE WHITE HOUSE’S ROLE IN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing entitled “Examining the White House’s Role in Pandemic Preparedness and Response”. Testimony was heard from Major General Paul Friedrichs, M.D. (Retired), Director, Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy.

WINNING IN WEATHER: U.S. COMPETITIVENESS IN FORECASTING AND MODELING

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Winning in Weather: U.S. Competitiveness in Forecasting and Modeling”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REDUCING MISMANAGEMENT: GAO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SBA

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reducing Mismanagement: GAO Recommendations for Improving the SBA”. Testimony was heard from Courtney LaFountain, Acting Director, Financial Markets and Community Investments, Government Accountability Office; and Johana Ayers, Managing Director, Forensic Audits, and Investigative Services, Government Accountability Office.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REVIEW AND EFFORTS TO EASE COAST GUARD MANPOWER SHORTAGES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Implementation of the Recommendations of the Accountability and Transparency Review and Efforts to Ease Coast Guard Manpower Shortages”. Testimony was heard

from Heather MacLeod, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; and Vice Admiral Paul F. Thomas, Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, U.S. Coast Guard.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7513, the “Protecting America’s Seniors’ Access to Care Act”; H.R. 5074, the “Kidney PATIENT Act of 2023”; H.R. 7512, the “Real-Time Benefit Tool Implementation Act”; and the Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget. H.R. 7513, H.R. 5074, and H.R. 7512 were ordered reported, as amended. The Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget was adopted, as amended.

Joint Meetings

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and multiple veterans service organizations, including PVA, WWP, NASDVA, MRC, BSF, IAVA, BVA, SWAN, SVA, and AMVETS, after receiving testimony from Duane Sarmiento, Ryan Gallucci, Patrick Murray, Michael Figlioli, and Stanley Borusiewicz, all of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Robert Thomas, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Lieutenant General Michael S. Linnington (Ret.), Wounded Warrior Project; Dennis Wimer, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Jim Whaley, Mission Roll Call; Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families; Allison Jaslow, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Paul L. Mimms, Blinded Veterans Association; Lorry M. Fenner, Service Women’s Action Network; Jared Lyon, Student Veterans of America; and Bill Clark, AMVETS.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Ron

Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 9:40 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador, Robert William Forden, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and B. Bix Aliu, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, all of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on supporting efforts to meet the needs of seniors, 11 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and the nominations of Amir H. Ali, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Melissa R. DuBose, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Sunil R. Harjani, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Robert J. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Almo J. Carter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission, and Joshua S. Levy, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Rebecca C. Lutzko, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico, and Roy W. Minter, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Department of Defense Monitoring of COVID-19", 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled "Divisive, Excessive, Ineffective: The Real Impact of DEI on College Campuses", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Legislation to Protect Americans from the National Security Threats Posed by Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications", 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn. Part of this hearing is closed.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7521, the "Prohibition of Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act"; and H.R. 7520, the "Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled "Politicized Financial Regulation and its Impact on Consumer Credit and Community Development", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on legislation on recommending that the House of Representatives find Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled "The Agents of Antisemitism in Latin America", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, markup on H.R. 7443, to authorize a dedicated transnational repression office within the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations to analyze and monitor transnational repression and related terrorism threats and require Homeland Security Investigations to take actions to prevent transnational repression; H.R. 7433, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a transnational repression hotline and conduct a transnational repression public service announcement campaign, and for other purposes; H.R. 7439, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of State and local law enforcement capabilities to combat transnational repression and related terrorism threats, and for other purposes, 3 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled "Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, hearing entitled "Presidential Power to Secure the Border", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 1584, the "Plum Island National Monument Act"; H.R. 1647, the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act"; H.R. 3047, the "Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023"; H.R. 3173, the "Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023"; H.R. 6852, the "Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act"; and H.R. 7332, the "Utah State Parks Adjudgment Act", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Monetizing Nature and Locking up Public Land: The Implications of Biden's Strategy for Natural Capital Accounting", 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4552, to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5301, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; H.R. 7528, to amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes; H.R. 7530, to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General of the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes; H.R. 7526, to repeal the final rule adopted by the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment relating to “Adoption of California Vehicle Emission Standards”; H.R. 7523, to establish the Office of Executive Councils, and for other purposes; H.R. 7527, to direct the United States Postal Service to issue regulations requiring Postal Service employees and contractors to report to the Postal Service traffic crashes involving vehicles carrying mail that result in injury or death, and for other purposes; H.R. 7525, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations; H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building”; H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the “Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building”; H.R. 5867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Build-

ing”; H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office”; H.R. 7199, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”; H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the “John Mercer Langston Post Office Building”; H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”; H.R. 7423, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”; H.R. 7532, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to establish Federal AI system governance requirements, and for other purposes; H.R. 7533, to improve retrospective reviews of Federal regulations, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Department of Transportation Discretionary Grants: Stakeholder Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Tax, hearing entitled “OECD Pillar 1: Ensuring the Biden Administration Puts Americans First”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Growing Stakes: The Bioeconomy and American National Security”, 9 a.m., HVC-210.

Joint Meeting

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, March 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:45 a.m.

Senate will begin consideration of S. 3853, Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act, and after a period of debate, vote on passage of the bill at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of S. 3853, if cloture has been invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti.

At 8:20 p.m., Senators will gather in the Senate Chamber and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House for a joint session to receive an address from the President of the United States.

(The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the House Message to accompany H.R. 4366, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, is at 1 p.m.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 7

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 7511—Laken Riley Act.

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