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No. 61

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST 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.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF THE REVEREND DR. TOMMIE L. LEWIS AS PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH PRATT CITY

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to the extraordinary career of a faithful servant leader, the Reverend Dr. Tommie L. Lewis, as we celebrate his retirement as the senior pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City after 42 years of service.

Throughout his life, Pastor T.L. Lewis has poured into his community

as both a faith leader and a public servant. After answering the call to ministry in 1973, he led several congregations before settling at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City in 1982.

As Pastor, Dr. T.L. Lewis worked to expand Bethel's congregation and deepen its impact by establishing a new worship center in 1990, which included a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 1,800. He commissioned a family life center, which became the Bethel Community Learning Center that garnered thousands of State and Federal dollars to support community development and educational initiatives.

After a tornado destroyed these buildings in 2011, it was Pastor Lewis who rallied the community together and rebuilt a beautiful new sanctuary that was completed and consecrated on August 24, 2014.

On a personal note, I have been blessed to call Pastor Lewis a dear friend, a trusted spiritual leader, and a mentor. It is because of him that so much has changed in Pratt City and Birmingham, and we are eternally grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. T.L. Lewis on his retirement as senior pastor at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City after 42 years.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. GLENDA BASKIN GLOVER AS PRESIDENT OF TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a trailblazing leader, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, as she retires after 11 years as president of Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The first woman to ever hold this position, Dr. Glover has spent her career breaking down barriers and shattering glass ceilings. A native of Memphis, Dr. Glover has had an accomplished career both in academia and in business. She is one of two African-American women nationwide to hold the combination of Ph.D., CPA, and J.D.

As president of Tennessee State University, Dr. Glover oversaw significant growth and further solidified TSU's status as one of America's premier HBCUs. Her efforts have earned her the role of vice chair of President Biden's HBCU board of advisers.

On a personal note, I know Dr. Glover as my sorority sister and as my mentor. Among her many affiliations, she is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and has served as immediate past international president. It was my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, who mentored Dr. Glover in her ascension and was so proud of her when she became the international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the president of TSU.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, the first woman president of Tennessee State University.

I know that her retirement does not mean the end of her commitment to community service. I know it will allow her some much-needed rest and time to spend with her family and friends. We wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of the National Community Action Foundation as they celebrate 60 years of community action.

Virtually every county throughout the country has a community action agency, which is an organization charged with fighting poverty at the local level. Today, I want to recognize

□ 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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some of the incredible work these agencies do at the local level to create opportunities for people to move from poverty to financial independence.

Community action agencies administer Federal funds from the community services block grant, which continues to be the only Federal program with the explicit and overarching goal of reducing poverty regardless of its cause.

The vast majority of CSBG funds, no less than 90 percent of each State's allotment, go directly to local agencies that can use these flexible funds to tailor a unique response to poverty in their communities.

Community action agencies are highly successful at leveraging their CSBG allotments to obtain a wide array of other public and private dollars, showing the immense benefits of supporting successful public-private partnerships. These agencies often help administer a wide array of programs, including Head Start, USDA food programs, LIHEAP, Federal homelessness programs, workforce funding, and much more.

For more than 60 years, the Community Action Network has inspired a spirit of hope. It has helped millions of people each year change their lives and has improved communities all across America.

I want to highlight one of the successful agencies in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District: the Northern Tier Community Action Corporation.

Northern Tier Community Action has served a four-county region in my district since 1966, covering more than 3,000 square miles and serving thousands of individuals annually. They operate a highly successful Head Start program, providing education, health, nutrition, and social services to families with young children who otherwise may not be able to access these services in these rural communities.

Northern Tier also provides housing assistance to families facing imminent loss of their existing housing or who are currently homeless, and they help connect low-income individuals to everything from food to energy assistance.

While agencies like Northern Tier are successful at leveraging CSBG dollars, we can and must do more to make these dollars go even further. Unfortunately, the CSBG program has not been reauthorized in nearly three decades. The program, while successful, needs some modernization to allow agencies the ability to tap their full potential and better serve families and communities.

This program has a strong history of bipartisan support because of the great work it enables, which is why I continue to be a proud partner with my friend, Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI, on championing recent reauthorization efforts. Several provisions would make the program significantly stronger, including expanded eligibility and an increased authorization to make sure these funds can serve those

most in need. It is also critical that community action agencies maintain local control over planning and activities and avoid a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach.

I am also excited about the possibility of a new broadband navigator program within CSBG to respond to the broadband and digital needs of low-income families and communities.

It is time for Congress to renew our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty by reauthorizing the community services block grant program.

I am grateful for the National Community Action Foundation and the community action agencies across the country that serve those most in need every day.

DYLAN JUDE HARRELL COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with immense pride to recognize DJH Kids, a remarkable nonprofit organization in my district. This exceptional group has successfully obtained a key permit for the proposed Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center in Ilwaco.

This community center honors the life of Dylan Jude Harrell, who was 4 years old when she was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a rare and incurable brain cancer, before passing away 20 months later.

This community center will strengthen the foundations of Ilwaco by addressing the childcare crisis working families are facing and bringing together folks for recreational activities and community-led events.

Community centers like this one are key at a time when the average cost of childcare in the U.S. has risen by 220 percent in the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the folks at DJH Kids and the entire team supporting the Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center. I am excited for what the future of Ilwaco has in store.

HONORING DEPUTY DREW KENNISON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable resilience and dedication of Deputy Drew Kennison of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. With his 15-year tenure, Deputy Kennison embodies the essence of a public servant.

Just a year following an incident that led to the amputation of his left leg above the knee, Deputy Kennison made a return to patrol duty. His injury resulted from a duty-related accident where a falling tree branch trapped him in his patrol vehicle. It was the efforts of his fellow SWAT team members and emergency responders who saved his life in a moment that reflected the best of those who serve our community.

Deputy Kennison remained positive and determined to return to service

throughout his recovery. His journey is a testament to his character and passion for service.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my community in honoring his unwavering commitment to duty and wish him success as he works toward rejoining the SWAT team. Deputy Kennison embodies the best of southwest Washington and our law enforcement community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his service and the inspiration he provides to us all.

HONORING DOUGLAS "BILL" SWARTZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual in my district, Mr. Douglas "Bill" Swartz, a distinguished World War II veteran who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Bill's service journey began in the Navy, where he achieved the prestigious rank of radioman first class while stationed on the USS *Clark Mills*. While serving on the USS *Clark Mills*, the vessel was struck by a torpedo in the Mediterranean and sank.

Remarkably, Bill survived this dire situation, being rescued by a British tug, and his service journey didn't end there. Bill's service took him to the USS *Kingsbury*, and from there to Hiroshima.

Following World War II, Bill met and married his beloved Nancy in 1947, and they were happily married for 68 years. During this period, Bill was called back to the Navy to serve in the Korean war as a seaplane tender in Japan.

After his Navy career, he worked for the Federal Home Loan Bank as a loan examiner.

In recognizing Bill Swartz today, we honor not only his personal journey but also the indomitable spirit and sacrifice of countless veterans who have selflessly served our Nation. Bill's story serves as an example of courage, resilience, and dedication to the principles we all hold dear as Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT ALEC LANGEN

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Sergeant Alec Lengen, who was a graduate of Washougal High School in my district and one of the five marines killed in the February 6 helicopter crash during a training flight near San Diego.

Sergeant Lengen graduated from Washougal High School, where my son would attend high school, in 2018. He enlisted right out of high school.

Becoming a marine was a lifelong dream of his, allowing him to follow in the footsteps of his father.

He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in October 2022 and was a crew chief for the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter just like his dad. Over his career, he earned several decorations, including Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Good Conduct Medal, and many, many others.

Sergeant Lengen's story serves as a reminder of the sacrifice our military members and their families face while they serve our Nation.

To his family and loved ones both in Washougal and across the country: I will never understand how deeply you feel his loss every day, but I assure you that Sergeant Alec Langen's sacrifice and example for our country will not be forgotten.

□ 1015

IN RECOGNITION OF CAMRYN SATTLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Camryn Sattler, a standout athlete from Clinton High School.

This weekend, Camryn broke another school record in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10 minutes 20 seconds 34 microseconds, showcasing her exceptional talent and dedication.

Her coach, Tony Steen, praises her relentless work ethic and mental toughness, which have propelled her to success. However, Camryn's achievements are not hers alone. They reflect the collective effort of the entire River Queens team, who secured second place overall at the Assumption Invitational.

From sprinting to field events to relays, the Queens demonstrated their strength and versatility, inspiring us all with their potential for even greater success.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud Camryn, her teammates, and their coaches for their outstanding achievements and continue to support and celebrate the success of our young athletes.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAXON ROBERTSON

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Iowa City High School student Jaxon Robertson's recent honorable-mention win for C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam competition.

Every year, C-SPAN invites middle and high schoolers to think critically about issues that affect their communities and the Nation. This year's theme was "Looking Forward while Considering the Past."

Robertson's 6-minute documentary, "Prescribing Change: America's Healthcare Crisis," skillfully examines the impact of underinsurance and lack of health coverage, highlighting healthcare accessibility, rural healthcare challenges, prescription costs, and chronic illness rates in the United States.

Robertson's proposed solutions include prioritizing preventative care and reforming the fee-for-service model.

As a doctor, rural healthcare issues are near and dear to my heart, which is why I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this incredible achievement and wishing Jaxon Robertson future success as he continues to examine complex issues that affect Iowans.

NATIONAL GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Gold Star

Spouses Day, which was this past Friday, April 5, 2024.

In 2010, Congress designated April 5 as National Gold Star Spouses Day to pay tribute to the surviving husbands and wives of fallen servicemembers.

I recognize the Iowa family of Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Petty Officer First Class Joseph Adam McSween, who, along with his teammates, gave the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom in April of 2007 when their vehicle was struck by an enemy rocket.

Erin McSween is Adam's surviving Gold Star spouse and proud mother of two girls, Lilly and Gwyneth. Erin is a native of Jasper County, Iowa, and Gwyneth is currently a student at the University of Iowa, while Lilly attends the University of Western States.

Erin volunteers with several nonprofits to advocate for Gold Star spouses and families. She is delighted to see Lilly and Gwyneth take on that advocacy to raise awareness of the unique needs of Gold Star children.

As a 24-year Army veteran, I will always fight for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

May God bless the family of Adam McSween. May God bless our servicemembers and veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Iowa women's wrestling team, which finished the season strong at the 2024 National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Tournament with 6 collegiate champions and 12 All-Americans, as well as the team title for the most points.

Despite only being inaugurated in 2021, Coach Chun and the entire athletics department have worked tirelessly to build up this program and make it among the most elite women's wrestling teams in the Nation. Because of these incredible efforts, six champion Hawkeyes will be representing their school at the Olympic trials set to take place at Penn State University next week. I also visited with the family of one of those wrestling champions, Lilly Luft, yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating these incredible Hawkeyes and wish them well as they work to secure a spot at the Olympics this summer. As always and forever, Go Hawkeyes.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the most successful internet affordability program in our Nation's history will soon run out of money unless Congress acts.

There are 23 million families who rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program in our country. If Congress doesn't reauthorize this funding, the

program will run out of money in a matter of weeks.

This is deeply concerning for thousands of our residents who depend on this program for internet access. In Michigan's 12th District alone, this program has benefited 110,000 households, reducing broadband costs in the district by \$52.1 million annually.

Losing this access would jeopardize the well-being and opportunities. Mr. Speaker, for an estimated 64 million Americans, especially our seasoned residents. That is why the program is so important and why I cosponsored the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act and I urge Speaker JOHNSON to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

Access to internet is a necessity for our communities; not a luxury. From education to employment to scheduling healthcare appointments to access to health services, everyone deserves affordable internet access.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let this crucial resource expire and leave our residents disconnected.

DISABILITY JUSTICE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, disability rights are human rights. Everyone in our country and around the world, including people living with disabilities, deserves to lead a fulfilling life with dignity.

I am committed to dismantling the barriers and injustices our neighbors with disabilities face to ensure our country is living up to our values of equity and equal rights for all people.

Our neighbors with disabilities cannot receive the quality healthcare they need and deserve when medical facilities lack accessible equipment like examination tables, weight scales, dental chairs, and radiology devices. I can't even imagine.

This is why I joined my sister in service, Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY, in urging the Justice Department to address this issue and help the disabled community access equitable healthcare. I am so grateful for her leadership and partnership.

Please know that studies have shown that women with disabilities have a higher risk of dying from breast cancer and cervical cancer but are less likely than able-bodied women to receive mammograms and other tests to diagnose those conditions because of the lack of access to equipment.

Mr. Speaker, we must address this injustice with the urgency it deserves.

RECOGNIZING EID AL-FITR

Ms. TLAIB. Today, Mr. Speaker, is Eid Al-Fitr, an end to the holy month of Ramadan.

Eid Mubarak to all my fellow Muslims in Michigan's 12th Congressional District, across the country, and the world. May Allah accept our fasts and deeds of the past month and forgive us for our shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, this Eid is not the same for the Muslim communities that our Members represent. Gaza is on their minds and hearts today as they witness

the starvation and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians continue.

The images of children in Gaza celebrating Eid on top of the rubble of their homes, schools, and masjids that no longer stand brings them to tears.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please listen to them. Listen to our fellow Americans of the Muslim faith when they urge my colleagues to not just pray, but also demand a permanent cease-fire.

Mr. Speaker, saving lives should not be controversial.

HOUSING CRISIS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, no one can disagree that we are facing a housing crisis in our country.

Today, the average renter now pays over 30 percent of their income toward rent, and 78 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. In metro Detroit alone, there are three extremely low-income renter households for each unit that is both affordable and available.

Our investments in public housing have long been insufficient. The Detroit Housing Commission needs hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvements, but they only have \$12 million annually to spend.

I introduced the Public Housing for the 21st Century Act to ensure that public housing developers have access to the latest, best practices using local policy tools and financing.

When it comes to homeownership, after the 2008 financial crisis, Michigan experienced the largest decrease in Black homeownership compared to any other State in the country. The Black homeownership rates in Wayne and Oakland counties in my district dropped more than 10 percentage points. This is a crisis that must be addressed.

This is Fair Housing Month. I am urging my colleagues to please support the largest investment in funding for HUD's affordable housing and homelessness programs for the next fiscal year.

CELEBRATING PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Page Memorial Hospital.

For the last century, Page Memorial Hospital has dedicated their resources to serving residents of Page County and beyond. This year, Page Memorial was named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. As a critical access hospital, they provide a wide range of services that are vital to maintaining good health and inspiring overall wellness across Virginia's Sixth District.

In 2014, the hospital moved into a new 67,700-square-foot replacement facility, which features private inpatient

rooms, an expanded emergency department and greatly enhanced transitional care program for patients who require additional nursing and rehabilitation care after being discharged from the hospital.

The hospital also has a state-of-the-art outpatient rehab center, which brings all of the physical, occupational, and speech therapy services together to provide patients with better coordination of care while increasing patient safety.

I am so grateful to have them serving Page County and all the folks across Virginia's Sixth District. I thank Page Memorial Hospital for 100 years of care, and I wish them the best and most successful 100 more years to come.

CONGRATULATING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Salem High School forensics team for making history by winning its 18th consecutive State championship. The team dominated the class 4 field with a 40-17 win over the runner up.

These champions include senior Kade Lakin who led the team with his third straight Serious Duo championship this year with sophomore Bella Poarch. Along with Poarch, Salem had several first-time State champions, including Lebron Parsell in Extemporaneous Speaking, Claire Rawlins in Impromptu Speaking, Noah Lovern Storytelling, Charlie Bain in Humorous, and eighth grader Tara Farrokhpoor in Prose.

Since 2004, Salem has won 99 individual event championships in forensics. Coach Mark Ingerson has done an incredible job of driving home the importance of teamwork amongst the students, and his leadership has bolstered the team's success.

I congratulate the participants, parents, coaches, and staff for this incredible win and making this milestone possible.

CONGRATULATING KATE COLLINS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL BETA CLUB TEAMS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the remarkable students of the Kate Collins Middle School and Waynesboro High School beta clubs for their outstanding achievements in winning first place at the Virginia Beta Convention in Hampton.

The young Virginians from Kate Collins Middle School showcased their exceptional talent and skills, with Preston Stacy winning first place in Accessory Design, and Emma Loyacano securing second place in Onsite Art Drawing. The team of Parker Newton, Archer Craft, Asher Shepherd, and Sophia Williams earned second place in Musicology.

I also want to celebrate Waynesboro High School's beta club, returning triumphantly to the State convention for the first time since 2019.

The Quiz Bowl team, made up of Jacob Hostetter, Tac Shepherd, Josh Short, and Colton Redifer showed un-

paralleled academic prowess, earning first place and being crowned State champions.

I wish them the best of luck as they advance to the National Beta Club Convention in Savannah, Georgia.

Please join me in congratulating these remarkable students and their advisers for their exceptional achievements.

CONGRATULATING GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S SWIM AND DIVE TEAMS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glenvar High School men's swimming and diving teams from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District for their remarkable win at the Virginia High School League Class 2 championship.

Their victory, by a significant margin of 238 points, underscores their hard work, dedication, and team unity.

These champions include Avery Thompson, Ashton Meadows, Landon Cairns; and Kees VanGerven and Connor Wilkes also won four individual State titles.

The victory is a testament to the support of coaches, parents, and the community, reflecting the values of perseverance and teamwork we hold dear.

I congratulate the Glenvar men's swim and dive team on their championship win, it is an inspiring achievement for athletes and all constituents across Virginia's Sixth District.

HOLDING SECRETARY MAYORKAS ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a matter of grave constitutional importance. The Senate holds the solemn duty to conduct the impeachment trial of the Department of Homeland Security's Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for high crimes and misdemeanors, a charge the House has clearly laid out.

Our decision to impeach Secretary Mayorkas is not one we have taken lightly. For nearly a year, the House Committee on Homeland Security has meticulously uncovered the depths of the border crisis. The findings are unequivocal: Secretary Mayorkas has willfully disregarded the laws of the United States, betraying the trust of the American people and the very Constitution he swore to uphold.

He has not only refused to comply with the law but has also made a mockery of our separation of powers, attacking the very foundation of our constitutional order.

As the House managers deliver the articles in the next few weeks, I remain hopeful that the Senate will take up this matter with the seriousness it deserves for the sake of our Constitution, our security, and our American principles.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the United States was the

first country to recognize the newly declared State of Israel nearly 76 years ago, merely 11 minutes after its creation.

I am also proud that, within 11 days of Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel that started this current war, President Joe Biden landed in Tel Aviv, sending two carrier strike groups and becoming the first U.S. President to ever visit Israel during a time of war.

On October 7, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Hamas launched thousands of rockets at cities across Israel, sending millions of Israelis into bomb shelters and safe rooms while providing cover for a swarming army of Hamas terrorists who invaded the country and launched a genocidal attack, brutally murdering more than 1,200 people, wounding more than 3,000 others, and taking more than 250 hostages back into Gaza.

In the 6 months since Hamas started this war, Israel has been fighting for its existence on many fronts, facing attacks and threats from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran.

It is more than just the mortars, rockets, missiles, and drones threatening Israel. Israel's enemies have two key strategies in their campaign to destroy and delegitimize the Jewish state: One, distort the truth with canards and libelous accusations against Israel and the Jewish people; and two, isolate Israel in global forums and in the world of public opinion.

□ 1030

South Africa is perversely accusing Israel of genocide in the International Criminal Court of Justice. Of course, when you lift the veil of this grotesque distortion of the truth, you see that Iran is also behind South Africa's actions, just like Iran finances and fuels Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.

Meanwhile, in cities around the world as well as here in the United States, anti-Israel protests are replete with calls for the elimination of the Jewish state, most clearly manifest in the chant "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

And look no further than the rally just last Friday in Dearborn, Michigan, where the crowd chanted not only "death to Israel," but "death to America."

I am grateful for the leadership and moral clarity of the Biden administration as well as the mayor of Dearborn when they roundly condemned this hateful rhetoric.

Israel's enemies, from Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran, to groups here in the United States like SJP, AMP, and JVP are doing everything they can to demonize, delegitimize, and ultimately destroy the only Jewish state on Earth.

But let's be clear: The war Hamas started on October 7 is not just a war against Israel. Iran's vision is not just the destruction of Israel, but the conquest of the entire Muslim world and the defeat of the West. The Houthis are not launching rockets at just Israeli

ships in the Red Sea. They are targeting global commerce in general. In this war, Israel's allies must do everything we can to fight the lies and ensure Israel and the Israeli people know that they are not alone.

This is why I traveled to Israel with Jewish lay leaders from Chicago in February and last month traveled with several of my colleagues from here in Congress.

This is why I oppose the Republican resolution we are considering this week. The text of this resolution plays loose with the truth, and the intent is not to help Israel, but to win political points and further weaken the bipartisan support Israel has long enjoyed in this body.

Don't take my word for it. This is how Axios described the resolution: "It is the latest in a series of Israel-related wedge votes House Republicans have held since Hamas' October 7 attack."

If my Republican colleagues want to help our ally and protect our national security, we shouldn't be debating this partisan resolution. Instead, we should be voting on the essential funding bill to help Israel fight its war against our common enemies, as well as ensuring Ukraine defeats Russia, and Taiwan remains secure.

The Senate passed this bill 2 months ago. The House should have passed it in February as well. It is as shameful as it is dangerous that we still have not voted on this desperately needed assistance yet today.

Mr. Speaker, Iran understands that diminishing the bipartisan support for Israel in Congress only hurts our ally and advances our enemies' agenda.

Why are Republicans so willing to play into the hands of Iran and Israel's other enemies? The U.S.-Israel relationship is being tested. Congress is being tested. It is up to us here today to pass this test.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution and instead vote for the essential funding bill coming over from the Senate.

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO AND ORANGE COUNTY CITIZEN, DICK HIGGINS

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Orange County citizen, Dick Higgins.

Born in Magnum, Oklahoma, Dick served his Nation for 20 years in the Navy before settling in Orange County. Dick was stationed on Ford Island as a radioman during the Pearl Harbor attack, and his efforts that day helped sailors and marines get to land and out of the burning water.

His loved ones remember him for his humility and his love of country.

At 102, Dick was the last living member of the Orange County's Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

On behalf of Orange County residents, I am honored to recognize Dick

Higgins' service and sacrifice on the floor of the House of Representatives. May we always cherish and honor his memory.

OBSERVING BLACK APRIL AND THE FALL OF SAIGON

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a very solemn occasion that has great significance for my constituents.

I am proud to represent Orange County's little Saigon, the largest population of Vietnamese anywhere outside Vietnam itself.

Each year, the community observes Black April, a time to reflect upon the tragic fall of Saigon, remember the lives lost to Communism, and recommit ourselves to the struggle for freedom.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, I am proud to join Congressman LOU CORREA to introduce a resolution commemorating Black April and honoring the lives lost.

I am also introducing a resolution to ensure that those who fought for freedom in Vietnam are always remembered by proposing a bill to rename the U.S. Post Office in Westminster, where a large portion of my Vietnamese constituents reside, as the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office.

With these two actions, Congress will stand in solidarity with the Vietnamese community, showcase our resolve against Communism and tyranny, and reaffirm our commitment to freedom and democracy.

APRIL 15 IS TAX DAY

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, April 15 is tax day, and this year American taxpayers are getting one of the worst deals they have ever gotten.

Despite its promises not to increase taxes on those making less than \$400,000 a year, the Biden administration has undertaken an outright assault on taxpayers.

The \$400,000 pledge is detached from reality at best, with reports showing that 63 percent of new audits have been on those earning less than \$200,000 a year.

This shouldn't surprise us. After all, the administration rammed through its \$80 billion plan to hire 87,000 new IRS agents to target American taxpayers with the flood of new audits.

They also unveiled plans to jack up burdensome and confusing reporting requirements for people using digital payment platforms like Venmo. They have repeatedly delayed this plan, and I have legislation, the SNOOP Act to stop it permanently.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong tax fighter, I came to Congress to ensure low taxes and responsible government that works for Americans.

I urge the administration to join me in that work and end its war on American taxpayers.

REMEMBERING THE MASS SHOOTING AT OLD NATIONAL BANK IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today in Louisville, Kentucky, it was a crisp, bright Monday morning. The Easter sun had silently set the night before on blooming dogwoods and azaleas, and a new day had sounded in with only the squeaking of school brakes interrupting the birds chirping to signal the changing of the seasons. The perfect spring awakening to welcome families back to school from spring break, while ushering the rest of us into work with a sense of rebirth and renewal.

Louisville is lucky to be blessed with such scenes of beauty on an annual basis. The sounds, sights, and smells are familiar and wonderful. Instinctively, we know that antihistamines are coming out of our bathroom cabinets and the Derby is right around the corner. Spring is when Kentucky's natural beauty, pageantry, and home-grown hospitality are on display for the world to see. This is why it was so shocking. You never think it is going to happen in your community; that no one could do this, but this is why we truly did not think it was possible—not in Louisville, not now.

But on April 10, 2023, a lone gunman with an assault rifle walked into the Old National Bank on Main Street in Louisville, Kentucky, and opened fire on his colleagues. Spring's ritual beauty was shattered by the unfamiliar booms of an AR-15, the acrid smell of smoke, sirens, and screams.

Five people were killed—Josh Barrick, Deana Eckert, Jim Tutt, Juliana Farmer, and my friend, Tommy Elliott. These five innocent lives were taken from us far too soon.

Josh was a loving husband and young father; Juliana Farmer was expecting another grandchild; Deana Eckert was known for her generosity and her compassion; Jim Tutt was a community leader; and Tommy Elliott, who was a longtime friend of ours, loved life, people, jokes, and stories. All will be missed.

Eight others were wounded in the shooting, including LMPD Officer Nick Wilt, who took an AR-15 round to the head as he selflessly ran toward the gunman and saved lives. Miraculously, he survived.

On the same day, just blocks away at Jefferson Community and Technical College, Chea'von Moore lost his life at 24 years old, and another woman who was caught in the cross fire between classes miraculously survived. Our thoughts are with them, their family, and their loved ones, as well.

It has been 1 year since we lost Tommy, Josh, Juliana, Jim, Deana, and Chea'von. They have been missed at milestones such as birthdays, graduations, and holidays, and every moment in between.

We will never forget them. Their memories live on in all of us who remember and love them.

As we honor those we lost, our community remains so grateful to every

first responder who arrived on the scene that morning and leaped into action. They saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Louisville Fire Department, the FBI, EMS, and the UofL Hospital trauma team. I thank them for their incredible service to our community on April 10, 2023, every day before, and every day since.

I stand here today not just as a Member of Congress, but as a lifelong Louisvillian whose community joined the long list of cities touched by senseless, preventable gun violence.

It is not just mass shootings that rock communities; everyday gun violence in Louisville and across our country has taken far too many lives too soon. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death in children. Children.

There is so much more we can and must do, like combating the root causes of crime and expanding mental health services as well as pushing commonsense gun reforms like universal background checks, extreme risk protection orders, and banning assault weapons.

Last year, days after the Old National Bank shooting, I stood on the steps of the Capitol with other members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force and asked the majority to bring gun safety legislation to the floor. I am here today asking again for my colleagues across the aisle to work with us like they have before to make our communities safer.

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Reflecting on what this day means to me and our community, I am reminded of how strong Louisvillians are.

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Friends, neighbors, and loved ones came together to support one another through an unimaginably tough time.

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

The gentleman is no longer recognized.

□ 1045

HOW MANY MORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the question, how many more Americans must die before President Joe Biden reverses the 60-plus policies he put in place that led to our border being wide open?

We know that under sections 1182 and 1225 of title 8 of immigration law, the President has the authority to secure the border and use his discretion to implement policies. Sadly, the President has used his discretion instead to completely dismantle our southern border, allowing for dangerous gang members,

criminals, smugglers, and illegal immigrants to enter.

Right now, the President can end catch and release. He can reinstate remain in Mexico. He can make changes to asylum and parole. He can expedite removal of individuals. He can shut down the border altogether. He can cut off funding to nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental partners, that are basically allowing people to travel all around our country.

Again, sadly, President Biden used these authorities instead, to dismantle the policies of President Trump.

As a result, we have seen so many Americans being killed. Illegal immigrants have come over our border.

I will read some of the headlines. This is just from this year alone.

"Illegal immigrant from El Salvador charged with murder in shootout that killed 2-year-old boy, injured teen mom."

"Venezuelan illegal immigrant charged with sexual assault against 14-year-old in Virginia."

"ICE confirms Georgia student murder suspect entered U.S. illegally, was previously arrested in NYC."

"Five-time deported illegal alien accused of killing 10-year-old boy walking home from school."

"Honduran illegal migrant arrested for rape of girl, 14, stabbing man during knife-point robbery."

"Illegal migrant charged in Michigan woman's killing was deported under Trump but snuck back in: ICE."

"Illegal migrant deported 8 times with 11 arrests now charged with murder in Ohio."

These are just some of the victims of President Biden's open border policy.

If we go into last year, we can talk more about an illegal immigrant who had an outstanding warrant for attempted strangulation. He approached a car and shot a woman seven times because she wouldn't hang up the phone when he asked her to.

An illegal immigrant was charged with sadistically murdering a 16-year-old Texas high schooler, stabbing her to death and dumping her body in the bathtub. Her body was discovered by her mother.

An illegal alien released by the Biden administration was arrested for raping an 11-year-old girl, strangling her to death after knocking on the door of her home.

An illegal who entered our country under the Biden administration was charged with driving a minivan into a schoolbus full of children, flipping the bus and killing an 11-year-old boy.

An illegal alien repeatedly stabbed and mutilated individuals and then dumped them in a field in Daytona Beach, Florida.

An illegal immigrant was arrested for murdering a 57-year-old, a mother of three and a grandmother of four, in Texas.

This is a 5-minute speech, and I am only allowed 5 minutes, or else I could go on and on.

Again, I will ask, how many more murders of Americans, whether it be by stabbing, drunk driving, shooting, or fentanyl, will it take before the President reverses his dangerous policies at our southern border or the Senate takes up our legislation, H.R. 2, the Border Security Act, which would require him to take action at the border?

Giving the President a little more discretion, as the Senate has suggested, is not going to resolve the issue because the President is not using the discretion he currently has. We need to require him to take these actions to reinstate the commonsense policies of the previous administration that were working and stop this President from giving parole to individuals who are dangerous gang members wreaking havoc in cities like mine in New York.

DOOMSDAY CLOCK IS TICKING

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, the Doomsday Clock is set at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been. We should heed its warning.

We are inching dangerously close to nuclear war and must do everything we can to reduce the risk of nuclear catastrophe. Russia has threatened to use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Iran is closer to developing the nuclear bomb. North Korea is increasing its nuclear arsenal. The risks of miscalculation and rapid escalation are exacerbating these threats.

The nuclear arms race needs to stop. We can and must turn back the Doomsday Clock. We need to work with Russia and China to collectively reduce our stockpiles, increase transparency, reduce the risk of miscalculation, and avoid a dangerous arms race. Nuclear negotiation has always been part of the United States' history, and we must do that again.

First, let's revive a version of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty that Richard Nixon negotiated to cap the arms race by limiting homeland missile defenses. This will reduce pressure on the United States, China, and Russia to build more nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, President George W. Bush withdrew from the treaty in 2002. We need to negotiate to reenter.

Second, we must reenter the Treaty on Open Skies that was first proposed under Dwight Eisenhower and signed by President George H.W. Bush. Open Skies authorizes treaty parties, including the United States, to conduct unarmed flights that provide opportunities to monitor others' nuclear capabilities. Donald Trump withdrew from this treaty in 2020 that Republican Presidents had negotiated. We need to get back in.

Third, we should restore the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and expand it to include China. This was Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev's achievement, yet Donald

Trump withdrew from this treaty in 2019. We need to get back in.

Fourth, we need to resume implementation of the New START Treaty negotiated under President Barack Obama to limit the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads. Putin suspended New START in 2023, ripping up the last remaining nuclear treaty with the United States. He did this because of our support of Ukraine. We need to pass funding for Ukraine to defend its sovereignty, end the war justly, and renegotiate New START with Russia and China.

Lastly, we must negotiate with Russia to agree that both of our countries will adopt a no-first-use policy. We would be joining China and India, which already have this posture, unlike Russia and the United States. Adopting a no-first-use policy only if Russia agrees as well would clarify that our nuclear weapons are for deterrence and avoid unintentionally escalating a crisis.

Maintaining the nuclear triad as a deterrent should not bankrupt us. We must cut the costs of modernization that are excessive and going to defense contractor lobbyists. The Air Force's new Sentinel ICBM program is already 37 percent over budget, costing taxpayers \$132 billion. That is money that could be going to feed our kids in school, to help pay for college or vocational education, or to pay for childcare.

I call on my colleagues in Washington to help avoid a global catastrophe and a nuclear arms race, to look to previous Presidents like Eisenhower, Reagan, Bush, Obama, and Clinton and negotiator-statesmen to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

We must stop this arms race. We must take our weapons off hair-trigger alert. We must spend our tax dollars here at home, where Americans most need it. We must ensure diplomacy prevails, not nuclear war.

As Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev said: "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."

COMMENDING COLONEL TREVOR HOUGH

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and commend the exemplary bravery and selfless intervention of Colonel Trevor Hough.

On Thursday, June 1, 2023, in Black Mountain, North Carolina, a pursuit unfolded involving a suspect for a series of bank robberies. The situation then escalated, as the suspect crashed on Interstate 240 after driving on the wrong side of the road, ending a high-speed pursuit. The immediate and fearless actions of Colonel Hough began after the crash when the suspect attempted to hijack an elderly woman's vehicle on the interstate as she was stopped by the traffic.

Colonel Hough, a dedicated United States Army veteran with an impressive nearly 30-year service record, stepped in. Without hesitation, Colonel Hough ran toward the unfolding danger to intervene and protect the innocent victim of the carjacking.

As the suspect attempted to steal the car, Colonel Hough managed to pull the suspect from the vehicle while two other veterans put the victim's car in park and tended to the victim herself.

With incredible bravery, Colonel Hough overpowered and immobilized the suspect on the ground. Together with the two other veterans, they restrained the suspect until law enforcement arrived.

Colonel Hough's military training proved invaluable in this critical moment. His quick thinking and decisive actions not only prevented a potential tragedy but also ensured the safety of others while on the interstate.

Colonel Hough's heroism did not end there. He remained vigilant, assessed the situation, and displayed remarkable composure in the face of potential danger to himself.

In recounting the incident, Colonel Hough shared that he noticed the suspect reaching behind his back, suggesting he may have had a weapon. Understanding the gravity of the situation, Colonel Hough acted with unwavering resolve, maintaining control until law enforcement could take over.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that we acknowledge the exemplary bravery of Colonel Trevor Hough. His selfless actions exemplify the highest ideals of duty, honor, and service to others.

This Nation is indebted to individuals like Colonel Hough, whose commitment to the well-being of his fellow citizens reflects the strength and character that make America great.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Colonel Hough and all those who stand ready to act in the face of danger, embodying the spirit of service that defines the American people.

May this congressional recognition serve as a testament to the courage and the selflessness exhibited by Colonel Trevor Hough. We thank him for his service. We pray that his continued health and commitment to this country will endure, as it definitely will.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND DR. DONALD RIBEIRO

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend Dr. Donald Ribeiro from Ormondsville, North Carolina, on his well-earned retirement.

Reverend Ribeiro, with his wife, Karen, has fiercely led as pastor of Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church. For more than 40 years, Dr. Ribeiro has kept his promise to

God to give back to the community, and I know he will continue to serve even in his retirement.

For every call Dr. Ribeiro has taken, for every person he has counseled, just trying to help them get through the difficult times in life, for every person he has reached out to to bring them closer to God, we are grateful. His dedication to saving lives, both physically and spiritually, has touched many families in eastern North Carolina and around the world.

Indeed, life is about relationships, and the most important relationship, as Dr. Ribeiro reminds us, is with the Lord.

RECOGNIZING DR. JACK BAGWELL

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Jack Bagwell, who was named North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges President of the Year.

Over his past 5 years as president of the College of Albermarle, Dr. Bagwell has prioritized fostering deep connections and community among students and faculty alike.

Dr. Bagwell received this award for his exceptional leadership qualities, steadfast commitment to the community college mission, and achievements in furthering higher education within North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud of Dr. Bagwell's accomplishments. I couldn't be more thrilled, and it is fantastic to see others across the State are taking notice.

Congratulations to Dr. Bagwell for making northeastern North Carolina extremely proud.

RECOGNIZING ZAMAREYA JONES

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize North Carolina Player of the Year, Zam Jones, who is living proof that you can never underestimate the power of eastern North Carolina.

Jones is one of only four North Carolina players to make the ESPN Top 60 and is ranked number 17 in the country.

Five-star guard Zam Jones will play college basketball in the ACC at North Carolina State University.

Jones led North Pitt High School to victory in the 2024 North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2A Women's Basketball Championship.

Recently, she helped the East clinch a tight victory over the West in the McDonald's All-American game.

Mr. Speaker, Zam is a shining example of excellence in the East.

□ 1100

NPR RADIO IS BIASED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in the D.C. newsroom for National Public Radio, which is a central hub for NPR's coverage of political news, it just came

out that they have amongst their staff 87 registered Democrats in editorial positions and zero Republicans—87-0.

Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak was amazing at 56 games in a row, and Pete Rose in the seventies had 44 games in a row—87-0.

Should it matter what the political makeup of people are in these positions? You know, not really, I guess, in any real sense.

We are not talking reality in Washington, D.C., are we? We are not talking about a nonbiased media that covers this place, that covers what politicians do and the slant that people are going to hear when they are out there in their cars, their homes, or wherever, picking this up in the various forms of media.

What do we know about NPR? It receives funding from the taxpayer and tries at the same time to claim to be objective. It receives this funding via the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which the CBP receives about \$525 million of taxpayer dollars—about 50 percent of their funding. The other half comes from corporate donations, the same corporations that Democrats love to say evil things about, but oftentimes these days are doing bad things. It is pretty hard to figure out where they are coming from.

What we have seen in recent years in reporting is a strong bias against Republicans and conservatives coming out of NPR and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting when they cover the political front here.

The bias against anything that is not a far-left view is clear. In fact, the bias of NPR is so clear that even a left-leaning editor in their organization—which is where this came out—is raising the alarm about the clear and consistent bias. This person is very concerned about it and is now being dismissed.

NPR has already issued many statements and articles dismissing the critique, including this morning, without any admission by NPR or acknowledgment of any wrongdoing or bias, and certainly they have no intent to reform or even reflect upon what this looks like and sounds like.

Let us remember that NPR embraced the Russiagate conspiracy theory without question, and they dismissed the Hunter Biden laptop story without proper scrutiny.

All these things have been proven otherwise, haven't they?

They also have NPR actively working to dismiss and attack information about the true origins of the COVID-19 virus as well as the early treatments that could have probably helped or saved many lives. They dismissed ivermectin and other treatments, instead, calling it "horse paste" when as recently as 2015, it won a Nobel Prize for the amazing work that has been done with ivermectin.

In the last decade, NPR's own audience has shrunk and become more intensely leftwing, gradually pushing out conservative listeners with nonstop

ideological programming, bias in reporting, and injecting far-left ideas into previously nonpolitical programs.

So it is not just that quirky little radio station you hear in a musty bookstore or at a used record store or something like that. It has taken a really hard twist to the left.

They claim to be neutral in a public platform to consider all things and consider all perspectives, but unfortunately, it isn't that way anymore.

They are desperately burning up their own credibility to try and keep up with the demands of the far left and its ranks that continue to shift farther and farther left.

That is what this person from their organization came out and said, for 25 years they have lost the American people with this shift. It is pretty sad.

So perhaps instead of calling it National Public Radio it should be called national progressive radio, the term Democrats on the far left use for themselves, although I have never really seen where the word "progress" fits in with some of the programs and ideals coming from the so-called progressives.

NPR being funded by taxpayer dollars is a serious betrayal of the public trust. The American taxpayer should no longer be subsidizing this propaganda which fails to even pretend to be unbiased anymore and is appealing to a smaller and smaller group of people, unfortunately. It is too bad because the idealism of it years ago when it was created looked a heck of a lot different and was indeed something everybody could find enjoyment in.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, only You can speak into the crisis that has descended upon the Middle East. Only Your peace can cure the warring madness that has erupted in this land so many call holy.

Let the hatred that has severed the region, intensifying the profound animosity between Israel and Palestine, and in turn swallowing up the cities of Gaza, Tel Aviv, Ramallah, and Ashkelon to name but a few, be supplanted by acts of mercy and overcome by deeds of justice.

Touch the hearts of each offender, that all would be purified of their thirst for vengeance. Speak into the souls of all aggressors, that they would renounce their prejudice.

Abide with the countless victims of violent attacks, with the innocents held hostage in the crossfire of escalating hostilities. Grant comfort and sanctuary to those who have fled their homes in fear. Receive the refugees into the safety of Your welcoming embrace. Make way in the desert that the hungry would receive food.

Let all Christians, Muslims, and Jews put away anger, wrath, malice, and slander. May each find a renewed spirit of forgiveness and understanding in the knowledge that all bear the image of You, our Creator.

For the sake of Your kingdom, may each of us, politician and patriot, voter or victim, be agents of Your purpose, that Your peace and justice would, once again, rule this land.

In the redemption of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

RECOGNIZING CLARION ROBOTICS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two robotics teams from North Clarion High School which is located in Clarion County.

The Western Pennsylvania Robotics championships took place in March at the PennWest Clarion University. During this competition, two teams, the Ineffable Inventors and the Ambiguous Case, finished in first and second place, respectively.

The Ineffable Inventors, who were the champions of the event, also earned the Amaze Award, which is given to the most consistent high-performing and competitive robot.

The Ambiguous Case, finishing in second place, received the Excellence Award, which is given to overall excellence in robotic performance.

Both of these teams will be advancing to the world championships, which will be held at the end of April in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I enjoy seeing our youth engaging in these competitions to develop important computer science skills that will help them in their future endeavors.

I wish both teams the best of luck as they advance to the world championships.

RECOGNIZING CHAMPION OF THE WEEK RIYA HEGDE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Riya Hegde as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Riya is an extraordinary student from the Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, who has taken it upon herself to break down barriers and pave the way for the next generation of female coders.

She recently founded Python Pals, which strives to teach young girls and women about the computer coding program Python. This group not only teaches invaluable coding skills but will also instill confidence and courage in her peers to pursue a career in coding.

As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we often talk about the "missing million," the 1 million STEM workers from diverse gender, racial, and geographic backgrounds that we need to fill our Nation's open jobs in the STEM fields.

Programs like Riya's are critical to filling the missing million by creating safe, supportive spaces for girls to learn how to code, so they have the skills they need to pursue careers in STEM and showing how Ohio's 13th Congressional District is leading the way.

Riya's initiative shows strength and courage by challenging stereotypes and opening doors for girls who may have once felt excluded from a career path once dominated by men.

I thank Riya for using her voice to uplift and encourage women and girls in Ohio's 13th District to pursue their interest in STEM. She has proved age is no barrier in making a significant impact in the world around us.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Riya on being named Ohio's 13th District Champion of the Week.

DANGEROUS HATRED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a dangerous event yesterday in Michigan, anti-Israel activists shouted, "death to America" and

"death to Israel," repeating the Iranian regime chants.

This event was in recognition of Al-Quds Day to advocate for the mass murder of the people of Israel. It reinforced that, 6 months ago, Iranian puppet Hamas invaded Israel, murdering over 1,200 Israeli civilians.

Incredibly, in America, a rally speaker hatefully spouted: "So when these fools ask us if Israel has the right to exist . . . the chant 'death to Israel' has become the most logical chant."

When attacks come to America to disrupt elections, voting on election day must be in person, while including military ballots that are mailed in.

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 laws for the border. We need to enforce the existing laws. Biden shamefully has opened the borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING NORTH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North High School boys basketball team for their remarkable accomplishment of winning back-to-back Massachusetts Division 1 State championships. I want to recognize Principal Sam FanFan, Coach Pettway, and all the players on their historic run.

Last year, they were the first public school team from my home city of Worcester to win a Division 1 State championship.

North High forward Carl-Hens Beliard graduated that year and went on to Salem State University to continue his academic and athletic career. Tragically, Carl-Hens lost his life to senseless gun violence last fall. It was heartbreaking for the North High community and the entire city of Worcester.

The team dedicated this season to Carl-Hens and emerged more determined than ever. On March 17, the Polar Bears went to the State championship and won their 45th straight game to cap off a perfect 24-0 season.

Mr. Speaker, the talent, work ethic, and resilience of this team has made all of Worcester proud.

RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY AND FAIRNESS TO THE IRS APPEALS PROCESS

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, as the IRS' tax filing deadline quickly approaches, safeguarding the rights of

taxpayers across our Nation is top of mind for me and for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for H.R. 6332, the Strengthen Taxpayer Rights Act of 2023.

At the heart of this bill, it is a simple, yet powerful principle: Taxpayers have a right to a fair and impartial appeals process.

H.R. 6332 restores accountability and fairness to the appeals process by ensuring that taxpayers have a say in who does and who does not get to participate in their own appeals conference before the IRS' Independent Office of Appeals.

In passing the Strengthen Taxpayer Rights Act, we should send a clear message: The rights of taxpayers are non-negotiable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recommit to fairness, justice, and the fundamental rights of every taxpayer.

AUGUST FIRES ON MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, after the fires last August struck the island of Maui, one of the first people to approach me in this Chamber was my colleague and now friend, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA.

Few districts have experienced the tragedy of wildfires like California's First, and prior to the Maui fires, the Camp fire held the record as the deadliest American wildfire of the last century.

This past recess, I participated in a bipartisan exchange with Congressman LAMALFA. I went to the town of Paradise. I learned of the challenges and opportunities in recovery. I saw the rebuilding of schools and homes that had burned, and I left feeling hopeful.

Congressman LAMALFA also joined me in Lahaina, attending the dedication of the new temporary school, even breaking in the new basketball court, playing ball with our Governor. I must add neither of them will be quitting their day jobs.

The gentleman walked with us through Lahaina, met with our community, and answered their many, many questions. There is a definite comfort knowing that, while the road ahead for our communities is long, we aren't on it alone.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have a trusted partner and friend in Congressman LAMALFA, and I look forward to the work we will do together.

CONGRATULATING ANGIE GIANCARLO ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angie

Giancarlo, who is retiring from government service, having served our country for 25 years.

When Angie told me about her retirement, I told her I would support her, especially if she chose to reconsider. Alas, she is retiring, so I would like to take this opportunity to honor her 13 years spent on the House Appropriations Committee.

It is hard to put our appreciation into words, but as appropriators, we are at our best when we express it in numbers. As professional staff and clerk, Angie helped usher 12 energy and water bills through successful passage of the House and 14 bills through final enactment. Conservatively, that means she also had to directly consider over 600 amendments to get there.

I will spare everyone an accounting on all the talking points that it entails but rest assured Angie had correct comma placement in every single one of them. The countless hours Angie dedicated to the Committee made this place a better place, and we greatly appreciate it.

I feel very lucky that we have been able to work on this bill with Angie as clerk, and I am proud of her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for myself, the Committee, and the United States Congress when I express my utmost appreciation for her dedicated service over the years.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF A FEARLESS LEADER, DOLORES HUERTA

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the birthday of a fearless trailblazer and a symbol of hope: Dolores Huerta.

At 94 years old, she is still fighting the fight for economic justice, social justice, and justice for all workers.

Just last week, we were together reaffirming our commitment to workers' rights during a Cesar Chavez celebration. As the cofounder of the United Farm Workers, she mobilized local communities to fight for the rights of workers everywhere. Dolores understood that to create a movement, you need to empower the next generation of leaders so your work extends far beyond your lifetime.

With every organizer she trained, she helped create a ripple of change that organized and transformed committees decades after she uttered those famous words, "yes, it can be done," "si, se puede," a movement that still continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dolores a happy birthday.

FEDERAL MINIMUM FOR CHILD RAPE MUST BE THE DEATH PEN- ALTY

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

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, today, I address the fundamental principle of justice: the punishment of those who commit the most egregious crimes against the innocence of our children. It is a matter that strikes at the very core of our values and demands our unwavering attention and action.

There will be those who argue that the death penalty is unconstitutional, but let me be unequivocal: When it comes to protecting our children from the horrors of child rape, the death penalty is not only constitutional, but it is morally imperative.

Our Constitution stands as a beacon of freedom and justice, crafted to safeguard the rights and liberties of every American. Yet, what greater violation of those rights could there be than the brutal and unforgivable abuse of our most vulnerable—our children.

The Federal minimum for child rape must be upgraded to the death penalty and a minimum of life behind bars. For it is not merely a matter of punishment, but of deterrence and justice.

We must send a resounding message to those who would prey upon our children that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated in our society and those who commit them will be faced with death.

WE MUST STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, October 7 was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas killed over 1,200 innocent Israeli people, including women, children, the elderly, and took over 240 hostages.

Israel is one of our Nation's greatest allies. The intelligence we received from them helps us combat terrorism every day. President Biden's demand that they surrender or cease to pursue Hamas in response is a slap in the face to victims. It is sickening to see our President support a terrorist organization that circulated videos of themselves murdering innocent children over an ally that has helped protect our homeland for decades.

Hamas is working toward the genocidal eradication of the only successful democracy in the Middle East. Now more than ever, we must stand with Israel and fight anti-Semitism. I support H. Res. 1117 to oppose the one-sided pressure on Israel, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7888, REFORMING INTELLIGENCE AND SECURING AMERICA ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 529, EXTENDING LIMITS OF U.S. CUSTOMS WATERS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1112, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1117, OPPOSING EFFORTS TO PLACE ONE-SIDED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WITH RESPECT TO GAZA

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1125 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1125

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. 7888) to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. 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 two hours equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments 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. 529) to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment

thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1112) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1117) opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, today, the Rules Committee reported out a rule for four pieces of legislation: H.R. 7888, Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. This legislation reauthorizes title VII, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act for 5 years from the date of enactment.

This bill is far from perfect, but we are going to have a lot of debate on that bill in just a moment in the rule and in 2 hours later. I will come back to that in a moment.

There are three other pieces of legislation. First, H.R. 529, Extending Limits of U.S. Customs Waters Act. This bipartisan legislation enhances Customs and Border Protection's air and marine operations mission by extending Custom's law enforcement authority from 12 to 24 nautical miles of the United States coast. This will help CBP combat unlawful activity in coastal waters at a time when we have significant problems with respect to our borders.

H. Res. 1112, denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies. This resolution denounces President Biden's open-border policies. It calls on the administration to immediately put in place policies that will end the crisis at our southern border. This is an important message. It is an important statement, but I hope this Congress will speak with one voice against an administration that refuses to enforce the law. This resolution is one statement along those lines.

H. Res. 1117, opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza. This resolution affirms that Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, has the right to defend itself against Hamas and makes clear that the House of Representatives opposes efforts to place one-sided pressures on Israel to implement an immediate cease-fire.

This resolution is necessary because regrettably, embarrassingly, this administration took a seat, sat down, abstained, abstained in the face of the horrors that we saw unfold on October 7 to our friend, Israel; by sitting down when the United Nations Security Council called for a cease-fire, and pushing on Israel to walk away from its efforts to combat what Hamas has been doing to the people of Israel.

We should speak with clarity as the Congress of the United States that we stand in solidarity with the people of Israel, and this resolution is one way in which we can do that.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for the customary 30 minutes. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we just returned from 2 marvelous weeks in our beautiful districts. I was invited to visit a food bank to highlight food insecurity and the need to provide families with nutritious and available meals. I talked with Tribal leaders and law enforcement about how we must work together to solve the many issues facing Native American communities from the missing and murdered indigenous women crisis to the need for greater economic development to the need for protection of sacred sites from desecration. We gathered healthcare providers from across New Mexico for a Congressional Hispanic Caucus on the road event to talk about Latino access to rural healthcare.

That event was standing room only because our constituents want us to address healthcare access and continue Democrats' work to bring down the cost of prescription drugs and healthcare costs, the work we began last year with the Inflation Reduction Act.

These are really important things. Our constituents want us to work on

really important things that make a difference in their lives every day.

So what are we doing today? Three of these bills don't really address anything. We have more resolutions that just express things but don't have any solutions. We are spending another valuable week on nonbinding resolutions and bills that Republicans have already failed to pass.

This is the third time we will vote on a resolution complaining about an immigration system that has been broken for years, and it is Congress' fault that we have not fixed it.

Republicans want to just talk about blame, but do they offer any solutions? That is not how governing works. It is not about coming down here and passing press releases on the floor of the House. If you want to engage in a problem and offer solutions, you engage in bipartisan negotiations to pass a law that fixes the problem. Instead, Republicans do the opposite. They block bipartisan immigration deals and complain that nothing is happening.

Well, something is happening. Republicans are making the problem worse. Six months ago, the President sent Congress a supplemental border security request. That request would have bolstered border security and slowed the flow of refugees by addressing the root cause of migration.

For 6 months, Republicans, who control this House, have refused to take up the President's supplemental border security funding request.

In the Senate, a bipartisan group led by a Republican Senator and Democrats worked for 4 months. They worked hard on a bipartisan border security deal. Before we could even discuss the merits of it in this House to say what we liked or didn't like, Trump told them to kill the bill.

Following Trump's orders, as always, House Republican leadership declared it dead on arrival in the House. Why? They want to preserve immigration as a political weapon, not something that Americans are asking us to fix.

Americans would like to see comprehensive immigration reform. How about if we do something like taking up the bipartisan Dream and Promise Act or the bipartisan Farm Work Modernization Act, which passed with bipartisan support out of this Congress because we need more agrarian workers to help pick the food we need to place on our tables.

What is especially shameful is that instead of offering solutions, Republicans are creating a dangerous environment in America. Rhetoric from the twice impeached and four times-indicted former President Trump that suggest immigrants are poisoning the blood of America is dangerous and disgraceful.

Trump's language echoes, almost verbatim, the propaganda and hate used by Hitler and other Nazi leaders. America is not Nazi Germany. We will push back against such a scary road to tyranny and bigotry.

□ 1230

Trump forgets but America remembers that immigrants are vitally important to the economic vibrancy and future of our Nation. While securing the border is an important policy objective, there is no reason to demonize our parents, grandparents, coworkers, friends, and neighbors in the process.

This rule also makes in order H. Res. 1117, yet another nonbinding resolution, a press release. It has been just 1 week since seven World Central Kitchen volunteers were killed in Gaza, killed while trying to bring food to starving Gazans, who are on the brink of famine. More than 200 aid workers have been killed in Gaza over the last 6 months.

Over 13,000 children and 9,000 women have died in the war. So far, 27 kids have died of malnutrition. Do you know how horrible it is to die of starvation? Twenty-seven children. Famine is imminent for 1.1 million Gazans.

There are still over 130 Israeli hostages who, without a cease-fire, cannot go home to their grieving families, their worried families. Tens of thousands of Israelis are marching in the streets to bring the hostages home.

This resolution that we are hearing today fails to acknowledge the sad reality I have just discussed. It also fails to support President Biden's efforts to bring lasting peace to this region, which should be our goal. President Biden is right: A cease-fire is needed to bring over 130 Israeli hostages home and to prevent the deaths of innocent Gazans. Too many people have died already.

President Biden's calls to Netanyahu for a cease-fire, to bring the hostages home, and to reverse the humanitarian crisis should be welcomed by everyone with a caring heart. If you care for the hostages and their worried families, a cease-fire is needed. If you care for the women and children who are dying and starving, a cease-fire is needed. If you care for a future where peace can come to this region, a cease-fire is needed.

Next, the House will consider H.R. 7888, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. The bill reauthorizes FISA for 5 years and implements minor changes to the program. The Republicans have waited until the last minute to bring this reauthorization to the floor.

I will say, they tried once before back in February. We had a hearing in the Rules Committee on Valentine's Day. It was great. We saw amazing bipartisan agreement from the Judiciary Committee, but we never did get to hear from the Intelligence Committee.

Instead, Republicans waited until the last minute. It expires in 9 days. That is not a way to govern. This is an important bill that needs conversation and debate. Members need to hear from the two committees with jurisdiction over FISA to determine how they will vote and the important balance between protecting constitutional rights of citizens and protecting our national security.

Next, this rule makes in order H.R. 529, the Extending Limits of U.S. Customs Waters Act. While this bill is a bipartisan bill, which I will point out received unanimous support in committee and will probably receive almost near-unanimous support on this floor, this is the kind of bill that usually doesn't go through Rules. It is the type of bill that would normally pass under suspension.

Why wasn't it put under suspension? Is it because House Republicans needed something that could finally pass the Rules Committee, come to the floor, and maybe make it into law? The last bill to pass the Rules Committee and become law was almost a year ago. It is almost a year ago since we did the people's business on this floor where we actually got a bill, sent it out of Rules, sent it to the Senate, and it made it onto the President's desk.

Republicans have presided over the most ineffective sessions of Congress in history. Despite the pressing challenges facing our Nation, they have repeatedly chosen to prioritize silly censures, sham impeachments, and doing nothing messaging bills.

That is no way to run the House. That is no way to run the people's House and address the people's business.

Meanwhile, Democrats have kept our focus on delivering for the American people and implementing the incredible laws we passed last Congress when Democrats controlled this House, which was, by the way, the most successful and most productive in recent memory. We have carried the vote to make sure the U.S. didn't default on its debt last year. Democrats carried bills to fund the government, keep it running, and protect against draconian spending cuts.

Democrats always stand ready to work across the aisle to tackle important issues. This includes coming together to work on a bipartisan solution, a comprehensive solution to fix the border, to secure the border, to lower costs. We hope that our colleagues will work with us.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President of the United States.

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

Mr. Speaker, the reason that we have a resolution on the floor to stand and say that we believe that the Biden administration is failing to carry out its duty to secure the border of the United States is because it is true. The American people need to know and see that, and see us speaking with one voice.

The reason that we have a resolution on the floor saying we should stand with Israel is because the administration walked away from Israel, abandoned them in a vote in the Security Council vote by abstaining.

That is the truth. That is why these resolutions matter. That is why they are here on the floor.

We are going to have a lot of debate here about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. On this, I think there is a lot of bipartisan agreement. There are a lot of bipartisan concerns about the size and scope of government. I think it is important to remember James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson on May 13, 1798: "Perhaps it is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged . . . against danger real or pretended from abroad."

The Founders knew what they were doing. The Founders intentionally built into the United States Constitution protections for us, protections for the people.

Unfortunately, the legislation before us doesn't do what is necessary to answer the question, to secure the people's rights. There are amendments that are in order that might get the legislation there.

Remember, section 702 allows the NSA to surveil non-U.S. individuals and organizations abroad if a significant purpose is to acquire foreign intelligence information, which it defines as information related to the conduct of U.S. foreign affairs.

Remember, there are some 230,000 targets that the government has, the blob, the intelligence community, that they are targeting over there, overseas, targeting externally. However, here is the problem: They are collecting information here in the United States on those individuals. We don't know who they are.

I asked the Judiciary Committee chairman and staff: Do you all know who they are? Have you gone into a SCIF and seen who they are targeting? The answer is no, we don't know who they are targeting.

Then, information is collected in communication to those individuals, which necessarily brings American citizens into the mix. The question is, what do we do about it? Remember this: The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in a report released last year, stated: "Ordinary Americans may be in contact with section 702 targets for business or personal reasons even if the Americans have no connection to, or reason to suspect, any wrongdoing by their foreign contacts." That is an important issue. That is at the heart of the debate.

What we have right now before us is a rule to bring forward reauthorization of legislation passed so that we can go try to protect our country, supposedly looking outward, but it has ensnared American citizens in their information. That is why we are here. The question is whether we are going to have the ability to amend it to ensure that American citizens can be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, today, we are voting on a resolution that will

bring forward reauthorization of a program that has been abused for decades, the FISA 702 surveillance program.

Before we vote on that program, though, this resolution that we are voting on now prescribes that we will bring forward an amendment to require warrants. If you want to spy on Americans, if you want to use this database as a back door to look at the private information of Americans, you would need a warrant if this amendment passes.

Now, there are some people who say, oh, getting a warrant is too hard. It will slow us down. You will put America in danger.

Listen, I have been in the SCIF, the classified area where they are supposed to tell us the problems with requiring a warrant, and they never have told us a single example of where getting a warrant would be a problem to national security.

In fact, we have a provision in the warrant amendment that says in exigent circumstances you can skip that step. You will hear today that everything is fine, that we don't need the warrant amendment, that we have 53 reforms in this package.

Here is the problem with those reforms: We rely on the same people who abused the system to enforce those reforms, and they still don't go to the constitutional level that is required in this country.

Who doesn't trust those 53 reforms? Congress—the authors of this bill—doesn't trust those 53 reforms. Do you know how I know? Because they put in two exemptions for themselves in this bill. That is right: If the FBI is going to use 702 FISA to spy on Congressmen, they have to tell Congress. They even have to get permission from the Congressmen they are spying on if they say it is for the Congressmen's own good. Why do we have a provision in there that exempts Congressmen but not all of America?

Americans deserve the protections that are enshrined in the Constitution. Nothing less should pass this House.

This is an enormous database. They will tell you that we are just looking at intelligence that was gathered on foreigners. The problem is, they are collecting this intelligence in the United States, using service providers in the United States, using internet connections in the United States. They collect a lot of stuff here.

Do you think the NSA employee who did a FISA search on a Tinder date was looking for information about Hamas? No.

There is all kinds of information in there, and that is why it is being abused and why we need the warrant provision. I urge folks to vote for this rule so that they can vote for the warrant provision amendment. If that amendment doesn't pass, they shouldn't vote to reauthorize FISA.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr.

McGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules and a mentor.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this place is so broken, it is pathetic.

It is interesting to listen to the gentleman from Texas, who is now managing this rule and who regularly lectures us on the importance of regular order and making sure that we have a more open process.

The rule that he is bringing before the membership today contains four measures. Three of these measures are being brought to us under completely closed rules. No amendments are made in order. Three of the bills weren't even considered by committees of jurisdiction—no hearings and no markup—yet here we are. What a wonderful process to celebrate.

I mean, this place is not functioning. We don't even know whether this rule that we are spending time debating today will even pass because there is such disarray on the Republican side. It is a pathetic way for this Congress to be run.

Mr. Speaker, I could be here all day talking about the dysfunction on the other side, but I rise today to applaud two public servants who I think have made this institution a better place.

First is our senior professional staff member and director of Member services, Eric Delaney, who will have his last day with us this Friday.

Eric is a Philly native and alum of Binghamton University, New York. He has spent over 18 years working for the American people here on Capitol Hill.

Like many staffers, Eric's journey began when he became a legislative assistant working for Representative Ted Strickland and the people of Ohio. He spent 8 years as a senior adviser for Member services under Xavier Becerra, the Caucus vice chair and then chair. He then served as legislative director for Representative ANTHONY BROWN before joining the Rules Committee in 2018.

Eric has an impressive resume, but let me also say he is also just a great guy and an integral part of our team. His dedication to public service, skill as a coalition builder, fast problem-solving, and quiet leadership have left a mark on all of us, and we will miss him at the Rules Committee.

We are sad to see him go but excited to see what he will accomplish in his new role at the Department of Energy. On behalf of all of us, I thank him for his hard work and unwavering commitment to this institution.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate my dear friend, TOM COLE, who has officially been selected by the Republican Conference as the next chair of the Appropriations Committee.

It is no surprise to me given his skill as a legislator, his dedication as a public servant, and his decency as a person. I cannot think of any other person I would rather have chairing the Rules

Committee except me, but that is going to take change in the majority, and that is up to the American people, not us.

TOM has consistently demonstrated a tremendous respect for this institution, and he has always conducted himself in a way that demonstrates it, and it is not just in public when the cameras are rolling, but he does it in private, too. He is a man of integrity, a man of his word, and he works hard to do the right thing even after the gavel comes down and the cameras shut off.

To be honest, I wish there were more TOM COLES in Congress because he knows the secret of legislating, which is you don't have to agree on everything to agree on something.

The American people send us up here to work out our differences on their behalf, to do what is right for our country. It is a skill I have seen TOM COLE deploy time and time again to bring people together to try to find common ground.

Although Chairman COLE and I don't always see eye to eye, I think what we have done is show the American people that it is possible to disagree without being disagreeable. I think that is worthwhile. I think it matters, especially in this time of polarization and partisan anger.

On a more personal note—and I said this last night in the Rules Committee, and I hope I don't get in trouble for this—I value TOM COLE's friendship and respect his guidance and the example he sets around here. He conducts himself in a thoughtful, decent, and dignified manner.

I am thankful for the staff that he has surrounded himself with. I think they reflect positively on him, and they are a credit to this institution. I hope he doesn't take them all away from the Rules Committee when he goes to Appropriations.

I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new capacity, and I think all of us can learn a lot from Chairman COLE, and we should all join in a bipartisan way in honoring his service to this institution and to this country.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his words. I think they are very inspiring as to the wonderful leadership that we have had with Chairman COLE, and also, we are going to miss Eric.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his kind words for our colleague, Mr. COLE. Those of us on the committee will miss working with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE). Obviously, as the gentleman from Massachusetts pointed out, he is not going very far. He will be down the hall in the Appropriations Committee. I guess we won't get ahead of things. It has not been formalized yet, but it seems like that is the direction it is going. It has been an

honor to work on the Committee with TOM COLE.

Again, without getting ahead of things, I think there are able folks on the Rules Committee, and Dr. BURGESS from Texas very likely might move into that role, and I will look forward to working with him in the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of this resolution, which sets up the House of Representatives to consider much-needed reform and limitations to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

With the pending expiration of 702 of FISA, Congress is tasked with reforming an authority intended for foreign intelligence collection, but which has turned into warrantless surveillance of the American people.

The targeting of Americans is well documented. Reporting from the Office of the Director for National Intelligence found that in 2021 the FBI conducted over 3,394,000 U.S. person searches without a warrant. In 2022, the FBI was still conducting hundreds of warrantless searches each day.

These queries target Members of Congress, State elected officials, judges, campaign donors, protestors, and more.

In May of this last year, The Washington Post reported that in 2020 and early 2021, the FBI conducted over 278,000 searches of the 702 database that violated Justice Department rules and often lacked national security connections.

Even the FISA court found that “. . . the FBI's querying of section 702 information have proven to be persistent and widespread.”

Warrantless surveillance of the American people by the Federal Government in violation of the Fourth Amendment is well documented and well known.

If such an alarming reality does not merit serious reform and paring back of authorities, then my question is: What does?

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I was proud to be involved in the development of the Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act through which we first advanced these important reforms.

The FISA working group was the next installment of this important process, and the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act is a good start, but there is more work which must be done.

The underlying rule makes in order three critically important amendments—one prohibiting warrantless searches of Americans in the 702 database, one ending the overly intrusive abouts collection, and one enhancing reporting requirements and injecting Congress into the FISA court process.

These amendments are crucial to placing limitations and imposing transparency.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and support these three amendments.

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

I appreciate that the rule makes in order several amendments for the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. These are amendments that we heard about that both the members of the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees have proposed, but we also heard last night in the Rules Committee that there are many important amendments the Committee blocked and that the full House won't get to consider.

The process on this could indeed have been better.

What I wonder now is do we even have the votes to pass this rule? We need to be able to get to a point where we are taking up on the floor of the House rules that are going to get the votes.

As we know, they have already defeated six of their own rules. These are important matters, and I think it is important that we get to do the work.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The gentlewoman has 13¼ minutes remaining.

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

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

I would point out that on this issue one of the concerns that we have is ensuring an adequate and fair hearing on the issue of the warrant amendment.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) raised the issue as did the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the importance of warrant protections for American citizens.

It cannot be overstated the extent to which, at our founding and throughout our history, it has been critical to place that constitutional barrier between the authority of government being used in the name of defense and in the name of security in a way that tramples on the rights and the security of the American people.

That is what is at issue.

That is the conundrum we face.

For all of us that wish to protect our country, we know first and foremost we must protect our civil liberties or there is no country to protect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Let me tell you what bothers me.

So we know that there is a severe problem with the apparatus of the Federal police state abusing FISA, both section 702 and title I, to use those authorities to surveil and search Americans' private data.

I want nothing more than to put every Member of this body on the record. Do you support the warrant

protections granted under the Fourth Amendment to your constituency? I want everyone on the record on that.

In order to get there, we put at risk this bigger, broader problem because the other amendments made in order will expand that authority before we know we can even curb the authority.

So you are creating another bucket for which you are exposing American citizens—innocent American citizens, 19,000 donors to a political campaign. Don't tell me that all those 19,000 people were in contact with Hamas. They weren't.

The system was abused. That is why we need the warrant requirement. That is why we need the Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act, but we are not even going to be able to consider that.

What I am telling you is we have a conundrum, as my friend from Texas has said, of the Speaker saying we are going to brief you on what NSA, CIA, FBI says, but we are not going to bring in anybody to counter what they say. And we are going to do it in a SCIF so you can't tell the American people.

Well, what I want is: I want accountability. I want accountability to myself and everybody else in this body. That is why I am leaning towards voting for this.

On the other hand, the real question is: Are we going to go ahead and expand the authorities of the Federal police state just because we want a vote?

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we can see, there is strong consideration on some of the issues with regard to FISA, but we have also seen that we are so close to its expiration, and I really wonder whether the rule will pass.

I haven't heard them talk about whether they think this rule will pass. As I noted, six rules have been killed on the Republican side. There was also a tweet that was recently issued by the presumptive Presidential nominee in all caps. It says—and I am quoting this; I am not making any observations. It says in all caps—and I can't yell that loud—but it says: "Kill FISA, it was illegally used against me, and many others. They spied on my campaign."

I wonder whether this House will continue to move forward on the business that must be done or whether tweets will indeed lead to what action we are taking here today. Hopefully, we will take action that leads us to move forward.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me time.

I am here to remind myself and everybody that we each took an oath to

uphold and defend the Constitution, and within the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is the Fourth Amendment.

I will read a portion of that for all of you: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated. . . ."

It doesn't say: Well, if we have got an important matter, we can violate it; if it is too difficult, if it takes too long, Mr. Speaker, we can violate it. It doesn't say that. It says it "shall not be violated."

Now, we are here to debate the rule today on this, and I will tell you I have concerns about the rule because we worked to make sure that amendments would be in order so that we could vote for them on the floor.

I have concerns about the rule. Assuming this rule passes and this bill comes to the floor, Mr. Speaker, the FBI and the intelligence agencies—just the last time there was a report out—spied on Americans illegally 278,000 times. It sure is long past time that we do something about it. It is sure long past time.

I will tell you, the fact that they are quibbling and fighting about having a warrant requirement, that they are fighting over protecting the data that they are purchasing, not just on me, Mr. Speaker, not just on you, the people in the gallery, the people that are watching on TV. Every single American, these intelligence agencies, without a warrant, are collecting your information for which they each took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution which says they can't do it.

Mr. Speaker, this reauthorization is not reformed. It is not currently reformed. It might be reformed depending upon the amendments available, but we already know that the one that protects your data from being bought by the FBI is not going to be allowed.

Somebody has to stand up for the Constitution and the rights of the American people, and if I can't do anything else here in this House of Representatives, you can count on me for standing up for that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

□ 1300

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I, too, like many more, take sacred the oath that we have taken to preserve the Constitution. I hope that as elections come up and as we think about how we make sure that we preserve our democracy, that those words continue to ring throughout all of my colleagues' memories of what has happened on the floor of this House.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you I have significant concerns about why it does not address some material potential violations of Fourth Amendment rights of Americans. It really has to do a lot with upstream collection, and I will explain what it is.

Upstream collection is where the government and the State can go in the backbone and collect data about all Americans, whatever they want, and then they have to go through minimization procedures. Supposedly, this minimization procedure is supposed to limit the data that they incidentally collect about Americans.

Well, the challenge is no one ever audits and checks what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, if you remember what happened in 2016, where pretty much these minimization procedures didn't allow to collect about information. It means that if you have the name of some potential terrorist in the body of your email, they can collect your data but NSA still did it. They collected the data.

Mr. Speaker, what happened? We don't know what happened; but we also know in 2022 that a new technique was authorized where, according to the review of the oversight board, if used in a widespread way and not minimized, it can be extraordinarily intrusive.

This is a very new sensitive technique, but no one ever checked this. We know these agencies, how they felt so many times collecting data on Americans. We are turning into a police state. This is a material flaw with this bill, and I want to raise significant concerns that it has to be addressed or we are just putting lipstick on a pig.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am standing here in favor of this rule. This is an important rule that allows to come to this House floor the reauthorization of FISA and 56 significant reforms to this bill to curb what have been just devastating abuses by the intelligence community and by the FBI.

These reforms are essential to make certain that we can protect our most important national security tool, at the same time protecting American citizens and their civil liberties.

I am in favor of this rule. I ask all my fellow Members to support the rule, and I specifically thank CHIP ROY for his support for the rule as it came out of the Rules Committee. I appreciate him standing here today as we try to bring this rule to passage.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the concerns that we are looking at here, I think boil down to questions that people assert when they say, "lawfully collected information."

Therefore, you don't need a warrant to search the 702 data for United States citizens' information.

I think that is really at the crux of the debate going on. The rule that we have before us, which takes a product to respond to and make reforms and changes in response to some of the concerns raised, but then takes the critical and core component of warrant requirement and puts it off as an amendment subject to debate when there has been now some public pressure put on opposing the amendment.

That is the conundrum that you are seeing unfold, for the American people to understand why there is some hesitation here to proceed, when we are proceeding with reforms that don't get to the engine of the reform, reforms that might make some improvements but those improvements are in the periphery. They ignore the core problem, that fundamental issue as to whether or not you must have a warrant to look at the information of American citizens. That is it. That is at the core of it.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about things that are significant. Just the tip of the iceberg: Searches by the intel community and the FBI included 141 Black Lives Matter protesters; two Members of Congress; journalists; political commentators; victims who contacted the FBI, people who came to the FBI offices to perform repairs; individuals on online dating services.

Now we have in this bill a carve-out for Members of Congress. We get a heads-up: Hey guys, you have been queried.

Why do we get something that 330 million Americans don't get?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my good friend.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I support the rule, but like the gentleman, I will not support the legislation unless we get this warrant amendment requirement in the legislation itself.

Query is a fancy name for search, and the intelligence community will tell us right now there are 200,000 queries, 200,000 searches that take place every year on U.S. persons, on American citizens—200,000 a year. Those things are done on American citizens without a warrant, and this is the FBI that my friend and member of the Committee on Rules just talked about, who has abused the system.

Mr. Speaker, 278,000 times. It is not Mr. ROY, not Mr. JORDAN, that is giving you that number. That is the number from The Washington Post, 278,000 times.

The Inspector General at the Justice Department determined that FBI did not follow the previous rules when they searched this database on U.S. persons. Now, we are supposed to believe, Oh, we have new rules, stricter rules, better rules—and I am all for those—now they are going to follow the new rules. They didn't follow the old ones but now they are going to follow the new.

Why don't we go to the tried-and-true method. If you have the executive branch wanting to look at American citizens' information, they have to go to a separate and equal branch of the government, the judicial branch, and get a probable cause warrant.

It has worked pretty darn well for 200-plus years in the greatest country ever, but somehow, we can't do it here?

Our warrant requirement has three exceptions and the first exception is if it is an emergency situation you don't have to go to a judge and get a warrant. You do the search, you find out, and you protect America.

There are two other exceptions in there, as well.

Here is the fundamental question: If there are 200,000 searches done on U.S. persons a year, how many of them aren't covered by the exceptions?

Guess what? Nobody seems to be able to give us an answer. That is the question we need to know because if it is a big number, we should all be scared. If it is a small number, what is the big deal?

No one will answer that question. That is what we need to know.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to safeguard the liberty of the people we get the privilege of representing is to do what has been done in this country forever: Go get a warrant.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is really important that the American people know that we are debating a rule today, and that rule has the FISA bill, which we have heard much, but it also has other bills.

Mr. Speaker, half the bills, half the legislation that are on the floor today do nothing. They do absolutely nothing. In fact, it is not surprising that Republicans, my colleagues, worry about the do-nothing Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I request ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from NBC NEWS titled: "It is embarrassing": Republicans worry they have no achievements to run on in 2024."

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

There was no objection.

[From NBC News]

'It's EMBARRASSING': REPUBLICANS WORRY THEY HAVE NO ACHIEVEMENTS TO RUN ON IN 2024

(By Sahil Kapur)

"They can't pass an agenda" Democrats intend to highlight the majority's thin record this fall.

"I think people are paying attention to that," Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., the chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said in an interview. "This is clearly a Republican conference where the only thing that brings them together are impeachments and censures. That's what they're about because they can't pass an agenda. They can't do anything substantively to help the American people. And so we plan on making that an issue throughout the year."

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., a senior appropriator, said there's still time for Re-

publicans to bag some victories. "If we can do the tax bill, and if we can do the appropriation bills . . . if we can do something to actually strengthen the border . . . then I think that would be a highly, highly, highly successful Congress," he said.

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., who represents one of 17 GOP districts that Biden won in 2020, praised the tax bill and said he wants to fund Ukraine and Israel, help Taiwan and secure the border.

"I hope there's enough adults in the room that are willing to focus on progress rather than purity," Fitzpatrick said.

GOP senators concur. "It would be really nice if they could hang their hat on some accomplishment," said Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., who previously served three terms in the House.

Cramer said the record of accomplishments since Republicans took the House majority has so far been "damn thin." He warned that if conservatives scuttle an immigration deal, it could hurt swing-district GOP members who would benefit from achievements as they fight for political survival in competitive districts.

"It would be ironic if the thing that prevented them from being able to hang their hat on a good immigration or border security policy would be the election because it could be the only thing that might save some of them," Cramer said. "The whole 'burden of governing' thing that I was hopeful would weigh heavily enough on them to get serious hasn't worked so far."

"We keep doing the same stupid stuff"

House Rules Committee Chair Tom Cole, R-Okla., said divided government always complicates lawmaking but argued that since the GOP took the House, "the big accomplishments here are what we stopped, not what we got done."

"Certainly so far we've avoided shutting down the government; that's no small achievement," he said. "I actually think that House races are going to be shaped more by the presidential race than they are by anything that happens here. The country is very evenly divided. I don't think very many people are going to vote for one guy for president and a person of a different party for their local congressman or congresswoman."

That's not good enough for some Republicans.

The frustration over the lack of achievements boiled over for Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, around Thanksgiving when he went to the floor to deliver a fiery speech that gained national attention.

"I want my Republican colleagues to give me one thing—one!—that I can go campaign on and say we did. One!" Roy yelled. "Anybody sitting in the complex, you want to come down to the floor and come explain to me one material, meaningful, significant thing the Republican majority has done besides, 'Well, I guess it's not as bad as the Democrats.'"

Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., the GOP campaign chief, said members conveyed their dissatisfaction to Roy about his comments that the party doesn't deserve the majority.

"I don't think it's helpful," Hudson said. "I bet some Democrats will take his words and make some ads out of them."

But he added that he doesn't think Roy's outburst will impact any races by fall. He said Republicans "have legislative accomplishments coming out of the House," citing conservative measures to bolster fossil fuel energy production and a "parents' bill of rights," even though they've gone nowhere in the Democratic-led Senate.

"I think we've got a record to run on," Hudson said.

Roy told NBC News he stands by his critique “because nothing’s been delivered yet—no final product.” And the message from his colleagues didn’t seem to impress him. On Thursday, as Congress passed a third stopgap funding bill in five months, Roy went back to the floor to question the value of the Republican majority.

“By the way, it does not matter who’s sitting in the speaker’s seat or who’s got the majority,” he said before the C-SPAN cameras on the House floor. “We keep doing the same stupid stuff.”

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would say that some of the quotes—and I am saying quotes—say: “I hope there is enough adults in the room that are willing to focus on progress rather than purity.”

Mr. Speaker, that means when you don’t have bipartisan legislation to work on some of the issues my constituents have talked about, the resolutions that nobody on the other side wants to talk about, because they do nothing.

I would also point to another quote: “I want my Republican colleagues to give me one thing—one—that I can go campaign on and say we did. One.” Roy yelled, “Anybody sitting in the complex, if you want to come down to the floor and come explain to me one material, meaningful, significant thing the Republican majority has done besides: Well, I guess it is not as bad as Democrats.”

I think that is a really important thing that Americans need to know.

Mr. Speaker, when we were in charge of this House, we looked on making sure that we brought down the cost of prescription drugs. We made sure that we addressed the needs of the American people.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 6¼ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New Mexico has 9¼ minutes.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, which I hope we will, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would protect access to reproductive and abortion healthcare for the millions of Americans who need it.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the far-right and MAGA Republicans will stop at nothing short of a full abortion ban. As of this month, over a dozen States have restricted access to that critical healthcare with some extreme States eliminating access entirely.

Just yesterday, an Arizona Supreme Court upheld a 160-year-old law, making it a felony to perform or induce an abortion at almost any time. This is inhumane.

Mr. Speaker, do you think Republicans will stop at 15 States, 20 States? On the contrary, they won’t stop until every single woman in this country is

deprived of her right to make her own healthcare decisions in conversation with her faith, her family, and her doctors without government interference.

Mr. Speaker, that is why House Democrats are fighting to protect women, protect doctors, and protect patients who simply want access to needed care.

H.R. 12, the Women’s Health Protection Act, will prevent States from trampling on Americans’ constitutional rights and keep fundamental healthcare services available across the country.

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 gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ, for her commitment to ensuring women’s access to abortion care, no matter where they are in this country. This is because extreme Republicans are doubling down on their out-of-touch—and I will repeat—extreme attacks on women as they march toward a national abortion ban.

Make no mistake. By overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court deprived millions of women the freedom to make one of the most personal and important decisions of their lives.

As a physician, in fact, a pediatrician, I understand that reproductive healthcare, including abortion, is part of women’s healthcare.

There is simply no place for politics in the exam room. This is a personal decision between a woman and her doctor. It is not a government decision, and government should not be meddling in healthcare. This is a slippery slope, as we are already seeing.

When there is a claim by my colleagues, by my Republican colleagues, that life begins at conception, the moment a sperm touches an egg, boy, that is a slippery slope.

We have already seen what that has done to IVF care. Parents who desperately want children are unable to have families now in Alabama because of this ruling. This is interfering with even more aspects of women’s healthcare.

Next is contraception. Again, make no mistake. As one of two pro-choice woman doctors in Congress, you can count on me to do everything I can to protect women’s access to safe abortion.

Mr. Speaker, this is why the Women’s Healthcare Protection Act, which will keep government out of this most personal and important medical decision, is so critical to pass.

□ 1315

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

I want to give everyone at home a behind-the-scenes look at what we just did here today. Republicans needed filler this week because they have no real agenda to work on. Of the four bills, three of them are do-nothing bills that attack the President, a customs bill that has broad support and didn’t need a rule, and a FISA reauthorization which we don’t even know will pass.

I think Americans want to know what we are not doing here. They want to know that we are not taking up the important legislation that Americans are worried about, like security assistance for Ukraine, which the Senate voted overwhelmingly to pass. The crucial aid to Ukraine would be critical to fight for democracy, but we are not even taking it up.

We are not taking up the need to pass a farm bill. Everywhere I go in my district, my rural area, I am asked: What is happening with the farm bill?

We are not taking it up. We are not taking up legislation to protect a woman’s access to healthcare, so that if she has a miscarriage she is welcomed with assistance from her doctors and not handcuffs.

We have pointed out that the last bill to pass the Rules Committee and become law was almost a year ago, because Republicans in this Congress have been trying but failing over and over to govern. Democrats, in contrast, are willing to work across the aisle on bipartisan issues, to attack the important issues our constituents know we need to get done. We cannot continue to have the kind of infighting that stops legislative action for us to get the work done we need to get done.

Mr. Speaker, because of all the important issues that were raised and we need to take up, for women and people who love the women, who want to make sure they have the healthcare they deserve, vote “no” on the previous question. Let’s take up the Women’s Health Protection Act. Let’s move on things that in every State, election after election, we know we need to get done.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to summarize what we have in front of us, particularly with respect to the foreign intelligence surveillance issue. That is where we have, I think, the most debate.

The fact of the matter is, for the average American watching this, they are going to be confused as to what exactly we are doing because it is a complex issue.

I started this rule debate by quoting James Madison, who in 1798, I will repeat, wrote to Thomas Jefferson and said: “Perhaps it is a universal truth

that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged to provisions against danger real or pretended from abroad.”

I think that is the question that is before us right now. It is the balance that a nation struggles with, if you are a republic like ours, a republic built on the back of liberty and our constitutional protections, that is trying to balance the need to stop evil abroad from attacking our people with protecting civil liberties at home.

What we have, for the average American to understand, is a big pot of collected information that is, in the words of the intel community, directed outward. That large pot of information is directed toward some 230,000 people, individuals and entities abroad. As I said earlier, we don't know who they are. We are not briefed on who they are. When we try to go into that kind of level of briefing, it is often cloaked in the intel world. They just say this is dangerous and important stuff. The Judiciary Committee chairman, for example, doesn't know who is on that list of 230,000 people.

From that list of 230,000, who we don't know, and which can expand or shrink at the whim of the intel community, we then take that information and communications with any of those individuals, if you are an American citizen, you can get swept up and viewed by the intel community. That is where the abuses took place.

I have heard some of my colleagues saying: You are asking for a secondary warrant when we say that the warrant amendment here is critically important. That misses the point that you have got an intelligence-driven apparatus to collect information abroad that then will sweep in communications by Americans citizens, or U.S. persons, into that database. Those communications can now be seen and can be viewed.

As I noted, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board report released last year said: “Ordinary Americans may be in contact with section 702 targets for business or personal reasons even if the Americans have no connection to, or reason to suspect, any wrongdoing by their foreign contacts.”

That is the problem. That is why the Judiciary Committee, which is the committee with primary jurisdiction, put in place additional protections in the form of a required warrant if you are going to look at the information of those American citizens. That was the wisdom of the very broad, bipartisan 35-2 vote in the Judiciary Committee. That was removed.

The bill now put on the floor, the bill before us, now we are forced to proceed to a bill by virtue of a rule whereby we are not sure whether the issue at play, the warrant requirement, will be supported.

Now, that might be fine. You say we have an open process, but it wasn't really an open process. It was a structured rule. There were provisions that

were sort of cooked up to achieve the result. That is what we are looking at.

In truth, there are amendments that have been part of the rule that are intel amendments which will expand FISA, which will expand the reach, and by all accounts, more likely than not, will pass.

Then there are the provisions that some support that would constrain the power, for example, the warrant requirement or the “abouts” language which would limit the use of the more generic “abouts,” so you have to target the specific individuals. Then there is the enhanced reporting, which happens to be my amendment. Those provisions are meant to constrain government.

The conundrum that you see, that you are going to see play out on the floor is: Do you support the rule to proceed, to move forward, under the hope that the warrant amendment will be passed? Because the sword of Damocles that is hanging over our heads is that this will expire and thus there will be pressure to pass a simple reauthorization for 5 years. That is the truth.

We will see what transpires. It is my considered judgment that we ought to try, as a body, to stand behind a warrant requirement to make sure we protect the American people.

The material previously referred to by Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ is as follows:
AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1125 OFFERED BY
MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 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. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

Mr. ROY. 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 on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1125;

Adoption of House Resolution 1125, if ordered; and

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3250.

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. 7888, REFORMING INTELLIGENCE AND SECURING AMERICA ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 529, EXTENDING LIMITS OF U.S. CUSTOMS WATERS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1112, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1117, OPPOSING EFFORTS TO PLACE ONE-SIDED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WITH RESPECT TO GAZA

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. 1125) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7888) to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 529) to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1112) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1117) opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza, 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 210, nays 209, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 107]

YEAS—210

Aderholt Fulcher Miller (OH)
 Alford Gaetz Miller (WV)
 Allen Gallagher Miller-Meeks
 Amodei Garbarino Mills
 Armstrong Garcia, Mike Molinaro
 Arrington Gimenez Moolenaar
 Bacon Gonzales, Tony Moore (AL)
 Baird Good (VA) Moore (UT)
 Balderson Gooden (TX) Moran
 Banks Gosar Murphy
 Barr Granger Newhouse
 Bean (FL) Graves (LA) Norman
 Bentz Graves (MO) Nunn (IA)
 Bergman Green (TN) Obernolte
 Bice Greene (GA) Ogles
 Biggs Griffith Owens
 Bilirakis Grothman Palmer
 Bishop (NC) Guest Pence
 Boebert Guthrie Perry
 Bost Hageman Pfluger
 Brecheen Harris Posey
 Buchanan Harshbarger Reschenthaler
 Bucshon Higgins (LA) Rodgers (WA)
 Burchett Hill Rogers (AL)
 Burgess Hinson Rogers (KY)
 Burlison Houchin Rose
 Calvert Hudson Rosendale
 Cammack Huizenga Rouzer
 Carey Hunt Roy
 Carl Issa Rutherford
 Carter (GA) Jackson (TX) Salazar
 Carter (TX) James Scalise
 Chavez-DeRemer Johnson (LA) Schweikert
 Ciscomani Johnson (SD) Scott, Austin
 Cline Jordan Self
 Cloud Joyce (OH) Sessions
 Clyde Joyce (PA) Simpson
 Cole Kean (NJ) Smith (MO)
 Collins Kelly (MS) Smith (NE)
 Comer Kelly (PA) Smith (NJ)
 Crane Kiggans (VA) Smucker
 Crawford Kiley Spartz
 Crenshaw Kim (CA) Stauber
 Curtis Kustoff Steel
 D'Esposito LaHood Stefanik
 Davidson LaLota Steil
 De La Cruz LaMalfa Steube
 DesJarlais Langworthy Strong
 Diaz-Balart Latta Tenney
 Donalds LaTurner Thompson (PA)
 Duarte Lawler Tiffany
 Duncan Lee (FL) Timmons
 Dunn (FL) Letlow Turner
 Edwards Loudermilk Valadao
 Ellzey Lucas Van Drew
 Emmer Luna Van Dwyne
 Estes Luttrell Van Orden
 Ezell Mace Wagner
 Fallon Malliotakis Walberg
 Feenstra Maloy Waltz
 Ferguson Mann Weber (TX)
 Finstad Massie Webster (FL)
 Fischbach Mast Wenstrup
 Fitzgerald McCaul Westerman
 Fitzpatrick McClain Williams (NY)
 Fleischmann McClintock Williams (TX)
 Flood McCormick Wilson (SC)
 Foxx McHenry Wittman
 Franklin, Scott Meuser Womack
 Fry Miller (IL) Yakym

NAYS—209

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

Goldman (NY) McClellan
 Gomez McColium
 Gonzalez, McGarvey
 Vicente McGovern
 Gottheimer Meeks
 Green, Al (TX) Menendez
 Harder (CA) Meng
 Hayes Mfume
 Himes Moore (WI)
 Horsford Morelle
 Houlihan Moskowit
 Hoyer Moulton
 Hoyle (OR) Mrvan
 Huffman Mullin
 Ivey Nadler
 Jackson (IL) Napolitano
 Jackson (NC) Neal
 Jackson Lee Neguse
 Jacobs Nickel
 Jayapal Norcross
 Jeffries Ocasio-Cortez
 Johnson (GA) Omar
 Kamlager-Dove Pallone
 Kaptur Panetta
 Keating Pappas
 Kelly (IL) Pascrell
 Khanna Pelosi
 Kildee Peltola
 Kilmer Perez
 Kim (NJ) Peters
 Krishnamoorthi Pettersen
 Kuster Phillips
 Landsman Pingree
 Larsen (WA) Pocan
 Larson (CT) Porter
 Lee (CA) Pressley
 Lee (NV) Quigley
 Lee (PA) Ramirez
 Leger Fernandez Raskin
 Levin Ross
 Lieu Ruiz
 Lofgren Ruppertsberger
 Lynch Ryan
 Magaziner Salinas
 Manning Sánchez
 Matsui Sarbanes
 McBath Scanlon

NOT VOTING—12

Babin Lamborn
 Golden (ME) Lesko
 Grijalva Luetkemeyer
 Hern Mooney

□ 1359

Messrs. JOHNSON of Georgia, MAG-AZINER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mses. LEE of Nevada, and TITUS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. 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 193, noes 228, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 108]

AYES—193

Aderholt Bentz Carey
 Alford Bergman Carl
 Allen Bice Carter (GA)
 Amodei Bilirakis Carter (TX)
 Armstrong Bost Chavez-DeRemer
 Arrington Brecheen Ciscomani
 Bacon Buchanan Cline
 Baird Bucshon Clyde
 Balderson Burgess Cole
 Banks Burlison Collins
 Barr Calvert Comer
 Bean (FL) Cammack Crawford

Crenshaw Curtis
 D'Esposito James
 De La Cruz Johnson (LA)
 DesJarlais Johnson (SD)
 Diaz-Balart Jordan
 Donalds Joyce (OH)
 Duarte Joyce (PA)
 Duncan Kean (NJ)
 Dunn (FL) Kelly (MS)
 Edwards Kelly (PA)
 Ellzey Kiggans (VA)
 Emmer Kiley
 Estes Kim (CA)
 Ezell Kustoff
 Fallon LaHood
 Feenstra LaLota
 Ferguson LaMalfa
 Finstad Langworthy
 Fischbach Latta
 Fitzgerald LaTurner
 Fitzpatrick Lawler
 Fleischmann Lee (FL)
 Flood Letlow
 Foxx Loudermilk
 Franklin, Scott Lucas
 Fry Luttrell
 Fulcher Malliotakis
 Gallagher Maloy
 Garbarino Mann
 Garcia, Mike Massie
 Gimenez Mast
 Gonzales, Tony McCaul
 Gooden (TX) McClain
 Granger McClintock
 Graves (LA) McCormick
 Graves (MO) McHenry
 Green (TN) Meuser
 Greene (GA) Miller (IL)
 Griffith Miller (OH)
 Grothman Miller (WV)
 Guest Miller-Meeks
 Guthrie Molinaro
 Hageman Moolenaar
 Harris Moore (AL)
 Harshbarger Moore (UT)
 Hern Moran
 Hill Murphy
 Hinson Nehls
 Houchin Newhouse
 Hudson Nunn (IA)
 Huizenga Obernolte
 Hunt Owens

NOES—228

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

Palmer
 Pence
 Pfluger
 Posey
 Reschenthaler
 Rodgers (WA)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Rutherford
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self
 Sessions
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Strong
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Timmons
 Turner
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Waltz
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Williams (NY)
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

McCollum Pettersen Spanberger
 McGarvey Phillips Stansbury
 McGovern Pingree Stanton
 Meeks Pocan Steube
 Menendez Porter Stevens
 Meng Pressley Suozzi
 Mfume Quigley Swallwell
 Mills Ramirez Sykes
 Moore (WI) Raskin Takano
 Morelle Rosendale Thaneadar
 Moskowitz Ross Thompson (CA)
 Moulton Roy Thompson (MS)
 Mrvan Ruiz Titus
 Mullin Ruppertsberger Tlaib
 Nadler Ryan Tokuda
 Napolitano Salinas Tonko
 Neal Sánchez Torres (CA)
 Neguse Sarbanes Torres (NY)
 Nickel Scanlon Trahan
 Norcross Schakowsky Trone
 Norman Schiff Underwood
 Ocasio-Cortez Schneider Vargas
 Ogles Scholten Vasquez
 Omar Schrier Veasey
 Pallone Scott (VA) Velázquez
 Panetta Scott, David Wasserman
 Pappas Sewell Schultz
 Pascrell Sherman Waters
 Pelosi Sherrill Watson Coleman
 Peltola Slotkin Wexton
 Perez Smith (WA) Wild
 Perry Sorensen Williams (GA)
 Peters Soto Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Babin Lamborn Payne
 Davidson Lesko Strickland
 Golden (ME) Luetkemeyer
 Grijalva Mooney

□ 1413

So the resolution was not agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
 the table.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY
RECOGNITION ACT

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. 3250) to recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) 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 385, nays 31, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 109]

YEAS—385

Adams Bergman Calvert
 Aderholt Beyer Caraveo
 Aguilar Bice Carbajal
 Alford Bilirakis Cárdenas
 Allen Bishop (GA) Carey
 Allred Blumenauer Carl
 Amo Blunt Rochester Carson
 Amodei Bonamici Carter (GA)
 Auchincloss Bost Carter (LA)
 Bacon Bowman Carter (TX)
 Baird Boyle (PA) Cartwright
 Balderson Brown Casar
 Balint Brownley Case
 Banks Buchanan Casten
 Barr Bucshon Castor (FL)
 Barragán Budzinski Castro (TX)
 Beatty Burchett Chavez-DeRemer
 Bentz Burgess Cherfilus-
 Bera Bush McCormick

Chu Ciscomani Hinson
 Clark (MA) Horsford Napolitano
 Clarke (NY) Houchin Neal
 Cleaver Hoyer Neguse
 Clyburn Hoyle (OR) Newhouse
 Clyde Hudson Nickel
 Cohen Huffman Norman
 Cole Huizenga Nunn (IA)
 Comer Ocasio-Cortez Obernolte
 Connolly Issa Ocasio-Cortez
 Correa Ivey Omar
 Costa Jackson (NC) Owens
 Courtney Jackson (TX) Pallone
 Craig Jackson Lee Palmer
 Crawford Jacobs Panetta
 Crenshaw James Pappas
 Crockett Jayapal Pascarell
 Crow Jeffries Pelosi
 Cuellar Johnson (GA) Peltola
 Curtis Johnson (LA) Pence
 D'Esposito Johnson (SD) Perez
 Davids (KS) Joyce (PA) Peters
 Davidson Kamlager-Dove Pettersen
 Davis (IL) Kaptur Pfluger
 De La Cruz Kean (NJ) Phillips
 DeGette Keating Pingree
 DeLauro Kelly (IL) Pocan
 DelBene Kelly (MS) Porter
 Deluzio Kelly (PA) Posey
 DesSaulnier Khanna Pressley
 Diaz-Jarlais Kiggans (VA) Quigley
 Diaz-Balart Kildee Ramirez
 Dingell Kiley Raskin
 Doggett Kilmer Reschenthaler
 Duarte Kim (CA) Rodgers (WA)
 Duncan Kim (NJ) Rogers (AL)
 Dunn (FL) Krishnamoorthi Rogers (KY)
 Edwards Kuster Rose
 Ellzey LaHood Ross
 Emmer LaLota Rouzer
 Escobar LaMalfa Ruiz
 Eshoo Landsman Ruppertsberger
 Espallat Langworthy Rutherford
 Estes Larsen (WA) Ryan
 Evans Sánchez Salazar
 Ezell Sánchez Salinas
 Fallon Latta Sánchez
 Feenstra LaTurner Scalise
 Ferguson Lawler Scanlon
 Finstad Lee (CA) Schakowsky
 Fischbach Lee (FL) Schiff
 Fitzgerald Lee (NV) Schneider
 Fitzpatrick Lee (PA) Scholten
 Fleischmann Leger Fernandez Schrier
 Fletcher Letlow Schweikert
 Flood Levin Scott (VA)
 Foster Lieu Scott, Austin
 Foushee Lofgren Scott, David
 Foxx Lucas Self
 Frankel, Lois Luna Sessions
 Franklin, Scott Luttrell Sewell
 Frost Lynch Sherman
 Fry Mace Sherrill
 Fulcher Magaziner Simpson
 Gaetz Malliotakis Slotkin
 Gallagher Maloy Smith (MO)
 Gallego Mann Smith (NE)
 Garamendi Manning Smith (NJ)
 Garbarino Mast Smith (WA)
 Garcia (IL) Matsui Smucker
 Garcia (TX) McBeth Sorensen
 Garcia, Mike McCaul Soto
 Garcia, Robert McClellan Spanberger
 Gimenez McClintock Spartz
 Gomez Goldman (NY) Stansbury
 Gonzales, Tony McCormick Stanton
 Gonzalez, Tony McGarvey Stauber
 Gonzalez, Vicente Meeker Steel
 Gooden (TX) Meng Stefanik
 Gottheimer Meuser Steil
 Granger Mfume Stevens
 Graves (LA) Miller (OH) Strong
 Graves (MO) Miller-Meeks Suozzi
 Green (TN) Mills Swallwell
 Green, Al (TX) Molinaro Sykes
 Griffith Moolenaar Takano
 Grothman Moore (UT) Tenney
 Guest Moore (WI) Thanedar
 Guthrie Moran Thompson (CA)
 Harder (CA) Morelle Thompson (MS)
 Hayes Moskowit Thompson (PA)
 Hern Moulton Tiffany
 Higgins (LA) Mrvan Timmons
 Hill Mullin Titus
 Himes Murphy Tlaib
 Torres (CA)

Torres (NY) Velázquez
 Trahan Wagner
 Trone Walberg
 Turner Waltz
 Underwood Wasserman
 Valadao Schultz
 Van Drew Waters
 Van Dwyne Watson Coleman
 Van Orden Webster (FL)
 Vargas Wenstrup
 Vasquez Westernman
 Veasey Wexton

NAYS—31

Arrington Crane Miller (IL)
 Bean (FL) Donalds Miller (WV)
 Biggs Good (VA) Moore (AL)
 Bishop (NC) Gosar Nehls
 Boebert Greene (GA) Ogles
 Brecheen Hageman Perry
 Burlison Harris Rosendale
 Cammack Harshbarger Roy
 Cline Jordan Steube
 Cloud Loudermilk
 Collins Massie

NOT VOTING—15

Armstrong Joyce (OH) Mooney
 Babin Lamborn Norcross
 Golden (ME) Lesko Payne
 Grijalva Luetkemeyer Strickland
 Jackson (IL) McHenry Weber (TX)

□ 1424

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

Stated for:

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was not present due to the mistake of rushing to the 2 p.m. HFAC hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 109.

Stated against:

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 109, I mistakenly voted “yea” when I intended to vote “nay.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 107, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 1125; “nay” on rollcall No. 108, H. Res. 1125; and “yea” on rollcall No. 109, H.R. 3250.

AUTHORIZING VIDEO RECORDING
IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER DURING A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS FOR CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1126 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1126

Resolved, That the Speaker, in concurrence with the Minority Leader, is authorized to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to record proceedings during a joint meeting of

Congress on April 11, 2024, to provide a virtual reality experience for educational use by the public.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

— HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

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

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

There was no objection.

— COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF BILL FOSTER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of BILL FOSTER.

Bill was a longtime Savannah, Georgia, resident, having been born and raised in the area.

After graduating from Armstrong College Night School, Bill served our Nation as a member of the Georgia Army National Guard. During this time, he was a commissioned officer in the 118th Field Artillery Battalion.

Following service, Bill worked with Thomas and Hutton Engineering as a land surveyor. During his employment, he contributed to multiple landscape development projects. Noting his skills and strong work ethic, the company appointed Bill as chairman of the board of directors where he served until the time of his retirement in December of 1997.

Bill embodied the characteristics of a true community man, having raised a wonderful family with his wife, Peggy, while actively participating in local church operations and other community committees.

Bill will be remembered for his civic leadership, his community involvement, and his service to our Nation.

— HAMAS IS RESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we need to be unequivocally clear about one thing: Hamas is responsible for every single loss of life in Israel and Gaza since their barbaric attack on October 7.

Hamas, conducting a war from beneath the homes and kitchens of citizens, is putting civilians in danger, not this ridiculous assertion made against Israel, which is merely defending itself against these sources of attack.

There can be no cease-fire until Hamas surrenders, releases every hostage, and ceases firing at Israel and its innocent citizens.

It is shameful that the Biden White House and Senate majority Leader SCHUMER are walking back support of one of our greatest allies.

Meanwhile, there are increasingly concerning pro-Iran/Muslim Brotherhood influences inside our own State Department.

Israel has an undeniable right to defend themselves from their attackers.

The U.S. must continue to support military armaments, including the Iron Dome missile defense system, and never encourage our ally to surrender to the terrorists who want them dead and to not exist.

— ATTORNEY GENERAL MUST PROTECT THIS NATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reinforce one of the most important positions that we have in the United States, and that is the Attorney General of the United States of America.

That officer of the Nation is to provide protection when it comes to fair voting laws, to structure a scheme of social justice and criminal justice interacting together where you have justice in the eyes of the citizen, and, of course, you have a response in the eyes of the person that is the perpetrator, that they are held accountable.

So I call upon the Attorney General of the United States to defend this Nation: Defend this Nation on the grounds of more women's rights; defend this Nation on a better social voting rights structure that is not being defended; and fight for a young boy that is sitting in a classroom isolated in Texas because he does not have the right hairstyle. He is suffering because the State of Texas is not abiding by the CROWN Act.

I want the Attorney General of the United States to do its job of defending the citizens of this country and to hold those responsible who have done wrong and to be able to protect those who have not done wrong. I will follow up in the days to come.

— A SHAMEFUL DISPLAY

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks, we have seen a shameful display by Members of the Democratic Party, including the Senate majority leader, who attacked and undermined the State of Israel and the special relationship that we have.

The United States recognized Israel 11 minutes after its founding. They are our closest ally in the world, and at a time of war the Senate majority leader, the Senator from New York, took the opportunity to call for a regime change.

At a time when the Democratic Party talks about protecting democracy, rails against foreign interference in elections, the Senator from New York thought it was his opportunity and in his interest politically to undermine the State of Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas is a terrorist state. The fastest way for a cease-fire to occur is for Hamas to surrender and release the hostages. That is the only thing that members of the United States Government should be demanding from the President to the Senate majority leader to the former Speaker of the House.

It is shameful what is happening in the Democratic Party today.

— FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to be very clear in the hearts and minds of Americans and the hearts and minds of Texans, the hearts and minds of the Democratic Caucus that no one in our Caucus condones the killing of innocent people no matter where we find ourselves.

So I rise today to take great issue with any suggestion that our Democratic Caucus would not fight for those who are the most vulnerable.

I recognize the Maryland delegation and the leader, Mr. MFUME, who comes to the floor to ensure that the voices of Marylanders are heard in helping to rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge but also to ensure the representation of the American people that we do not discard our friends.

What we will do is demand that our friends stand up for the vulnerable, that our friends love babies and women and children, and that we make sure that there is not an unequal mistreatment of individuals who are here in this country and who are overseas.

So I must challenge any interpretation of Democrats as being anything but supportive of the President's policies, which are policies that believe in protecting human rights workers, and again, as I started out, by protecting those vulnerable persons in the—how should I say it—in the very vigorous war that is going on and the loss of life that we see.

That is why you hear a difference of opinion in the Democratic Party. That is why you hear from the majority leader of the United States Senate a different voice because that voice has to speak for, again, the most vulnerable.

At the same time, would we not want to have the Nation acknowledge the tragedy that happened in Maryland in the Baltimore Harbor where so many detrimental disasters could be forthcoming because of the terrible tragedy of the bridge coming down, the lack of

money to be able to support a new system of construction, as well to be able to pay for it.

So here is the real story. Tragedy struck the Baltimore Harbor some weeks ago. We saw not only the Maryland delegation come together, but we saw the Nation come together.

The Nation has come together to be able to speak to the pain of the people that are in Maryland, that are in Baltimore, and in particular, in the city of Baltimore. That is what happened.

So I am standing with and supporting Mr. MFUME who comes to represent the Maryland delegation to ensure that those funds are forthcoming and that they are not dismissed. I think it is extremely important that we know to help our various communities that are suffering from hurricanes, suffering from a particular type of disaster that no one had ever heard, which is the disaster of the collision of a cargo carrier, if you will, going into the Francis Scott Key Bridge that many of us remember as the source of the Star Spangled Banner.

So I would not be here if I didn't think the value that I stand for is to stand alongside Mr. MFUME to recognize that we are Americans first and that we are here to help those who are in their time of need who cannot help themselves.

That is why the President immediately went to Maryland in terms of his voice, immediately spoke up on behalf of the people of Maryland and the people of Baltimore and immediately spoke up on behalf of the Maryland Congressional Delegation which Mr. MFUME now will continue to lead. He immediately stood up because he is going to be a man of his word. He stood up because he is a man of his word that he was going to be here to stand with the great people of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to indicate my support for the funding efforts to help the great people of the great State of Maryland. Let's do it together. That is what Americans do. We help each other, and we work together.

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

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentlewoman from Texas for her opening remarks of

this Special Order hour dedicated to make sure that we underscore the sense of tragedy, the sense of loss, and the sense of damage that has occurred as a result of the bridge collapse in Baltimore. I thank her again for sitting in and standing in. Your remarks were very well received. We appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today shortly to welcome other Members again who will be coming over to be a part of this Special Order. I want to call everyone's attention to the fact that somewhere around 1:30 a.m. on March 26, the Dali, a large 985-foot cargo ship weighing 95,000 tons when empty, collided, as we all know now, tragically with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

□ 1445

The *Dali's* collision with the Key Bridge caused its fatal collapse into the Patapsco River and has forced the Port of Baltimore to suspend vessel traffic until further notice. All of the shipping lanes, with the exception of the ones that the Coast Guard was just recently able to open, have been closed, and we don't expect that to change until sometime around the end of May, if we are fortunate.

Aside from that, I think it is always important to recognize that it was not the collapse of the bridge alone that troubled us, but it is also the loss of human life. Our hearts continue to go out to the families who lost their loved ones on that bridge on that fateful evening.

This unimaginable disaster claimed the lives, as we know now, of six men: Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, Miguel Luna, Dorlian Castillo Cabrera, Jose Mynor Lopez, and Carlos Hernandez.

Those stories and those lives have yet to be fully understood or told, but those men, most of whom had been in this country 16 or 17 years, working in most instances two jobs, married with children and raising families, paying taxes, and doing what a lot of people would not want to do at 1:30 in the morning that high up on a bridge, filling potholes.

We, in the State of Maryland, continue to mourn them, as do people all over the country, and we know that they were, indeed, as I said, husbands, somebody's father, somebody's brother. Their passing serves as a solemn reminder to cherish our own lives and the lives of those that we really deeply care about. These men gave their heart, they gave their sweat, and ultimately gave their souls.

They leave behind six grieving families and loved ones that will never see them again. So those families can never get enough of our condolences and our prayers and our sympathies. I thank the largest Latino and immigrant organization in the Mid-Atlantic, CASA de Maryland, its Executive Director Gustavo Torres, and all of those who worked so hard to support those grieving families the day of the col-

lapse and every day since then, both financially and emotionally. I ask that we continue to lift them in prayer in a time of great tragedy that all Americans, regardless of where they are, to some extent feel, understand, and grieve for.

I would be remiss if I did not thank President Joe Biden, who called the Governor and myself and other members of the delegation that morning to express his profound regret and his unflinching and unwavering support, to find a way to make things whole again, to rebuild that bridge, and to allow those shipping lanes of commerce to be open.

President Biden, since the beginning of this, has not wavered in his support of replacing that bridge, and not just for the sake of replacing a bridge, and to open, as I said before, the channels of commerce, but to also find a way to give hope to all of the many people who are affected, the thousands of long-shoremen, thousands of dock workers that do odd jobs, all of those in the communities of Turner Station and Dundalk, Maryland, who are right at the mouth of the bridge, as well as all those small businesses and businessowners, the truck drivers and others—everyone affected when all commerce came to a halt.

I thank President Biden. We have appreciated the simple eloquence of his example in this tragedy. We pledge to work with him and with the appropriate members of the Appropriations Committee here in the Congress.

In addition to the President, I thank Secretary Buttigieg, who also reached out early that morning as the sun rose and who was one of the first boots on the ground by noon.

Secretary Buttigieg was initially responsible in making sure that the cleanup funds, the initial dollars, got appropriated and let right away. They were sent and are being used now in cleanup of the massive amount of debris, which I am going to talk about, which is almost unthinkable when you consider a bridge of that size.

Administrator Guzman and the SBA, we thank you and we thank all those SBA officials who came over and who started working with small businesses who are severely impacted by this, as was the case with Acting Secretary Su of the Department of Labor.

Now, one of the things that we believe is very important, and I think it is important to mention right now, is that the United States Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers immediately stood up a command team on the scene, immediately began working with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, who, by the way, has done an excellent job in marshaling all of the State's resources. That command team, made up of the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State police, the FBI, and so many others that were involved from the start of this, really has made a difference in terms of the progress that has been made thus far.

The Maryland Department of the Environment and the Transportation Authority also were very much a part of what took place.

Mr. Speaker, this unified command, as I indicated, were some of the first boots on the ground, and they have responded to these crises day in and day out with diligence and with precision. Their work around the clock, 24/7, does not go unnoticed by our city, our State, or our Nation. We owe much dedication to those servicemen and servicewomen who, even at this hour as I speak, are still very much involved, as they had been in trying to find a way to open those channels.

There are 51 divers in the water right now, going through the wreckage and trying to assess the danger in very dangerous, dark, and murky circumstances.

We still have three individuals who have not yet been recovered, and so the work of those divers is particularly important so that these families might be able to bring closure to all that is going on.

I mentioned Governor Wes Moore. I want to speak more about him and his team and the members of the Maryland delegation who have worked in lock-step with one another to get us to this point.

My thanks to both Senators in the other body, Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN; the entire House delegation, Congressman HOYER, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER, Congressman RASKIN, who you will hear from in just a minute, Congressman SARBANES, Congressman ANDY HARRIS, Congressman TRONE, Congressman GLENN IVEY, and myself.

I would like, if I might, before I talk more about the State's effort and what we are really dealing with when we think about this collapse, it is more than just concrete and bricks and steel falling into the ocean. It has disrupted supply chains across this Nation that we hope to reopen and reestablish.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my fellow Marylander, and the ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. MFUME, for yielding me time. I am grateful to him for his extraordinary leadership through this catastrophe and for leading us through this Special Order hour this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the devastating collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in our beloved home State of Maryland.

In times of catastrophe across the country, from earthquakes in California to hurricanes in Florida to flooding in Louisiana to wildfires in the West to terrorism in New York or Washington, D.C., we come together as a country to help our communities recover and rebuild, and we cannot allow any of the political divisions in America today to interfere with this process

of coming together to help a community struck by catastrophe in this way.

Disasters befall all of our States and all of our districts, and they are not partisan in character. We have to stick together to support all of our communities, and that is what we are going to do in Maryland, and we are going to do as a Nation to rebuild the Baltimore Francis Scott Key Bridge.

I thank Governor Moore's administration, the Coast Guard, Secretary Buttigieg, the Army Corps of Engineers, first responders, the Maryland Transportation Authority, and everyone who is working overtime to address this disaster. The Unified Command convened by the Coast Guard has been hard at work in removing the bridge debris from the river and restoring access to the port, salvage and recovery operations are ongoing in a very difficult and complicated process.

The Dali vessel, weighing 213 million pounds, is the same size as the Eiffel Tower with pieces of bridge weighing as much as 4,000 tons laying on top of it. The water is frigid and murky, complicating the ongoing and heroic rescue efforts that began immediately.

I thank President Biden and his administration for their exemplary leadership in the face of this catastrophe and its characteristic commitment to help the local community rebuild.

The President has directed his administration to move heaven and Earth to rebuild the bridge and to recover the port as rapidly as possible, and within hours of receiving Maryland's request, the DOT and FHA swiftly approved \$60 million in initial aid.

Mr. Speaker, I also acknowledge the devastating loss of the six construction crew workers who were killed in this nightmare when they were working what seemed like a routine nighttime shift fixing potholes. Our thoughts continue to go out to their families and all of their loved ones.

We have a long road ahead of us to rebuild the bridge in Maryland, and our bipartisan Congressional delegation stands ready to do everything which needs to be done to restore full access to the port and rebuild the bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Mr. MFUME for his extraordinary leadership and thank all of our colleagues who have expressed their support and their sympathy for the people of Maryland dealing with this crisis. Thank you for standing with us.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) whose district is miles from where this happened but who has been with us every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MFUME for organizing this very important and special tribute. It is a tribute, as you have already heard, to the six hardworking men who lost their lives during this collapse of the bridge on March 26.

They got up that morning—early, early in the morning—because they were out there in the middle of the night on this shift not knowing, obviously, what was going to happen. Their families could have no inkling of what was going to happen on that tragic day, but they were just out there doing their job.

I thank the gentleman, in particular, because in every setting now, every public statement he has made, he has led with concern and focus on those six workers that were lost. They were husbands, they were dads, brothers, friends, and our deepest condolences go out to their families who are feeling that incredibly profound loss.

This is also a tribute to the first responders who sprang into action, and, as a result, were able to save other lives on the day of that collapse, and they continue, these first responders, to search for the remaining bodies of those that were lost under very dangerous conditions because they want to reunite them with their families and their loved ones. They will be remembered as heroes, and they deserve today's tribute.

□ 1500

We also want to pay tribute to the response, the immediate response. Within minutes of this disaster, President Biden made clear that the Nation was going to step in and step up. He put his team, led by Secretary Buttigieg and others, on the task. In Baltimore, we could feel that embrace and that support right out of the gate.

This is a tribute to the executive branch response. It is a tribute to President Biden and his team. It is also a tribute to Governor Moore, who also stepped up that day, and, frankly, every day since, to show the solidarity of this response and this unified command.

We are going to push through this. Baltimore gets knocked down sometimes, but we always stand back up. That is the grit of Baltimore. In this case, we know we can't stand up by ourselves. We need President Biden, we need Governor Moore, and we need the United States Congress to be part of a national response for a national project to restore the channel and the Port of Baltimore, which is so critical to the economy of our city, our State, our region, and the Nation, and then, ultimately, as we know, to rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

That is why we are here paying tribute in the way we are today. Again, I thank my colleague Congressman MFUME for organizing this opportunity for us today.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his interest, his work, and his dedication to this mission that is before all of us, to rebuild this bridge and open the lanes of commerce once again so that our Nation's economy is not affected in ways that would cause us unwanted and unnecessary harm.

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

the Speaker Emerita of the United States House of Representatives. She is a native of Baltimore, the daughter of a mayor and the daughter of a congressperson, but a daughter of the city.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I especially thank him for his leadership to the great State of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, as well as for calling for this Special Order this evening so that we can come together and express the heartbreak that we all felt and now to commemorate the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and these six beautiful souls, in loving memory of them, who lost their lives on that dark morning.

I thank Congressman MFUME for organizing the Special Order. I join him and Congressman SARBANES in recognizing the leadership role of the Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore. I want to pay tribute to the mayor of Baltimore, Brandon Scott, and to all of our congressional delegation for uniting together in a bipartisan way in response to this tragedy.

Just to remind you, it was 2 weeks ago, in the dark of night and braving the cold, a crew got to work making repairs to the Francis Scott Key Bridge. They were doing their jobs so that 30,000 people a day could go to theirs, to do their jobs.

Our love and prayers are with those who lost their lives in this collapse and with their families who lost a husband, a brother, a father, a son.

Our gratitude is with the heroic emergency responders who responded so quickly and saved lives, as well as the teams working quickly to clear the channel.

The magnitude of the collapse cannot be understated. Six families shattered, first and foremost. Tens of thousands of commuters rerouted, paralysis of a port that handles \$80 billion in commerce, sending a shock wave through the entire economy. Inspired by the love, unity, and resilience of the Baltimore community, Baltimore will rebuild.

President Biden, as has been mentioned, and the Congress must be there with resources to support every step of the way.

On that score, I would say, having been in Congress for a long time, sadly, we have been witness to many natural and other disasters that have befallen our communities, whether it was the bridge in Minnesota, whether it was the storm in Florida, whether it was Katrina in New Orleans, or whether it was water damage in Iowa. The list goes on and on, but we have all been there for each other. Maybe not all of us, but most of us have been there.

This is a big, big tragedy, but in terms of cost, much smaller than many of the hurricanes and the rest that have happened in the rest of the country. We can learn from them. Whether it is unemployment insurance for the workers, whatever it happens to be, we

want to make sure that we utilize every resource at our disposal to bring people together.

The Governor has pointed out, as has Congressman MFUME, Congressman SARBANES, and members of the delegation, the mayor, and our Senators BEN CARDIN and CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, that this is a national challenge. If you are a restaurateur in Tennessee, you are affected by this. If you are an auto-worker in Ohio, you are affected by this. If you are a salesperson in West Virginia, you are affected by this, because of the products that come through and the jobs that are affected by it.

In closing, my father was mayor of Baltimore my whole life. When I was in first grade and when I went off to college, he was still the mayor of Baltimore. That is where my heart is.

I always was so proud of the fact that the National Anthem was written in Baltimore. Francis Scott Key, in the War of 1812, wrote the National Anthem. My brother, Tommy, who also was mayor of Baltimore, was always fond of singing it in his way.

The line in the song that I always liked the best, and I think that applies here, is when he says: "Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." That is when I start cheering at the game, not at the end, but at that point, as I just did at opening day in San Francisco. Those were the words penned by Francis Scott Key as he gazed upon the ramparts. Now a bridge bearing his name is near where those ramparts were.

As we rebuild, we will, indeed, give proof through the night that our flag is still there, our flag being our unifying symbol of our country that we are all in this together. We will be there. We will learn from other disasters. We will teach other disasters in the future by how we, in a new fresh way, in the Baltimore way, Baltimore strong, rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Proof through the night that our flag is still there.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker EMERITA both for her leadership in the greater San Francisco area and also for her love for the city of Baltimore. Both cities are very, very fortunate to have her. I can only say thanks to Speaker NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 29 minutes remaining.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for organizing this Special Order hour.

I also join with the comments that have already been made with respect to condolences to the families of the six lives that were lost. I remember, when I heard about it that morning, there

were eight, I think, missing initially. I remember praying at that time that they would survive. Even though the emergency services made immediate efforts to try and save them and blocked off the road so that no other people were going to meet that fate, I know that we have lost six at this point.

It is a sad moment, a tragic evening, and we certainly want to extend our condolences to their families and their communities. Gustavo Torres and some of the other leaders and officials in those communities recognize the impact that was had, and we certainly want to tell them that we support them and we are going to work hard to help them make it through this tragedy in every way that we can.

I also want to commend Governor Moore who has been outstanding in the way he has handled this event. The leadership he has provided has been quite impressive. He has really risen to the occasion. I knew he was a talented leader, but he has demonstrated that repeatedly during this time.

I thank the Biden administration, too, for taking immediate steps. The President himself came out I think that same day and made the commitment to make sure that the bridge got rebuilt, that the Federal Government was going to make 100 percent efforts to cover those costs, and that he was going to do everything in his power to make sure that that happened quickly, that we weren't going to wait for the litigation to take place. I think the last time there was a bridge collapse, the litigation took 10 years to resolve. Thank goodness he has decided to move it forward immediately because we need that money now. We need to rebuild it. You have heard about the economic impact on the region. I think that is certainly the case, so making initial and quick steps to make that recovery happen, I think, is critical.

I did want to say this, too. That morning, I got calls from reporters about the tragedy, and some were asking for initial responses. Some also asked me about comments that people had made with respect to the collapse of the bridge.

One candidate for Congress said DEI did this, and he called Mayor Brandon Scott "the DEI mayor."

One rightwing provocateur said foreign agents of the United States attacked digital infrastructures.

Another individual said: Looks deliberate to me. A cyberattack is probable. World war III has already started.

Lastly, a Utah State Representative said: This is what happens when you have Governors who prioritize diversity over the well-being and security of our citizens.

I told that reporter then, and I want to say it on the House floor now, that I thought those comments were disgusting and irresponsible. I thought it was a sad moment. I know we are having very partisan times here in the United States, and certainly here in

the House, but I think this is a moment where we need to rise above that.

I thank my Republican colleagues who just did that and are doing that just now. ANDY HARRIS stood with us. Congressman ANDY HARRIS stood with us yesterday. We had a press conference where we had the Biden administration present, the Governor present, and the House and Senate delegation from Maryland were all present. He was there, too, and voiced his support for full recovery of the bridge.

I say this just to end. The voices that I just mentioned a moment ago, those were not the representative voices of my colleagues here in Congress. I think they understand that this is not about red States or blue States. This is a moment where this is about the United States of America. It is times like this where we have to turn to each other and not on each other so we can rise above the tragedy and move forward together.

I know we can do better. I know we will continue to do better, and I want to commend all of those who have done better so far with this effort.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, for his leadership on this, and for his steadfastness as we all try to work together to move beyond this American disaster and to create in its place a new bridge, new lanes of commerce, and new opportunities economically for people who relied so much on that port and, by the way, on every port in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

□ 1515

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to tell the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) is that I represented Sparrows Point and the Key Bridge for over 20 years. We just had redistricting, and all of a sudden, the gentleman is the new person. He jumped in with both feet, and I appreciate the gentleman's leadership in pulling people together.

The funny thing is that the bridge is located in Baltimore City, but Baltimore County is right next to it. I grew up and went to school in the city, and the gentleman went to Turner Station, which is in Baltimore County.

It is really, I think, unique that the gentleman is here now to move forward and do whatever he needs to do. He is doing a great job, and I thank him for his leadership and all that he is doing.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I proudly represented the port for over 20 years until the recent redistricting, so I literally watched the port grow into one of Maryland's and our country's strongest economic engines.

Today, the port supports more than 51,000 direct, induced, and indirect jobs and another 346,000 related jobs. These are jobs associated with the cargo mov-

ing through the port, companies that export and import cargo through the port, as well as the end-stage businesses like manufacturers and auto dealers.

All of this activity generated \$5 billion in personal wages and salaries for Marylanders last year alone and brought in \$647 million in State and local tax revenues. In total, the economic value of the Port of Baltimore to the State of Maryland just in 2023 was more than \$70 billion. Let me say that again: \$70 billion.

Now, with the development of Tradepoint Atlantic in nearby Sparrows Point at the foot of what was once the Key Bridge, the opportunities for even more employment and economic growth are exponential and unlimited. We are anticipating a tremendous surge in manufacturing jobs as well as jobs in retail and hospitality.

That is why we have invested smartly and strategically in the port over the years at the local, State, and Federal levels. We added an impressive 50-foot berth and massive Neo-Panamax container cranes. We upgraded terminals. We are expanding the Howard Street Tunnel so it can handle double-stacked trains going to and from the port with cargo.

Last year, the Federal Government awarded the port \$47 million for a new roll-on, roll-off pad, an offshore wind project, and other upgrades for the Key Bridge and Port Baltimore.

This, of course, was part of the massive investment that came out of the bipartisan infrastructure bill that this body wisely passed in 2021 to help us compete with ports around the world.

These investments are paying off in dividends. In fact, last year, while ports nationwide were returning to their prepandemic baselines, the Port of Baltimore was the only U.S. port to see a container volume increase. We handled record cargo.

Clearly, investing in our infrastructure is a safe return for our taxpayers. It is creating jobs, making our supply chains more resilient, and curbing inflation.

Rebuilding the Key Bridge as quickly and safely as possible is a top priority for me, for our State, and for our country. It is a top priority for the Maryland delegation, and it should be a top priority for all of us.

Our delegation will soon be introducing legislation to require the Federal Government to make good on the President's commitment. We thank the President for his commitment, 100 percent, to cover the cost of rebuilding the bridge. We are going to do it quickly, and we have a lot of individuals throughout the country working to do this for us.

This is consistent with the catastrophic loss of other major infrastructure elsewhere in the country. There is no time for partisan politics or unreasonable demands. We must pass this quickly together.

We also cannot lose sight of the human toll of this unimaginable trag-

edy. It is not only the port workers who will be unemployed or underemployed but the six construction workers who lost their lives.

Our hearts go out to them and their loved ones.

They were doing dangerous, gritty work, filling potholes in the middle of the night to support their families and serve their community. They deserve our respect and gratitude.

Finally, I thank our Governor for stepping up on the State level, and our local government, our mayor and our Baltimore County Executive, John Olszewski. We really have come together as a team.

My hope is that in rebuilding better, we can prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again and prevent other families from experiencing the same grief that families are experiencing right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support us in the effort.

Mr. Speaker, I have been here for a while. This is my last term. I am not happy with where this Congress is now on both sides of the aisle. They are not working together to get things done. I hope that this negative experience will turn into a positive experience, where Republicans and Democrats will work together for the benefit of the United States of America and for my home of Baltimore.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words, and I thank him also for his service to this body for almost two decades. We wish him well as he goes forward. One thing we are all sure about is that his heart remains in Baltimore.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to another gentleman from the State of Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), who is also a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and a Member whose entire district is the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the entire coastline. He has always worked diligently on behalf of issues affecting the bay.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Today, I rise, as fellow members of my delegation have, to speak regarding the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and especially to honor the memory of the hardworking men who lost their lives the morning the bridge collapsed.

These hardworking men were fellow Marylanders: husbands, fathers, brothers, and friends. Their passing serves as a solemn reminder to cherish our own lives and the lives of those we love deeply.

Mr. Speaker, the Maryland congressional delegation stands united as we mourn those lost and extend our heartfelt condolences to their grieving families.

I also want to take a moment to recognize Maryland's brave first responders whose heroic actions saved lives the morning the Key Bridge collapsed. Once that mayday call was issued from the approaching ship, Maryland Transportation Authority Police acted

quickly and, in less than 2 minutes, stopped traffic from coming over the bridge. There is no doubt these immediate actions saved lives and averted an even greater tragedy.

We thank those officers who protect us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even in the middle of the night while most of us are asleep, as was the case that day.

Mr. Speaker, the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and the closure of the Port of Baltimore has caused serious economic consequences for our State's economy. The Baltimore Port is the largest U.S. port for handling farming construction machinery. It handles agricultural products. It is also a large export facility for American coal.

Mr. Speaker, 15,000 jobs directly depend on the Port of Baltimore.

I especially thank the Army Corps of Engineers for their quick and tireless work to get the channel cleared so that the port can reopen as soon as possible.

As we continue to work on the clean-up phase of the bridge collapse, it is important that we seek maximum liability from those foreign companies that owned and operated the ship that crashed into the bridge. As I have long said, American taxpayers in both Maryland and across the country should not be held responsible to pay for the cost to rebuild a bridge if, indeed, there was negligence on the part of foreign-owned shipping companies.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, tragedy knows no partisanship. The Key Bridge collapse wasn't a Republican tragedy, and it wasn't a Democrat tragedy. The solution to clearing the channel, reopening the port, and building the bridge back even better than it was before won't be a partisan solution. It will be a bipartisan one.

As we navigate the necessary legislation going forward, we all commit in the delegation to working in a bipartisan way to cut through Federal red tape, clear that channel, open that port, and construct an even better, safer bridge so that our fellow Marylanders, Maryland's economy, and those affected by this tragedy will come back stronger, safer, and united.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his comments and to underscore what I said earlier and what was said by several other people, that this disaster is not a partisan disaster. It affects all of us in this country regardless of our political label. I commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) for his steadfastness on this.

I am going to take a few minutes to talk about several other Members on both sides of the aisle who have, through their example, demonstrated the best way to go about dealing with a disaster like that, and that is to do it in lockstep together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the other gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). He is the former majority leader, and he is, for those who don't know, the dean of the Maryland delegation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, late at night, a ship being guided by people working for the Port Authority of Baltimore lost control of a gigantic ship. Unable to propel it or guide it, they immediately called the Transportation Authority, as Mr. HARRIS pointed out. The good news, for we don't know how many people, but perhaps hundreds, was that the Transportation Authority acted quickly.

We had a tragedy in the loss of six lives working on that bridge to keep it in good and safe shape. Tragically, for them, that gigantic ship that had lost power and the ability to steer took down a significant portion of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and caused their deaths.

For that, we lament, and we send our thoughts to their families.

That was the immediate tragic effect, but the effect on this bridge and the sections of the bridge falling into the channel and precluding ingress and egress had international consequences, certainly consequences to the State of Maryland and certainly consequences to the United States of America.

This port is one of the busiest ports in America. As the previous speakers have said, it carries a variety of critically necessary products and creates a dynamic economy not only around the port itself and in Maryland but internationally.

I rise to join my colleagues. You might be surprised, Mr. Speaker, that this is bipartisan and nonpartisan in approach, but it is because, as Mr. HARRIS, again, said: This is not a partisan tragedy. This is a tragedy for those who lost their lives and for those who have lost their immediate economic means of support, whether they were owners, shippers, or longshoremen and others working for the port.

As a result, we in Maryland believe this is, as we would believe if it were another port that had been so damaged, a question that the entire country needs to address.

We have done that before. We did it when a Minnesota bridge fell on an interstate. We acted. We acted as a nation, 100 percent paying for that Minnesota repair. We hope and believe that the Congress will do the same.

We are pleased that, in a very short time after the accident occurred, President Biden said that is what the Nation would do and that is what he would recommend.

I congratulate our Governor, who has essentially set up a command center.

I think every American citizen would be extraordinarily proud not only of those people who acted within 1 minute to stop traffic upon hearing the danger from the ship itself, but also the Coast Guard.

The Army Corps of Engineers acted within literally hours of the accident, putting in the machinery to fix and open this port and to take care of the people who work for and are advantaged by the port.

□ 1530

They are on the job today. They will be on the job tonight. They will be on the job tomorrow morning.

Our secretary of transportation, who oversees the Port Authority, indicated to us just a few days ago when we had a hearing that they are hoping to open this port to 80 percent of the shipping that would use this port—not this big tanker; they need a deeper draft, but a 30-plus-foot draft—by the end of May.

That is government at its best.

I will close with this: In the press conference we had, the biggest tragedies in many instances bring out the best of government, the best of people in helping one another overcome that tragedy.

I thank the gentleman for taking out this Special Order. This happened in his district, but it affects 434 other districts, the Nation, and countless countries. Therefore, I thank him for his leadership, for his strong voice, and for galvanizing the Maryland delegation along with the Governor of our State, Governor Moore, to meet this challenge and make it better.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the former majority leader of the United States House of Representatives, for his comments, his friendship, and also for the effort he has put forward as a part of what we call Team Maryland, again, a bipartisan effort to correct this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MFUME and my colleagues from Maryland for organizing this Special Order hour.

I bring heartfelt condolences from Chicagoland. Next to me is a picture of the six men who died in this accident. They were doing construction work on the bridge as it collapsed. All six of them were immigrants from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala: Dorlian Cabrera, Miguel Luna, Maynor Sandoval, Alejandro Fuentes, Carlos Hernandez, and Jose Lopez.

Like far too many immigrants, they encountered tragedy working in the country they came to seeking a better life. Immigrants keep our country moving. Immigrants power our economy, but immigrants are more than just their labor. Latinos are disproportionately in high-risk jobs like construction, and we cannot wait for tragic accidents or death to recognize immigrants' humanity.

Therefore, as we rebuild the Key Bridge, we must also advocate for stronger workplace protections for all workers, including immigrants, regardless of their status.

Rebuilding the Key Bridge is a national imperative. There is precedent for the Federal Government footing the bill in situations like this, and, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will fight to make sure that this happens. After all, the Key Bridge has regional, national, and international significance.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with the families of those who perished working on the bridge. My thoughts are with the people of Baltimore and Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I want to do a couple of things here. Number one, I thank Speaker JOHNSON for the conversation that we had shortly after this bridge collapsed and for his full understanding of the impact on the Nation and why this is so very important that we, again, allow commerce to flow through that port.

I thank ROSA DELAURO, ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES, our minority leader, for their understanding on this issue, particularly Leader JEFFRIES, who went above and beyond a commitment personally to try to get this thing done and to make sure that we did it together.

I would be remiss if I did not thank TOM COLE, the new chair of the Appropriations Committee, who spoke with me just 2 days after this happened and who understands completely the economic impact that this poses for our Nation as well as to Members on both sides of the aisle as we try to find a way to make sure that we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, let me be redundant and underscore the fact that this is one of the Nation's top ports. It is the largest estuary that it sits over, meaning the Chesapeake Bay and the Patapsco River, but the port itself is a significant contributor to our economy, and it is the number one port in terms of roll-on and roll-off of new automobiles. It is a great exporter of titanium, sugar, coal, and a number of other imports, as well as exports.

I will also say it has been a pleasure working with our Governor; Mayor Brandon Scott of Baltimore; County Executive Johnnie O of Baltimore County; Bill Ferguson, the president of the senate in Maryland; and Adrienne Jones, the speaker of the house, who have pushed through emergency legislation to help us to assist all of the dock workers and small businesses that are affected and helping us to move toward some sort of resolution of this issue.

I began my remarks by saying that we must not ever forget the human souls, the lives lost that day. Again, as we think about this well into the future, I hope that all of us remember that this was a bridge, but this was more than just a bridge. It became a graveyard also.

So because of the suffering that these families have endured, I would ask everyone all over the Nation to join us in understanding that this is not a partisan issue, that we must find a way together to get through this, that we must protect our Nation's supply

chains and all of the risk that it poses for consumers in our society, and we can do it together.

There will be a process to determine the funding mechanisms and the funding ratios. That will all be a part of some of what the Appropriations Committee will do, I am sure, but more than anything else, this becomes a milestone. I hope that we look at it as a problem that occurred that was solved by the work, potential, and input of everybody who cared, no matter where, in fact, they were or are.

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

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Baltimore for today's special hour.

On March 26 in the early hours of the morning, I remember watching in horror as a cargo ship ran into and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

As we all assess what happened, how we will rebuild and what the impact of its collapse will have on trade and ports like mine in Los Angeles, let us stop and take a moment to recognize the lives lost that night.

As we watched in horror, we did not know that 185 feet above the river on that bridge in the dark of night that there was a construction crew bravely working to fix potholes so the 30,000 motorists who crossed the bridge each day could do so safely.

Six members of the construction crew died or are presumed dead.

We have come to learn something that is of no surprise to me, they were immigrants who came to America for a better life, for an opportunity to provide for their family—much like my own parents.

Today we stand in solemn remembrance of them. In their honor, we not only mourn their loss but celebrate the invaluable contributions that immigrants like them make to the American economy and society.

Let us first remember, Maynor Suaza Sandoval, a father of two from Honduras. He came to the U.S. when he was 18 years old. He was an entrepreneur who came to the United States and worked three jobs to provide a better life for his family. He was described by family as "a joyful person" and "a generous man" who sent money to his hometown soccer team in Honduras. He also contributed to his community by working with the nonprofit immigrant organization, CASA. He is survived by his wife, and two children, ages 5 and 18.

Jose Mynor Lopez, also left behind his homeland in Guatemala to seek a better life in America. He worked hard to provide for his family and was a wonderful husband to his wife, Isabel, and a caring father and stepfather to his four children.

Miguel Luna, from El Salvador, was a proud immigrant and father of six, who worked in his spare time with CASA to help other immigrants from Central America create a better life for their families in the United States.

Dorlian Castillo Cabrera moved here from Guatemala to support his mother, Marlon. He loved his job and worked hard to give his mom a comfortable life in America.

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, a father of four from Mexico, was working to help his sister join his family here in the United States.

And finally, we remember Carlos Hernandez, a 24-year-old construction worker

from Mexico, who is the nephew of Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes. He died with his uncle on that bridge.

Minutes before the bridge collapse, Carlos left a voicemail for his girlfriend, Jasmine saying, "yes, my love, we just poured the cement and we're just waiting for it to dry." His shift was almost over, and he was looking forward to heading home to see her. They had planned to get married in a few months and start a family.

These men came to this country in pursuit of a better life and to support their families.

They made a critical contribution to maintain our Nation's infrastructure.

Their loss underscores the risky jobs Latinos and immigrants endure to build and maintain our infrastructure, produce food, and keep our country running.

Latinos and immigrants are often demonized for political purposes. It is wrong.

As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we will continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes the safety, dignity, and rights of all immigrants, regardless of their status.

As we reflect on the lives of Jose, Miguel, Maynor, Dorlian, Alejandro, and Carlos, let us also recognize the countless other immigrants who, like them, contribute immeasurably to the fabric of our Nation. From the fields to the factories, from the construction sites to the corner stores, immigrants are the backbone of the American economy.

Let us honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the bridge collapse by committing ourselves to building a nation where all people, regardless of their background, can pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential.

We say to those lost: "May you Rest in Peace." "Decansen en Paz."

ADVANCING IMPORTANT MEASURES ON THE FLOOR

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

GENERAL LEDGER

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 the 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, House Republicans are advancing important measures on the floor this week. We continue to work hard for our constituents and the American people.

We continue to push the Biden administration to address the ongoing crisis at the border and increase our domestic energy production capabilities.

We are standing by Israel and denouncing President Biden's efforts for a one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza. This is a Hamas-led

travesty, and we need to make sure that we continue to have and focus on the evils that Hamas terrorists have created and the turmoil that they have created in that region.

There is a lot to get to. I appreciate many of my colleagues for being willing to share some thoughts today.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and the opportunity to expound upon very important topics that we face across the board, whether it is today's legislation, or ongoing discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch a little bit this afternoon on the situation with Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration, who are willfully and systematically ignoring our Nation's laws, which are diminishing our national security. Of course, I am talking about the border situation. How the President and the administration continue to get away with ignoring the sieve that our border is, the hundreds of thousands coming across.

My colleagues could put the number at over 7 million over the full time, over 3 years. It is probably hard to really estimate what it is, the people coming into this country. Under the terminology, let's say migrants, or even in some cases by the administration, newcomers.

Why these euphemisms? People are breaking and entering into this country illegally and undermining its security, undermining our systems of services, et cetera.

Early on in this session, House Republicans passed the bill known as H.R. 2, which is one of the strongest border security packages ever in the history of the House. H.R. 2 holds the administration accountable for this colossal failure we see every day in Eagle Pass, all along Texas, all along Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

What is the outcome from Secretary Mayorkas? Well, the House, in its wisdom, decided to move forward with an impeachment. Now, that hasn't been delivered to the Senate yet. I think timing is everything, and the Speaker, in his wisdom, decided a little more time was needed before those documents are delivered and the Senate is looking at taking it up.

Hopefully, they will. Hopefully, Leader SCHUMER doesn't just try and brush it under the rug. There are serious charges here, and the track record of the Secretary and the whole Biden administration on this certainly bears the discussion, certainly bears the information that has come out and will continue to come out in an impeachment process.

Therefore, as well, whatever happens with that impeachment, whatever the timeline is, we still have H.R. 2 sitting over in the Senate waiting for action as well. Again, in order to tighten up our own border and properly handle the laws we already have on the books, we don't need a lot of new legislation. We

just need it defined better, it looks like, on what asylum really means, on the policies that had been in place before that were working reasonably well.

However, under Mayorkas' leadership, we would have over 9 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide, 7.4 million encounters at our southern border, and then 1.8 million known as got-aways that have gotten away from our Border Patrol. Those are the ones that we know about.

Immigration judges have thrown out approximately 200,000 cases because the DHS did not properly file the required notice-to-appear paperwork by the time of the scheduled hearing.

Did they purposely blow that at DHS so that they could say 200,000 of them didn't have the proper paperwork to appear and that those are now permanent getaways? It is a pretty wild coincidence for 200,000.

In my personal opinion, on top of that, do they have the same rights on this type of legal question, where the timeline expired and they didn't get the right paperwork? They are still illegally in this country. Again, they are not migrants. They are illegal aliens that have broken into this country.

The Biden administration's far-left open-border policies are what is to blame for this historic crisis. There are over 60 instances of the Biden administration taking actions that have undermined our Nation's security, including halting the construction of the border wall.

That is what I said, 60 different actions. Was it just to unwind what Trump did because he doesn't like Trump?

I had a recent visit south of the Tucson area near a place called Naco, Arizona. My colleagues can still see what looked like probably a mile in either direction of the metal material there that was being used at the time to construct the border fence. There were piles and piles of giant girders of steel there, and I could look at it up close. I could show pictures where it is marked on there, October 2020. The date of it is still marked there on the material laying there.

President Biden, about 1½ years ago, made some mention: Well, maybe we will start putting that back up and fill in some of the gaps.

On a different trip to Arizona, closer to a dam, all these different gaps were seen. There were miles of fence, but there were gaps in it.

□ 1545

The people coming in since they are being welcomed by our government can just find any one of the gaps in the fence and be picked up. Actually, we are sending vans to go pick them up so we can get them processed sooner and cut them loose with the idea that they might come back within 2 years or whenever the court date would be except that DHS screwed up the date and lost 200,000 of them because they didn't give the required notice to appear.

In the meantime, we are trying to hustle them into the country as fast as possible through the actions of Biden's directives with border personnel.

They announced on May 10 of last year that it would allow for some release of migrants in the U.S. with no way to actually track them.

The Department of Homeland Security has now admitted that 40 percent of catch and release migrants have just disappeared into the country.

The Senate must hold the trial for Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment because he needs to be held accountable. You can't just ignore our laws like that and make a joke out of it. This is, again, our security. Fentanyl is coming in. We have people coming in that will be part of known terror cells. The people they have caught and turned away are from very questionable, very dangerous associations.

This is no joke. This is not just shouting in the wilderness. This is very real, and how this administration continues to get away with it blows my mind and a lot of the minds of the American people out there.

How can this be happening? Lately, President Biden is talk about, well, does he have the authority to make a move on further enforcing the border? It is an executive action. The laws are on the books. We have legislated on that. We have put forward funding on that. The President in his action is to execute and to enforce the laws that are on the books.

If we would execute and enforce them properly to the fullest extent we could, as a country, we wouldn't have nearly the problem that we are seeing right now.

In the meantime, we legislate here. H.R. 2 is sitting over in the Senate. I urge the Senators to take that up and move in the direction that will further define and tighten our laws so we will have a much more secure border.

With that, I suggest that the American people call your United States Senators and have them move H.R. 2.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California and I always appreciate his participation.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I am going to talk a little about Bidenomics. It is interesting the President doesn't talk about Bidenomics anymore. He thought about a year ago it would be a neat thing to talk about, but I guess the problem is that reality struck.

Just over a month ago, President Biden stood right in front of where you stand now, Mr. Speaker, in this very Chamber to give his State of the Union Address. He declared: "Our economy is the envy of the world."

Well, just today, the Consumer Price Index, a key inflation index, came in

“hotter than expected.” By the way, that is not good news for Americans. It actually increased to 3½ percent. The past few years, it has been higher than it has been in 40 years.

As we all pay more for almost everything in Joe Biden's economy, let's take a really close look at the economy that Joe Biden built.

Well, when Joe Biden took office, the national debt was \$28.7 trillion, a huge amount of debt, but now it is approaching \$35 trillion, or more than \$250,000 of debt for every American household. Now, in my district, that debt is higher than the average mortgage in my district.

For the average family, the mortgage is the least of their debt worries now. Now, it is the Federal debt.

The CBO projects that by 2031, \$2 trillion deficits will be the norm, but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that as usual the CBO gets this wrong because this year it is going to be way over \$2 trillion. In fact, over the last calendar year, from last April to the beginning of this April, the Federal debt has increased over \$3 trillion under Joe Biden's watch.

Joe Biden's new spending initiatives, just the new spending initiatives in the budget he just proposed, adds up to a price tag of 5.5 trillion more dollars over the next 10 years, and that is just new spending.

That doesn't count the ongoing growth of existing Federal programs that he projects in his budget.

Together, all this new spending is going to drive up Federal deficits to 10 percent of GDP, a level we have only seen in the modern era during the national emergencies of COVID and World War II.

Now, since Joe Biden took office, inflation has risen to historic levels and make no mistake, Bidenflation is a direct result of Joe Biden and the Democrats' out-of-control government spending.

Just a couple of days ago, Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, no friend of this side of the aisle, warned in a letter to his shareholders that interest rates could rise to 8 percent or higher. He also mentions drivers of persistent inflation being military conflict throughout the world and fiscal deficits.

Let me tell you something, the Biden administration are absolute champions of military conflicts throughout the world and fiscal deficits. The bottom line is, we all know that under the last administration there were no hot wars. The Middle East actually was becoming more peaceful, not less peaceful. The Russians were not advancing in Ukraine.

All that changed with this administration and the resulting military spending that is going to be necessary worldwide will drive inflation even higher.

That is not my word; that is the word, again, of the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, a person who understands how this economy works.

Now, President Biden's economy is affecting Americans of every age and we all know it. In fact, according to a recent survey, one in eight retirees now plan to return to work this year because they simply can't afford retirement anymore. Inflation has driven up the cost of everything—groceries, gasoline, housing, rent, everything.

In a recent study, The Wall Street Journal showed that a \$100 grocery list from 2019—and for those of you keeping score, that was during the last administration—now costs \$137. Anybody who is watching us to day who goes to the grocery store, Mr. Speaker, knows this is true. They know what a loaf of bread costs. They know what a dozen eggs costs. They know what a gallon of milk costs. When they go down the aisles, they know everything is more expensive under Joe Biden's watch.

If Joe Biden thinks the economy he built is “such an envy,” maybe he ought to take a walk through a grocery store.

Within the first 2 years of this administration, Joe Biden and the House Democrats passed their so-called American Rescue Plan—I don't think we feel too rescued, to be honest with you—and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which is the real laugh because everybody knows inflation isn't reduced from where it was in the last administration. Both of those sent Federal Government spending sky-high, again, what Jamie Dimon warns us is going to lead to a prolonged inflationary period and high interest rates.

Lastly, I will talk about energy prices because when you go to the gas pump, if you go to buy diesel to put in your farm tractor or truck, you know what it costs now. It costs about 50 percent more than it did under the last administration.

Energy prices, your electric bill, your heating bill, everything is going sky-high because of this President's policies.

Make no mistake, Joe Biden's out-of-control spending, his spending agenda, and his economic policies have made life simply unaffordable for American families.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will bring up another anecdote. When you hear voices like President Obama's economic adviser, Larry Summers, talk about the fact that there is one equation when you enact that much government spending like what happened in President Biden's first 2 years, there is only one outcome when you enact that much spending with no offsets. The American Rescue Plan, Inflation Reduction Act, like you mentioned, that type of relief spending is unnecessary and immediately creates inflation. That is what we have experienced.

House Republicans oftentimes don't get the credit that we deserve for taking back the majority and putting an end to all of that additional spending that was enacted so quickly as soon as the Democrats had the White House,

House, and Senate. They do those bills under reconciliation, they don't require the filibuster anymore, and they passed over \$3 trillion that way on party-line vote.

Just by taking back the majority, we have the opportunity to completely eliminate that and also work to find other areas of waste and push that as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HARRIS for that message. Sometimes the details and data are inconvenient when you are trying to push a narrative about an economy, but it is good to make sure to highlight that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), a good colleague and friend.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank our Conference vice chair for holding this Special Order hour and leading us and helping us get our message out there for the American people.

Today, I rise to bring attention to the fact that Americans have been held hostage in Gaza for 186 days. American citizens currently sit behind enemy lines held hostage in Gaza.

The world changed on October 7 when Hamas launched a barbaric attack, a blood-thirsty rampage on the peace-loving people of Israel and they claimed the lives of over 1,000 innocent civilians, including 32 American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, 250 hostages were taken, with five American citizens still believed to be alive and fighting for their survival in Gaza. Last week, I had the honor to travel to Israel and while in Jerusalem, I, with my colleagues, met with the Goldberg-Polin family, Rachel and Jon Goldberg-Polin, whose son, Hersh, an American citizen, was taken hostage at the Nova Music Festival, where 379 beautiful young peoples' lives were stolen.

They brought into focus that we have little to no information on the health and the welfare of the hostages. International organizations cannot get that data.

The last video of Hersh from that day showed him applying his own tourniquet as his left arm had been blown off by a grenade. Their family has shown such courage and grace in telling the world about their son and his story and the story of the hostages currently held.

There have been many other families just like theirs whose loved ones have been ripped away from them and they still do not have answers. We must do everything in our power to secure the release of these Americans, including standing strong with Israel in their fight against Hamas.

The fact that 6 months have gone by since the attack, we cannot forget that American citizens are still being held hostage by Hamas. Not for 1 day, not for 1 minute.

It is time for strength and unity, not weakness or division. President Biden should be calling for their release every single day. Israel needs America

in its time of peril. The bond between our two nations is unbreakable. I will continue to work tirelessly in this Congress to defend Israel's right to exist and right to defend itself.

Israel needs to defend itself no matter what the cost against these people that committed these crimes and atrocities. We must stand together in the face of evil and send a clear message that America will not tolerate the murder and the capture of our citizens and innocent citizens across the globe. We need to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to peace and freedom in the world.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his passion and I echo his comments.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up, I thank my colleagues for sharing their heartfelt messages. I appreciate them putting the time and effort into making sure their constituents and the American people know some of the most important things that are going on back here. I appreciate their time to be down here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), a good friend.

□ 1600

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as my colleague NICK LANGWORTHY did before me, to express my support for the State of Israel in its war for survival, basically, against the terrorist Hamas group.

We need to make one thing perfectly clear in this body: We stand with Israel, no matter what.

As Mr. LANGWORTHY just said, 16 Congressmen and -women just returned from Israel. Many of their spouses went, as well. This was a trip to gain insight, to gain context and perspective, to be educated about the plight of Israel and what they are facing in this war with these brutal savages, the Hamas terrorists.

What we saw, Mr. Speaker, was horrible. We went to a kibbutz in the southern part of Israel. It was one of our first stops. This was a village. Basically, a kibbutz is a community or a gathering of people. It was a beautiful village at one time.

We went there, and it was frozen in time. Tricycles were left out on the sidewalk area. Clothes were pulled halfway out of the dryer. Food was still on the table of some of these homes. Other homes were almost burned to the ground. Glass was shattered. Lives were shattered, as well.

We saw that moment frozen in time, 6:32 on the morning of October 7. The folks who had woken up that morning thought it was just going to be another normal day in the kibbutz, a day to share with family, to go to school, to work in their crops. They were just within a stone's throw of Gaza. Little did they know that that day was going to be a day that lived in infamy for Israel because, you see, the Hamas terrorists broke down the fence and the

gates into that kibbutz, kidnapped more than 40 people from that kibbutz, killed more than 200, brutally murdering women who were pregnant, ripping the babies out of their wombs, burning others alive. We were able to see firsthand the devastation and destruction left by these brutal terrorists.

Israel is a nation of resolve, and we saw that, as well. We saw that in kibbutzim further north up on the border with Lebanon, where 654 people, an entire kibbutz, had to be evacuated because they were not safe because of the rockets from Hezbollah.

Hezbollah is being funded by Iran. This is a proxy war by people who don't want Israel to exist, who want to wipe it off the face of the Earth.

The sanction money that this President has released, some \$16 billion that has gone to Iran, has been used to buy rockets and missiles for Hezbollah.

Saturday morning, we left a hotel in that kibbutz area to make our way further north and to the west, near the Lebanese border. Mr. Speaker, 52 minutes after we left this hotel, Hezbollah fired 30 rockets on that hotel that we stayed in. The Iron Dome stopped 29 of those, but one of them hit near the hotel. It didn't do any damage, but 16 Members of Congress and their families were there just an hour prior to that.

It is very clear that this is not just a war between Islamic terrorists and Israel. This is a war between civilizations. This is a war, a battle between good and evil, and that is why it is imperative that we stand with Israel.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, your home. Maybe you have lived there for a couple of decades. Imagine if you lived there 80 years, and the neighbor to your right, the neighbor to your left, the neighbor across the street, and the neighbor behind you never wanted you there. All they could think about is driving you out of that house. If it meant killing you and your family to do that, so be it. That is what the State of Israel is facing.

We met with the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and with the President of Israel, President Herzog. Let me assure you today, despite the media reports, Mr. Speaker, despite what others in this body may be saying, the will of Israel is strong to finish off the four battalions that remain in Rafah of these terrorist killers and, just as importantly, to bring home safely the 133 hostages, some of whom are Americans.

Unfortunately, just today, Mr. Speaker, a report was released that the Hamas terrorists may have delivered some 40 of these hostages to other terrorist nations or terrorist entities, and they may not even be in Gaza. Israel needs to know if these people are alive. They deserve to know proof of life.

A lot of people are calling for a cease-fire. Israel, the IDF, has Hamas on the ropes. It is time to finish the job. It is time to eradicate Hamas. It is time to bring the hostages home. It is time for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close with this, because this is nothing new to Israel, ever since they crossed the Jordan River. Some 2,600 years ago, a prominent Levite songwriter in King David's court penned these words. It still rings true today, Mr. Speaker.

O God, do not remain quiet;
Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.
For, behold, Thine enemies make an uproar;
And those who hate Thee have exalted themselves.

They make shrewd plans against Thy people,
And conspire together against Thy treasured ones.

They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation.

That the name of Israel be remembered no more."

For they have conspired together with one mind;

Against Thee do they make a covenant . . .
Who say, "Let us possess for ourselves
The pastures of God."

God, fill their faces with dishonor,
That they may seek Thy name, O Lord.

Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever;
And let them be humiliated and perish.

That they may know that Thou alone, whose name is the Lord,

Art the most high over all the Earth.

Today, it is Israel. Tomorrow, it could be America. The jihadists, the Islamic extremists, the terrorists call Israel the Little Satan. They call the United States of America the Great Satan.

We stand with Israel, and even if this administration is trying to pry open a crack in our relationship, this body should not let that stand and make it very clear that Israel is our friend, our ally, and we will stand behind them and beside them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is all over very soon because this could be over today if Hamas would release the hostages and simply surrender. When that does happen, we will rejoice with Israel, but, Mr. Speaker, until that does happen, we weep with Israel.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri. I can't add any more to that but will quickly highlight a point that I think needs constant reminding: The Abraham Accords were some of the strongest, most positive potential opportunities for peace in the Middle East by creating trade relationships with Israel and Arab nations. These are unprecedented. These are some of the most important things that I think happened in all the foreign policy from our previous administration.

Saudi Arabia was inching toward engaging in these types of trade relationships. Iran doesn't want that to happen. Iran supports Hezbollah. Iran supports Hamas. Hamas does this attack. The whole intent was to make sure that the narrative and public perception would change on Israel because it was inching too close to productivity with a bellwether like Saudi Arabia being willing to potentially embrace trade negotiations and diplomatic relationships with Israel. Iran does not want that to happen. They will do whatever they can to incite violence

and terrorism. They know that Israel will go and protect themselves. They know that Israel will respond. They know if they wait long enough, that even the President of the United States, who has traditionally been a very strong supporter of Israel, will start to put pressure on Israel as if October 7 was their fault.

We cannot forget that narrative. We cannot forget that Iran is rejoicing and exuberant that this one-sided pressure is put on Israel at this moment. I think that point is so important to make.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for sharing so much of their thoughts on various elements of the economy and other foreign policy issues.

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

STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ISRAEL

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 the gentleman from Utah for hosting a forum here on the floor for our colleagues to be able to talk about the important issues with respect to Bidenomics, such as you can even use that term as anything other than creating and inflicting pain on the American people through a big spending, highly regulatory inflationary environment that is killing the average hardworking American family. That is the truth.

My colleague from Utah brought a number of our other colleagues down to make that point very clearly, in addition to making the point that I have come to the floor of the House to underscore and reiterate. That is the importance of the United States of America standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder, with our friend, Israel.

We are not. That is the plain and simple truth. We are not standing side by side with Israel at a time when she most needs it.

Three days ago was April 7. That marked the 6-month timeframe since the brutal attacks of October 7. October 7 in Israel has become much like we describe September 11.

As we know, through both what is publicly available and those things that we have seen privately in terms of the information available, the videos that we have seen, the horrific slaughter of human beings in Israel, Hamas slaughtered children, raped women, burned whole families alive, and took hundreds of innocent civilians hostage. An estimated 1,200 Israelis were killed on October 7. Those numbers are still numbers that we are trying to track down.

An estimated 130 hostages of the initial estimate of 250 are still believed to be held in Gaza. To be very clear, that includes Americans. Americans are

right now being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. Ninety-one Israelis are dual citizens, and eight Thai nationals, one Nepali, one French-Mexican, but six Americans.

Instead of unequivocally backing Israel and the fight against Hamas, a United States-designated terrorist group, I want to be very clear, the Biden administration has been undermining Israel every step of the way.

Last November, on the floor of this body, the people's House, the Representatives of this body passed, on a bipartisan basis, funding for Israel. We did so immediately. It is something I am proud of. I am not shy to criticize Members of both sides of the aisle for the shortcomings of the people's House, but we came together on a bipartisan basis, and we passed, I think it was, about \$17 billion in funding for our friends in Israel just over a month after the vicious attacks against them.

□ 1615

That bill would have funded their needs, shown that we would stand next to Israel, and importantly, it was paid for. It was paid for out of the expansion of the Internal Revenue Service, which most recently was found by the IRS' own inspector general to have 63 percent of the audits that were added are for people who make less than \$200,000.

Mr. Speaker, 63 percent of the audits were for people who make less than \$200,000. By the way, that is what we said would happen, if you expand the power of the IRS the average American, the average hardworking family, would get targeted by the bureaucrats at the IRS.

However, our Democratic colleagues and the President of the United States—a Democrat, radical progressive Democrats—are choosing the Internal Revenue Service, are choosing to target you, the hardworking American family, are choosing to side with Hamas over Israel. That is what is happening.

So instead of America standing up together united and standing right alongside Israel, our Democratic colleagues and the administration and in this body and in the Senate give lip service to standing with them, and instead, are trying to undermine them.

Again, I want to be very clear. Republicans in the House passed off of this floor with Democrat votes legislation that would fund Israel that was paid for—so we are no longer just spending money into oblivion—by taking away some of the increased expansion of the IRS that the IRS' own inspector general has acknowledged and reports as being used to target hardworking, middle-class families.

That is the truth. That is the distinction.

But it goes a lot further than that.

The Biden administration is trying to tie the hands of Israel. They are taking active steps to undermine Israel. President Biden told reporters that Israel's military operations in Gaza

were “over the top” and the bombing was “indiscriminate.”

President Biden told protestors: “. . . I've been quietly working with the Israeli Government to get them to reduce and significantly get out of Gaza. I've been using all that I can to do that.” That is the President of the United States.

On March 25, just a couple weeks ago, President Biden's representatives at the United Nations green-lighted, by abstaining instead of voting—by abstaining instead of voting—on a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire without any connection to the release of hostages.

Can you imagine the leadership of our country where they could have a veto exercise in the United Nations Security Council, they chose not to exercise that, abstained, walked away, refused to stand up, and in essence, turned their back fully, not just on the nation of Israel but on every Jewish American who knows family and friends, and has their heritage connected to the great State of Israel. This President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle turned their backs on Israel. That is the truth. There is no debate on that truth. It is literally what happened.

Now, by the way, the administration is all too happy to continue to throw billions of dollars to the United Nations. This is when I give a little wake-up call to my colleagues on this side of the aisle for continuing to fund a government at war with our people and at war with our values by giving more funding for the United Nations.

It is this administration that is throwing money at the United Nations—I think this last bill we moved was \$3.5 billion. Let's keep in mind that the United Nations General Assembly, the paragon of virtue, has passed 153 resolutions condemning Israel. They have passed zero on China, zero on Cuba, zero on Türkiye. I can keep going down the list, but they have passed 153 resolutions condemning Israel.

Anybody with eyes can see what is happening. The prime minister of Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu was correct when he said: “Just as the United States would not agree to a cease-fire after the bombing of Pearl Harbor or after the terrorist attack of 9/11, Israel will not agree to a cessation of hostilities with Hamas after the horrific attacks of October 7.”

Every Member of Congress, the President of the United States, every Member of the Senate, we should be standing up shoulder to shoulder backing Prime Minister Netanyahu, backing Israel with their unequivocal right to defend themselves, their unequivocal right to root out Hamas from the hostile forces that have been attacking them and to not allow the international community to gaslight the world into saying that Israel is slaughtering civilians, because it is simply not true.

The press and the international community will throw out numbers of the casualties in Gaza, but what they don't tell you is that a large number of those casualties are, in fact, enemy combatants. They are literally operating like divisions, like a military, but they hide because they are cowards. Hamas are cowards, and they hide under schools, and they hide under hospitals, and they build tunnels all through the city, all through the streets, making it as hard as it has ever been in the history of warfare for a sovereign nation, Israel, to defend itself against evil, terrorists embedded in the civilian communities right underneath the streets of Gaza.

But what is amazing is that what will be studied for years to come is the extent to which Israel has bent over backwards, has worked to minimize the casualties. I don't have the most recent data, but I would tell you that it is something in the ZIP code of, I think, 19,000-ish casualties of civilians and about 13,000 terrorists or enemy combatants.

If you don't know how ratios work out in the world of combatants, this is actually an historic low. History will judge this as an extraordinary feat by Israel to attack those who levied the most heinous attacks on their people and are holding hostage—I will remind people—six Americans. History will view this as an unprecedented success in modern warfare to root out and target evil and try to avoid civilian harm.

Just to give you an example, I just told you there were roughly 19,000 civilian casualties to about 13,000 enemy combatant casualties. Mr. Speaker, there were 19,000 civilian casualties to about 13,000 enemy combatant casualties that I believe the data reflects that we see going on in terms of Israel and their engagement with Hamas in Gaza.

Here is a point of reference: According to the United Nations, civilians usually make up around 90 percent of casualties in war, which would be a 1-to-9 ratio. I mean, think about that. Think about the extent to which that is what the United Nations—the paragon of virtue, that has had 153 resolutions condemning Israel—the United Nations says the ratio is normally 1-to-9. And Israel has got it at something in the ZIP code of like 1-to-1½. While you have the enemy not marching in a line of red coats, not getting in the field and just marching at you as enemy combatants but hiding as the cowards that they are in the tunnels under the schools and the hospitals and the businesses and the communities in Gaza.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber and in the Senate should be ashamed of themselves as should the President of the United States for walking away from Israel, going to the United Nations, abstaining from your role in the Security Council to stand aside Israel while buying into the nonsensical lies about what Israel is doing when they are actually doing probably the best job in

the history of humankind to root out and target the enemy combatants and the terrorists who are embedded in the communities of Gaza.

It is an extraordinary feat. It is something we should hold up as a model of success and then stand alongside Israel. And what we should do is send over the \$17 billion that we already passed off the floor of the House and sent to the Senate which is paid for by shrinking the IRS; an IRS which as I already pointed out is targeting hardworking American families as the Inspector General of the IRS noted.

Seek the truth. Figure out what is really happening.

I notice that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) has joined me. I have been talking about the extent to which we should be standing alongside our friends from Israel, and I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

What we are watching is a complete foreign policy failure on the part of the Biden administration. And we are watching it on two fronts. We are watching it in Eastern Europe where peace prevailed under the last administration, and it is no coincidence that shortly after this administration bungles the withdrawal from Afghanistan that Mr. Putin invades Eastern Europe.

Then on October 7, Hamas—after this administration actively interfered with an internal discussion they were having about their court system—Hamas, again, detecting weakness, launched that horrific inhumane attack on Israeli civilians on October 7 where they take over 200 hostages.

Mr. Speaker, the latest news, literally just coming out today, is in the negotiations. The Israelis were willing to negotiate a cease-fire, Hamas just has to release 40 hostages—Israeli hostages—and Hamas says they don't even have 40 Israeli hostages anymore.

Now, there are only two possible explanations for that. Hamas is lying, and they have more than 40. Actually we heard in the rule debate today from the other side of the aisle they said: Well, we should be talking about this, there are 133 hostages. Well, Hamas says there aren't anymore. So they are either lying that the hostages aren't there, or even worse, they killed the hostages. These are civilian hostages. These are not uniformed members. These are civilians.

I wore the uniform of the country. You put on the uniform of the country, and let me tell you something, you understand you could be taken prisoner, you could be subject to violence during war, but you don't expect it in this unprovoked attack on October 7 on civilians.

So furthermore, this administration, which couldn't even get a withdrawal from a war correct, they couldn't even withdraw from a war correctly, they are trying to tell the Israelis, who are under an existential threat—Mr.

Speaker, we don't understand that in America because we have two oceans on two sides and two friendly nations to the north and south. We don't understand what it is like to live in a neighborhood where some of your neighbors have said: Death to your country, that your country shouldn't exist. We don't understand that.

Yet this administration and this Pentagon is attempting to tell Israel how to win this war. And what they want after the war is a two-state solution. Well, look, I want peace and I want utopia and I want all that too, but let's investigate.

What do they mean by a two-state solution? Wait a minute. Gaza was a two-state solution.

Gaza got its independence, its ability to govern itself, humanitarian aid by the hundreds of millions of dollars, including from the United States which pours into Gaza to make life good for the citizens. They bring water in, bring all the infrastructure in, and the only infrastructure Hamas built were tunnels under the city so they could launch an attack and have a place to hide when Israel responded to the attack.

That is what they did, that is what a two-state solution looks like in Israel.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you had the privilege to visit Israel and land at Ben Gurion Airport. Ben Gurion Airport is between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and if you look at the map of Israel and you look just to the northeast of Ben Gurion Airport, there sits a piece of the West Bank—what the Palestinians want; they want to claim that territory.

If you look at that—and we visited one of those places—it is on an elevation. From that piece of the West Bank, you can look down in the valley and there is Ben Gurion Airport.

The people who took me up there said: Tell me why a two-state solution doesn't work, because if this is a second state, a single shoulder-fired rocket at an incoming jumbo jet—because these jets are big that come into that airport—can destroy that airplane. The effect of just that one shoulder-fired rocket would be bringing the economy of Israel to its knees because you would disable—no international flights would go into Ben Gurion. Of course, they wouldn't go into Ben Gurion.

You don't think that can occur? Of course, it can occur. Israel has to be able to defend its territories. It has sworn enemies.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the body that at that protest in Michigan over the weekend, they weren't chanting only “death to Israel,” they were chanting “death to America.”

This protest didn't occur in Riyadh. It didn't occur in Jordan. It didn't occur in Tehran. It occurred in Michigan; people in this country calling for death to America. If we think people in this country are calling for death to

America, imagine what they are thinking about in Tehran where they really want to bring death to America, where they are weeks away from a breakout on three nuclear weapons. We know what the damage of only one nuclear weapon can do.

They are weeks away from a breakout on three nuclear weapons. This all happened under this administration's watch where we think the appropriate response to Iran is to send them another pallet full of \$6 billion with them promising, Oh, it is only for humanitarian aid—ignoring the fact that money is completely fungible.

Of course, that administration in Tehran is going to say: Oh, well now we don't have to buy food here. We can use that American money to buy the food, and we are going to spend that money to send to Hezbollah in the north, with tens of thousands of rockets that could rain down on northern Israel to Hamas and Gaza, to the militia that surround them in Syria, the Iranian-backed militia.

How naive can you be about the dangers of this world? How naive can you be? Well, we know how naive you can be because you just have to go to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue to find it. Where in this election year, they are putting the security of one of our best allies in the country up for bid for electoral votes. That is a real shame.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for giving me the few minutes because our friends in Israel deserve the full, unqualified support of the United States to win their war. It is not our war; it is their war. Existential threats to one of our best allies, they deserve our help, not our criticism.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Maryland. His remarks are particularly meaningful as one who proudly wore the uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States. I appreciate him for his service in the military, as well as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, he says it exactly right. I think it is really critical to understand that it is disgraceful—I don't know what other way to put it—it is disgraceful for the American President to pressure Israel instead of Hamas. But that is what is happening. If we truly want to end the humanitarian suffering that war necessarily brings, the answer is never, and is not appeasement. It is not. It is the unequivocal support for Israel finishing the job. Everything else is a distraction.

The American people—I know the Americans I represent, the Texans I represent, I assume the gentleman's constituents—they want us to stand with Israel on a bipartisan basis. That means pressuring the Senate to take up the bill that we already sent them that is, in fact, paid for, that we sent in November, pressuring the Senate to bring up that bill.

By the way, for their part, Hamas can end this war immediately by ac-

cepting the fact that their side has lost the conflict, that Israel is going to exist, and that America is going to stand next to her. Because as long as we are in this body, we are going to be fighting to ensure that this country stands side by side with Israel, notwithstanding the fool-headed decisions of the current administration.

Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad pledged that the October 7 attacks were just the first time; that there will be a second, third, and fourth.

Will we pay a price, he says? Yes, and we are ready. We are called a nation of martyrs, and we are proud to sacrifice martyrs.

Are we awake? That is the truth, and it is not just Michigan on our soil, by the way. In Houston, Texas, this last week, there were individuals chanting "death to America."

It is coming to our shores, it is on our shores because a weak administration, a weak Congress is allowing it and encouraging it.

Calls for a cease-fire are called for Israel to surrender to Hamas and to surrender to terrorism.

Those are the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu, and he is completely correct.

A cease-fire will only allow Hamas to rebuild a planned another October 7. That is the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I close with one point here. I am never afraid to call out my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I stand behind a speech I gave before Thanksgiving saying: What have we done? Name one thing.

But I want to say this: The debate for the soul of this country is happening on the Republican side of the aisle, and it is a debate that is being carried out on full display for the American people to see it, and it started with the Speaker's debate 15 months ago, and it has gone through a number of unbelievably important changes that we have been trying to make in this institution and we are not going to stop. We are not.

Last year, we were able to pass the strongest border security bill in history. I am proud of that as a Republican. It went over to the Senate, and it died at the hands of Democrats. We were able to pass a responsible increase in the debt ceiling with reforms that would have made this country stronger, more prosperous, with less inflation.

Unfortunately, side deals got done and that got sidetracked, but it was a giant step forward.

This body impeached for only the second time in history a sitting cabinet member, Alejandro Mayorkas, for his complete and utter failure to secure the border of the United States and his dereliction of duty.

I am proud of that. I am proud that this body has done that. I proud that we stood up and sent over legislation to the Senate that funded Israel, that took that money and paid for it out of the IRS. I am proud of that. When Republicans stand united for victory,

stand united for freedom, stand united athwart our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and an administration that would undermine our country and undermine liberty and walk away from Israel and fund open borders, when we are united against that, we win, and we lead, and people follow.

When we, instead, cower down and say, Oh, we have to do something to get something done, just for the sake of it, then that is just unity with no purpose.

I am proud of the Republican Conference when we are united in purpose to defend the liberty of the American people.

I am proud today that we had a debate right here about the difficult decisions of foreign intelligence surveillance so we can go after bad guys, like the bad guys that want to hit Israel and hit us, but to do so while we are respecting the constitutional protections and the liberties that the Founders understood were critical.

We do not have a country that is worth preserving if we are going to burn the Constitution while we try to defend it. We must stand together to defend civil liberties while we stand together to defend our country. The American people expect no less.

We should stand side by side with Israel. We should unite to make sure that we can continue to carry out surveillance against bad actors while protecting civil liberties. We should stop spending money we don't have. We should secure the border of the United States. We should continue to do the great things this Republican Conference has been able to do when we are united and standing against an administration led by radical progressive Democrats that want to undermine the American Dream, destroy our sovereignty, leave our borders open, undermine our children's safety, put criminals on the street, side with Hamas over Israel. We can stand athwart that if will unite to do it. That is my call. That is what I believe we must do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) for joining me, and 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 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3749. A letter from the Chief, Legislative and Regulatory Staff, Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service,

Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-23-0034] received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3750. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the operations of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for Fiscal Year 2023, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635g(a); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 8(a) (as amended by Public Law 93-646, Sec. 10); (88 Stat. 2336); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3751. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's reports titled "Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2020" and "Community Services Block Grant Performance Measurement Report", pursuant to Sec. 678B(c) and 678E(b)(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3752. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's reports titled, "Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2020", and the "Community Services Block Grant Performance Measurement Report", pursuant to sections 678B(c) and 678E(b)(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3753. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Interim Staff Guidance — Advanced Reactor Content of Application Project/Technology-Inclusive Content of Application Project Guidance received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3754. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on U.S. Compliance with Section 4 of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3755. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Clarification of Controls on Radiation Hardened Integrated Circuits and expansion of License Exception GOV [Docket No.: 240221-0054] (RIN: 0694-AJ38) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3756. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of License Requirements of Certain Cameras, Systems, or Related Components [Docket No.: 240130-0027] (RIN: 0694-AI45) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3757. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additions of Entities to the Entity List [Docket No.: 240215-0050] (RIN: 0694-AJ54) re-

ceived April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3758. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Export, Reexport, and Transfer (In-Country) Controls for Nicaragua under the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 240202-0036] (RIN: 0694-AJ34) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3759. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Export Administration Regulations End-User Controls: Imposition of Restrictions on Certain Persons Identified on the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN List) [Docket No.: 240308-0076] (RIN: 0694-AI82) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3760. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10), Section 2(8); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3761. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of articles and services under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide Anti-Crime and Counternarcotics Assistance to Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3762. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3763. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3764. A letter from the Director, Office of Workplace Inclusivity and Opportunity, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3765. A letter from the Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3766. A letter from the Director, U.S. National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3767. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3768. A letter from the Chief, Branch of National Consultations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2021-0104; FXES1114090FEDR-245-FF09E300000; Docket No.: NMF5-240325-0087] (RIN: 1018-BF96; 0648-BK48) received April 8, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3769. A letter from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the Trust's Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2023, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231n(j)(5)(E)(ii); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 15 (as amended by Public Law 107-90, Sec. 105); (115 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3770. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Improving and Strengthening the Enforcement of Trade Remedies Through the Administration of the Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duty Laws [Docket No.: 240307-0075] (RIN: 0625-AB23) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on 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. ROY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1125. Resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 7888) to reform the foreign intelligence surveillance act of 1978; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 529) to extend the customs waters of the United States, consistent with presidential proclamation 7219; providing for consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 1112) denouncing the Biden's administration's immigration policies; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 1117) opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza (Rept. 118-450). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7626. A bill 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 (Rept. 118-451). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7637. A bill 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 (Rept. 118-452). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7645. A bill 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 (Rept. 118-453). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7673. A bill 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 (Rept. 118-454). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7700. A bill 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 (Rept. 118-455). 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. BOST (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 7917. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of adjudications and appeals of claims for benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FROST (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CASAR, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 7918. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to emerging artists to support their early development; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 7919. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain revisions to the manual of the Veterans Benefits Administration and to improve the quality of the adjudication of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 7920. A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MANNING (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 7921. A bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Homeland Security,

Oversight and Accountability, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. DUARTE):

H.R. 7922. A bill to establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to develop risk and resilience requirements for the water sector; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 7923. A bill to limit USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 7924. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support graduate programs in mental and behavioral health professions at minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARL, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 7925. 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 Natural Resources.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 7926. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to requirements for air carriers to disclose certain exposures to toxic fumes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 7927. A bill to require a study on the manner and extent to which the tariff rates assessed by the United States on imports are regressive or demonstrate a gender bias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:

H.R. 7928. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to revise the rates of basic pay for certain enlisted members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 7929. A bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide for nursing home worker training grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. MOLINARO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 7930. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to award grants for providing to or developing for schools and youth-serving or-

ganizations educational resources or training on preventing teen dating violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. CARAVEO):

H.R. 7931. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to update the fee schedule for ambulance services provided by critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. MACE, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FRY, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 7932. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being made available to international financial institutions for the purposes of financing foreign shrimp farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7933. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SORENSEN (for himself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 7934. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to implement a limitation on contracting for supplies needed for the Department of the Army for certain workload activities at arsenals of the Department of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 7935. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to accelerate the implementation of quantum information science technologies within the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 7936. A bill to prepare the National Park Service for America's Semiquincentennial by reevaluating and recommitting to efforts to protect and sustain the resiliency of our Nation's cultural resources for the enjoyment, wellbeing, and education of all present and future generations; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 1126. A resolution authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes; to the Committee on House Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BARR, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. AMO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. CHU, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr.

RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MAST, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BACON, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H. Res. 1127. A resolution reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and recognizing the 45th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. TLAB, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 1128. A resolution recognizing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, commending a month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and extending best wishes to Muslims in the United States and across the globe for a joyous and meaningful observance of Eid al-Fitr; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. CALVERT):

H. Res. 1129. A resolution supporting May 3 as "National Space Day" in recognition of the significant positive impact the aerospace community has and will continue to have on the United States of America; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H. Res. 1130. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2024 as the "Month of the Military Child"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H. Res. 1131. A resolution celebrating Hindu Americans, and condemning attacks on Hindu places of worship, Hinduphobia, and anti-Hindu bigotry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. SALINAS):

H. Res. 1132. A resolution condemning Republican inaction to address comprehensive immigration reform and border security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c) 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. BOST:

H.R. 7917.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states "[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

The single subject of this legislation is:

Related to VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court)

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 7918.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to emerging artists to support their early development.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 7919.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veteran Affairs

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) by establishing a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans.

By Ms. MANNING:

H.R. 7921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 7922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 7923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Limits USDA grants for solar panels on prime and unique farmland.

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 7924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Diversity in the mental health workforce

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 7925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, and or other purposes.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 7926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 5 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to requirements for air carriers to disclose certain exposures to toxic fumes, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 7927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxes

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:

H.R. 7928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8 Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Increasing Military Pay

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 7929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 7930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health/Teen Dating Violence

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 7931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health Care

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 7932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Would prohibit the use of Federal funds for financing foreign shrimp farming, processing, or any activity related to the export of shrimp to the United States.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations.

By Mr. SORENSEN:

H.R. 7934.

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 amend title 10, United States Code, to implement a limitation on contracting for supplies needed for the Department of the Army for certain workload activities at arsenals of the Department of the Army, and for other purposes.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 7935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Enhancing quantum technology research at the Department of Defense.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 7936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill supports the enhancement of cultural resources stewardship and historic preservation by the National Park Service.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 233: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 324: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 435: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 619: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 694: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 807: Mr. MAST and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 866: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 883: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 884: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 1002: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1097: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1100: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 1117: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1222: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1238: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1269: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1293: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1328: Mr. CARSON and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 1447: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1487: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1488: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1716: Mr. SORENSSEN.
H.R. 1770: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 1787: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 1826: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2410: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2434: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2451: Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2499: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 2530: Mr. RYAN and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2539: Mr. GALLEGGO and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2584: Mr. SORENSSEN.
H.R. 2663: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2742: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 2744: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 2783: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2800: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 2827: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2845: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2864: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2922: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2955: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3031: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3074: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3194: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3276: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 3381: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 3386: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3416: Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. SORENSSEN, and Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 3432: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3433: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3504: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 3576: Mr. SORENSSEN and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 3759: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3933: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3949: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3951: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3977: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 4157: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 4175: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 4184: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PAL-LONE, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4189: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4268: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4303: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4334: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4335: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4541: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 4577: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4875: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5003: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5045: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 5142: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5208: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5247: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5435: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5477: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 5530: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 5547: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5566: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5748: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 5757: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 5819: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 5840: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 6003: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 6023: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 6046: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 6049: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 6110: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 6159: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 6171: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 6199: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 6319: Ms. OMAR and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6364: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 6407: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6681: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 6698: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6829: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 6929: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 6951: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. FRY.
H.R. 6980: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 7027: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 7041: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 7046: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 7082: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7084: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7109: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 7116: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 7183: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 7218: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 7227: Ms. BROWN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 7288: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 7297: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7314: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 7378: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. AMO.
H.R. 7438: Ms. PETTERSEN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 7450: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 7504: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 7513: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 7536: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 7575: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 7581: Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 7629: Ms. SALINAS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 7634: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 7636: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 7638: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 7649: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. BOST, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7688: Ms. WILD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 7749: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 7770: Ms. STEVENS and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 7771: Ms. NORTON, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 7849: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 7881: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 7890: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 7891: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 7892: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 7900: Mr. STAUBER.
H.J. Res. 8: Mr. PALMER.
H.J. Res. 54: Mr. NEAL.
H.J. Res. 117: Mr. CLYDE, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.J. Res. 124: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. HILL.
H.J. Res. 127: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H. Con. Res. 101: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 882: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H. Res. 907: Ms. CHU and Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 1117: Mr. MCCAUL.
H. Res. 1118: Ms. TITUS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H. Res. 1121: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. VARGAS.
H. Res. 1123: Mr. CARTER of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY Mr. TURNER

The amendment to be offered by myself or designee to H.R. 7888 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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No. 61

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal and powerful God, don't hide from us. Don't stand so far away, for our Nation and world need You. Lord, bring peace where there is war, hope where there is despair, and faith where there is cynicism.

Arise, mighty God, for we put our trust in You. Today, we trust You to guide our Senators. Lord, warn them through their mistakes, encourage them with their successes, and enrich them through life's seasons of gladness and sadness. Inspire them to be worthy of the honor of being Your sons and daughters as You give them a renewed sense of Your providential presence.

We pray in Your powerful 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, April 10, 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 consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, former President Trump reminded us just a few days ago that he—he—is to blame for the grotesque reversal of women's personal freedom. He said it himself. He said he is "proudly the person responsible" for the annihilation of Roe v. Wade.

Let me repeat those words because the American people need to hear it over and over again. Donald Trump said he is "proudly the person responsible" for ending Roe.

Yesterday, we saw another consequence of a post-Roe America. The Arizona Supreme Court upheld a Civil War-era law banning abortion almost entirely, without exceptions for rape or for incest. The Arizona Supreme Court's decision goes as far as to suggest that doctors can be prosecuted for assisting in an abortion. All of these regressive MAGA judges on the Supreme Court, in some of the other Federal courts, and in the State courts—all come from Donald Trump and he, appointing MAGA judges, and his goal to restrict women's freedoms and to have Roe v. Wade be annihilated.

Make no mistake about it. Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans own the consequences of the Arizona Supreme Court decision. Does anyone seriously doubt that, should Trump become President again, he won't try to add even more extreme jurists to the bench so he can continue his assault on women's reproductive freedoms? Of course, they will. If Trump and MAGA Republicans get into power they would see to it that reproductive freedoms are curtailed even more, from the local level to the national level.

Even in his remarks the other day, when he was trying to cover up what he did, he couldn't resist saying he is "proudly the person responsible" for the annihilation of Roe v. Wade. He couldn't resist because that is where he is at. We know that.

And don't take it from me. House Republicans included a national abortion ban in the Republican Study Committee budget. And remember, the Republican Study Committee includes a majority of House Republicans and their leadership, and they came out for a national abortion ban.

On IVF, Republicans try to talk a good game about supporting access to reproductive services, but not 1 month ago—not 1 month ago—Republicans blocked legislation in this Chamber that would have preserved IVF protections under Federal law. And, while

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S2677

Donald Trump hopes people forget, he himself is on record supporting a national abortion ban when he was President.

So, unsurprisingly, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are now trying to hide their antiabortion records because they know how dangerously out of step their views are with the public. But they can't help themselves, as the President's speech showed 4 days ago. Again, he had to repeat that he was responsible—the one responsible—for the abolition of Roe.

Make no mistake, that is what they will do. And, make no mistake, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans will have to answer to the American people for what they have done to fundamental liberties in this country—today, tomorrow, and in November.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on impeachment, as we enter the height of the spring season, there is a lot on the Senate's agenda. We continue to confirm more judges and nominees. We must ensure FISA authorities are renewed during this work period.

Off the floor, we continue to work on a host of issues, like lowering the cost of prescription drugs, increasing travel safety, and AI, and so much more.

As busy as we are, one issue the Senate will soon have to address is the House vote to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. As everyone knows, yesterday, Speaker JOHNSON announced he is delaying transmitting the articles to the Senate until sometime next week.

Our plan over here has not changed. The Senate is ready to go whenever the House is. We want to address this issue as expeditiously as possible.

And, as I said yesterday, impeachment should never be used to settle policy disagreements. That sets an awful precedent.

So, when the time comes for the Senate to receive the Articles of Impeachment from the House, we will be ready. In the meantime, we are going to keep working on legislation that matters to the American people and do it in a bipartisan way whenever we can. The American people demand, expect, and deserve nothing less.

CAPITAL ONE AND DISCOVER MERGER

Mr. President, now, on the proposed merger of Capital One and Discover, earlier this week, I sent a letter to Capital One and Discover asking for more information about their plans for a multibillion-dollar merger. If history has taught us anything, it is that, when big financial institutions get even bigger, it can have serious consequences for consumers and small businesses alike. Higher interest rates, bigger fees, diminished competition—these can all be at stake. So my letter asks some questions to both Capital One and Discover that the American people deserve to have answered before this merger goes forward.

We need to know about market shares in this industry. We need to

know about potential increases in fees. We need to know if any workers will be laid off. We need to know how consumers are being made aware of this planned merger. Capital One and Discover are two of the largest credit card-issuing institutions in America. If this merger continues as planned, the new company would likely become the largest credit card issuer in the United States of America, with over 400 million customers.

So, before these two companies merge, the American people deserve answers to these questions to be sure they won't receive the short end of the stick.

SUPPLEMENTAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on the supplemental, not a generation ago, the thought of any American political party, much less the party of Ronald Reagan, spreading the gospel of Russian propaganda was deemed unthinkable. But, today, the apple has indeed fallen very far from the tree.

Today, a growing contingency within the hard right is corroding their party from within, turning the party of Reagan, little by little, into a messaging arm of the Kremlin. Two months ago, former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, said he would encourage Russia to “do whatever the hell they want” to the countries of NATO.

Let me say that again.

The things that come out of President Trump are really frightening about the future of America, if, God forbid, he should ever get back in power. I hope and believe he won't. But here is what he has said, again. Two months ago, Donald Trump, the presumptive Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, said he would encourage Russia to “do whatever the hell they want” to the countries of NATO—unbelievable, unbelievable.

In the House of Representatives, pro-Putin radicals say we should reward Russia's violent invasion with a peace treaty, instead of standing with Ukraine as they fight for their survival. Sadly, we hear similar things every now and then coming from the fringes of this Chamber—arguments that the war in Ukraine is hopeless, that Ukraine should cede their territory, and that we should cut a deal with Putin, as if he would be satisfied with any deal.

These modern-day Neville Chamberlains ignore the warnings of history. Autocrats have insatiable appetites. If you give an autocrat a little land, he will seek to take a country. And if you give an autocrat a country, he will seek to take a continent.

So the stakes of the war in Ukraine could not be higher. It is not just the war between two nations, but it is a struggle between two conflicting ideals, between democracy and autocracy. As the greatest democracy in the world, the United States has been called on to take a stand.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week, the strongest and most successful military alliance in the history of the world marked an impressive milestone. Seventy-five years ago, at the dawn of the Cold War, with decades of superpower competition on the horizon, the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization convened here in Washington to formalize a commitment to collective security.

In the years since, NATO has grown from 12 to 32 allies. The transatlantic alliance has always required management. Alliances always do. But, as Churchill observed, the only thing worse than fighting alongside allies is fighting without them.

While we have experienced periods of pronounced tension within the alliance, today is not one of them. Nations on both sides of the Atlantic have increasingly concluded that common threats are best met with shared resolve.

Most recently, of course, the alliance has been proud to welcome Sweden and Finland to our ranks. With highly capable militaries and advanced economies, our newest allies were already taking their own defense seriously. In the face of Putin's brutal escalation in Ukraine, they decided to share the burden of collective security.

But Russian aggression hasn't just expanded the NATO alliance; it has also prompted longtime allies to take their treaty obligations more seriously. Just last week, the Norwegian Government confirmed that it would meet the NATO 2-percent defense spending target this year and that it would nearly double its defense budget over the next 12. For a wealthy country like Norway, with one of the highest per capita GDPs in the world, this is a big deal. Across the alliance, members are making historic new commitments to strengthen their militaries and expand their defense industrial capacity. European allies have contracted to buy 600 cutting-edge American F-35 aircraft to add to their arsenals. On the whole, they are already meeting the 2-percent target, and NATO leaders expect more individual members to reach it by the July summit here in Washington.

There is still work to be done. Not every ally is taking its treaty obligations seriously enough. One of the most concerning laggards isn't even a European country, but it is our neighbor to

the north. Like America, Canada is at once an Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic nation, and it is time for Ottawa to take its obligations to NATO, to NORAD, and to its own defense more seriously.

That said, for our European allies, the holiday from history really is over. Their greater investments in collective defense also include growing contributions to Ukraine's defense. In fact, 18 countries are making larger relative contributions to helping Ukraine resist Russian aggression than the United States. Of course, this doesn't absolve America from playing a leading role. America is the glue that keeps the alliance together. We are a critical catalyst of allied contributions. Nations all over the world look to Washington for guidance.

From before Russian forces even advanced in February of 2022, I have urged the Biden administration to quit its hand-wringing and hesitation over delivering Ukraine the lethal tools it needed to defend itself. The President's unfounded fear of escalation deprived our friends of the advanced, long-range capabilities they needed to make a more decisive stand against Putin sooner. Avoidable supply shortages continue to prevent Ukraine from taking the fight to Russia across the frontlines.

The conflict is at a critical moment, and it is exactly the wrong time for folks on our side of the aisle to imitate and compound the timidity and shortsightedness of our Commander in Chief, which he displayed from the outset of the conflict.

The vast majority of armed conflicts end in negotiated settlements, but whenever and however this particular conflict is resolved, it is in America's interests that Ukraine operate from a position of strength.

Our own security, the security of our closest allies and most important trading partners, the credibility of America's commitments—none of these interests are served by withholding assistance to Ukraine or withholding urgent investments in the sort of industrial capacity and capabilities that both our friends and our Armed Forces need.

Starving Ukraine of needed capabilities wasn't the smart way for the Biden administration to avoid escalation, and neither is it a political masterstroke by some of the administration's Republican opponents. It is strategic and moral malpractice that risks dooming Ukraine and undermining our own national interests.

From Europe, to the Middle East, to the Indo-Pacific, the world is watching to see whether the United States still has a will to lead the West and preserve the international order responsible for our own prosperity for the better part of a century.

So I will continue to urge our House colleagues to take up and pass the national security supplemental without delay.

H.J. RES. 98

Mr. President, now on a different matter, I have spoken before about the effort led by our colleagues, Senator CAPITO and Senator CRAMER, to block a coercive, one-size-fits-all mandate from the Federal Highway Administration that would force States and localities to build transportation infrastructure the way the bluest coastal cities do. I am glad our colleagues will have a chance to support this resolution. I am grateful to our colleagues from West Virginia and North Dakota for their leadership.

The Senate will also vote today on a resolution to overturn the administration's latest attack on small businesses and consumers. President Biden's Big Labor allies at the NLRB have issued a new rule that would expand the definition of an employer in a way that would make employers liable for other business employees whom they don't even directly oversee.

Known as the joint employer rule, the new standard amounts to more regulatory redtape, threatening the very existence of small businesses—especially those that follow the franchise model.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the American dream. As many of our colleagues who own small businesses know, it requires a tremendous amount of hard work, long hours, and sleepless nights to own and operate a business. The Biden administration's regulatory state is already putting that dream out of reach for many hard-working Americans, but this new labor rule would add even bigger headaches and turn small business owners—including many in my home State of Kentucky—into middle managers.

One such Kentuckian wrote me a letter saying that this rule has the potential to kill his small, independent marketing organization. Here is what he said:

I implore you to stop [them] from killing many small businesses like mine. . . . This government overreach has got to stop. We are no longer a country that supports small businesses.

I have always been a proud supporter of small businesses in this country, and I have spent years fighting the joint employer rule. I am glad to join Senator CASSIDY and Senator MANCHIN in leading the CRA to block this rule.

One Federal court has already put this rule on ice. As the appeals take their course, I would encourage each of our colleagues to join us in rejecting the radical NLRB's new rule.

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.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, despite President Biden begging bureaucrats to

return to work, government buildings remain largely abandoned, and Washington, DC, is a ghost town. Heads of Agencies have mysteriously disappeared without a trace. Even the White House was left in the dark when the Secretary of Defense vanished for days.

I am hearing from folks in Iowa who tried calling Federal Agencies for help but didn't hear boo. A nonprofit serving vulnerable, disabled, elderly, and other Iowans in need contacted my office, frustrated by the growing delays that organization is experiencing dealing with the Social Security Administration. The executive director tells me that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the response time from the local Social Security office was just a few days at most but that now it takes weeks and even months to get a call back. Some of the folks the nonprofit serves have gone without benefits as a result of unreturned phone calls. Approvals to provide support to others seeking assistance are also being delayed.

The agency's executive director says the lack of communication "is having an impact on the clients we serve and our ability to provide quality service" and that "they are running us out of business."

While the Social Security Administration's headquarters is nearly empty, with just 7 percent of its office space being used, these folks serving Iowans in need are showing up. Because the support they provide is being threatened by the Social Security Administration's unresponsiveness, I called on the Agency's inspector general to investigate.

And folks, well, that seemed to do the trick. Almost immediately, the phone finally started ringing, and the Social Security Administration is once again working with this agency to make sure my Iowans are being taken care of.

Another Iowan who worked for the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Services tells me his former colleagues describe working from home as "like being on vacation. Very little work was assigned and all they had to do was be available by phone."

But according to another whistleblower within the Department who contacted me, it is even difficult to get in touch with coworkers. Here is some direct quotes from this particular whistleblower:

On occasions I have gone to USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. . . . it resembles a ghost town.

As a supervisor, I can tell you that full-time remote work and extensive telework are negatively affecting productivity, efficiency, and cooperation.

And yet another:

Remote work and telework employees are often unreachable and do not respond to simple email questions for hours.

When I questioned the USDA Secretary recently about these claims, he

pushed back, insisting his staff are required to be in the office a majority of the week. Yet, according to the non-partisan Government Accountability Office, nearly 90 percent of the office space in USDA's headquarters is sitting idle and unused.

Folks, if USDA staff aren't showing up for work in Washington, we should put them out to pasture by relocating the Department to Iowa.

With the spring planting season upon us, I know farmers and ranchers would appreciate some helping hands from USDA's experts in the field—literally, in the field, tilling the dirt and pulling the weeds.

Growing up on a farm, I can tell you that is what we in Iowa call “working from home.” But in Washington, working from home apparently means having a field day. That is why I have asked the USDA's inspector general to investigate and track down the location of these ghost employees.

I have also heard similar stories from folks who work for other Federal Agencies—like the employee who hasn't even seen their manager in weeks—as well as other Iowans experiencing the same frustrating lack of responsiveness.

Folks, enough is enough. It is time for Washington to get back to work, and I need your help to make that happen. The bureaucrats may not be showing up or interested in answering your call, but I am. So if you are trying to get in touch with a government Agency and keep getting ghosted, “Who you gonna call?” Right there, folks, right there—202-224-3254—or if you are working in a government building all alone, pick up the phone and call. I want to hear from you and other government whistleblowers. Together, we can be ghost busters and make Washington work again by getting the bureaucrats back to their old haunts “cuz I ain't afraid of no ghosts.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4093

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, it has been more than 6 months since Hamas committed heinous acts of evil against innocent civilians. It was the worst attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Tragically, the attack included the murder and kidnapping of U.S. citizens. For the hostages still being held in Gaza, the terror continues. The hostages are being deprived of food, water, and medicine. They are being subjected to unbearable violence, abuse, and torture by Hamas terrorists.

Think about the pain, the uncertainty, and the fear that has gripped the families day after day for more than 180 days. This is personal for Americans, but it is particularly important to those of us in North Carolina.

One of our fellow citizens is among those still being held, Keith Siegel. Seeking the release of hostages de-

mands strength, demands moral clarity. We demand it from our own leaders, and we should require it from our major allies.

I believe it is time for our Nation to reexamine whom we can count on to be on our side and who stands on the side of the terrorists.

The State of Qatar, for example, hosts Hamas leaders in their capital of Doha. Now, initially, Qatari officials claimed that they were exercising leverage on Hamas. Then, they publicly stated thereafter that they don't have any leverage. And now, they are promoting a cease-fire, regardless of the release of the hostages.

After 6 months, the patience of the United States has run out. The truth is that Qatar does have significant leverage over Hamas. They have the ability to expel these terrorists if they don't release the hostages or at least engage in reasonable negotiations.

In fact, last month, a bipartisan group of Senators stated clearly that “if Hamas refuses reasonable negotiations, there is no reason for Qatar to continue hosting Hamas' political office or any of its members in Doha.”

After multiple more than fair offers from Israel, Hamas has refused to accept any deal or even show flexibility on terms. The truth is that Hamas is not interested in releasing the hostages, and Qatar seems equally uninterested in forcing them to do so. It is time that we hold nations like Qatar accountable for their dithering and for their stalling.

Since 2022, Qatar has enjoyed “Major Non-NATO Ally” status. This designation is a privilege that nations like Qatar must continuously earn.

Failure to take action against Hamas is beginning to look like tacit support for a foreign terrorist organization designated by the United States. This is not acceptable behavior for a Major Non-NATO Ally.

That is why I introduced a bill this week to require the Secretary of State to formally certify four things: One, whether it is in the national interest of the United States for Qatar to maintain its designation as a Major Non-NATO Ally; two, whether Qatar has exerted any and all leverage it has over Hamas to secure the release of the U.S. hostages from Gaza; three, that Qatar does not directly or indirectly support—financially or otherwise—acts of international terrorism or foreign terrorist organizations, including Hamas; and, four, that Qatar has expelled or agreed to extradite to the United States any individuals bearing responsibility for the terror attack on October 7, 2023.

If the Secretary of State cannot make the certification in good faith, then the President is required to immediately terminate the designation of the State of Qatar as a “Major Non-NATO Ally.”

I don't introduce this bill lightly. It is not where I started with this relationship, but it is a reflection of where

we are today as a result of the repeated warnings that Members of Congress have given to Qatar about the liability of continuing to host Hamas.

Since October 7, I have engaged privately and publicly with Qatar. At times, I have even thanked them, including for the November hostage deal, which included the release of some U.S. citizens. But I have also been clear about expectations for Qatar's relationship with Hamas and mediation of a hostage crisis moving forward.

You see, the United States expects its allies to use all leverage and exert all possible pressure to secure the release of our citizens when they are taken hostage.

At the beginning of this year, I told the Qataris that time is up and the United States will be watching. It is now long past time, and we have been watching closely. The time for talking is over, and the time for action is now. If we don't see action, then Qatar must face consequences.

At the end of the day, the bill represents another step toward securing the freedom of our fellow Americans. It is my sincere hope that this Chamber can speak with one voice in solidarity and assure these families that we are indeed doing everything to bring their loved ones home.

So as in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4093, which is at the desk; I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I agree with the Senator from North Carolina that our priority as a nation and as a Senate should be negotiating the release of the hostages that Hamas currently holds. But the surest way to guarantee that those hostages never get released is to pass this resolution.

I get it. We may not like the fact that we have to be negotiating with a terrorist organization. We may not like the fact that someone in the region has to be the conduit for those talks. But we don't live in a world of fantasy; we live in a world of reality.

And the reality is, without Qatar playing a role, as they historically have, to try to unwind crises in the Middle East more broadly and specifically between Israel and Hamas, there is no existing alternative. If you don't want the hostages released, then pass this resolution.

Further, with great respect for my colleague, I think this resolution is fundamentally dangerous when it comes to protecting broader U.S. interests in the region.

We have 10,000 Americans right now based in Qatar, mostly at Al Udeid Air Base. That airbase allows the United

States of America to project power and to protect our interests throughout the region.

It is naive to think that you can pass a resolution downgrading our status with Qatar without there being an impact on that base, our personnel there, and our ability to use that base as a means to protect our interests around the region.

Qatar is the third largest customer of U.S. defense systems in the world. There are a lot of American jobs at stake when it comes to our relationship with Qatar. And the Qataris, over and over again, respond when America is in crisis. They housed more than 70,000 Afghans during the evacuation of our forces and of Afghan allies. Almost nobody else in the world would do that. But the Qataris said yes because the United States asked them.

They are an imperfect ally. They are an imperfect ally. This is a repressive regime with a bad history on human rights and worker rights, but they are a critical ally.

But more to the point of the Senator's resolution, the Senator's main critique is that Qatar hosts Hamas, a terrorist organization. I can understand why some bristle at that notion of an ally of the United States playing host to Hamas. Qatar plays host to Hamas because they were requested to do so by the United States. Hamas established an office there because the United States asked them to do that in 2012 because we knew we needed an ability to talk to Hamas.

Qatar played a contributing role in Egypt-led negotiations to get a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in 2014, 2019, and 2021. Why? Because we were able to talk to Hamas through their presence in Qatar.

And yes, Qatar has been a conduit to send money to Hamas. A lot of people may bristle at that notion, as well—our ally Qatar sending money to the Hamas political organization inside Gaza, as they have done for years. Qatar did that at Israel's request. Israel approved, in a security Cabinet meeting in 2018, an arrangement whereby Qatar, through their relationship with Hamas, would send money into Gaza “in coordination with security efforts to return calm [in] villages of the south, but also to prevent a humanitarian disaster” in Gaza. That was the Israeli position.

So I understand the discomfort of an ally having a relationship with Hamas. It has come at the request of the United States and at the request of Israel and is absolutely vital to protecting our ability to get hostages out.

If you want to make sure those hostages never leave, then cut off Qatar's role as an intermediary. You want to fundamentally harm U.S. interests in the region, you want to shut down our airbase, you want to eliminate the ability of Qatar to help us again when we are in need, as we were as we evacuated Afghanistan—then downgrade their status.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Connecticut. That was beautiful, articulate. It was a beautiful articulation of all the reasons to support my bill.

You see, this week, some of the hostages' families are in Washington to meet with leaders from all branches of government. I have met with them many, many times, and every time I come away deeply moved by the strength and resilience that they are showing in the space of an unspeakable evil.

I let them know that not only are all levels of our government working to bring their loved ones home safely, but that I would do everything in my power to make it happen. Sometimes that means being direct, even with friends like Qatar. Sometimes, that means making allies uncomfortable.

But the truth of the matter is that friends are honest with one another. So this is more than about just a bilateral relationship between two nations. This is about the well-being of U.S. citizens and a native of my home State, North Carolina.

While the Senate won't be able to pass this today because of the objection, it is my hope that we can work through the committee process to get this bill across the finish line. But, more importantly, while Qatar has done less than hoped and expected, and other allies like Egypt have thankfully stepped up to fill the unfortunate void, let this bill be a tool to move the hostage negotiations forward and secure the release of all the hostages being held in Gaza.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last month, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas resisted Democrats' latest attempt to intimidate the Federal judiciary.

This all started a year ago, when Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER sent a letter to the chief judge of the Northern District of Texas, urging him to change the ways that cases were assigned in that district. In short, the majority leader is unhappy with single-judge divisions in Texas that have handed down rulings that he doesn't agree with.

Well, forget for a moment the fact that the left has been more than happy to file lawsuits in courts they believe will be friendly to their arguments. Set that aside for a moment. But the majority leader seeks to avoid more liberal losses in the courtrooms. He wants the chief judge to ignore Federal law—literally, ignore the law—which establishes which courts have jurisdiction and venue over a given case. As Senator SCHUMER sees it, this change, which would create a random selection

assignment system, would prevent judges who are nominated by Republican Presidents from hearing as many high-profile cases.

Well, the majority leader might be forgiven for his naivete or his misunderstanding of actually what controls what venue and what jurisdiction is under the law, but the problem is that he went a step further. He ended his letter with a clear threat. If the Northern District didn't comply with his demands, he said, “Congress will consider more prescriptive requirements.” In other words, he said: Do what we want, and, if you don't, we will do it for you.

Well, for some reason, the Senator from New York thinks he should be the one to decide how cases are assigned in the Northern District of Texas.

Late last month, Chief Judge David Godbey wrote the majority leader a letter reminding him of something that the leader already knew, which is that assignment of cases is not governed by politics but by existing law. A Federal statute that Congress passed, signed by a President, gives district courts the authority to decide how to assign cases for a given district.

Unsurprisingly, there is no requirement that chief judges consult with the majority leader of the Senate when deciding how to assign cases within their district. There is this thing called separation of powers that the majority leader may have overlooked or forgotten about.

As Chief Justice Godbey noted in his letter, the district judges in the Northern District of Texas met to discuss this topic and reached a consensus not to make the changes requested by Senator SCHUMER.

While the chief judge of the Northern District was not swayed by the majority leader's implicit threat, that wasn't the end of the story. Regrettably, the Judicial Conference of the United States, in an effort to placate the majority leader, recommended that district courts across the country randomly assign certain cases that seek to invalidate State or Federal law. In other words, now the Judicial Conference has gotten into the act, ignoring existing laws passed by Congress and signed by Presidents that establish which courts have jurisdiction and venue over a given case.

Well, that provoked another telling reaction on the part of our Democratic colleagues. The majority leader rejoiced that this guidance that he sought would prevent “MAGA-right plaintiffs” from being able to “all but guarantee a handpicked MAGA-right judge.”

How insulting is that? These are lifetime judges nominated by a President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and the majority leader is suggesting that a judge who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States can be depended on to reach a predetermined result. Well, I know that is politics, but that is not

the way the laws are supposed to be interpreted or applied by the courts.

Thank goodness we have an independent judiciary in this country. It is one of the things that makes us unique in the world among democracies—a truly independent judiciary that calls balls and strikes; that interprets the Constitution and laws and applies them to a given case, even when politicians get caught up with their rhetoric and their political desires.

Well, the majority whip—the chairman of the Judiciary Committee—echoed the majority leader's position and noted that changing the way cases are assigned, he says, “will help restore the public's trust in our court system and strengthen our democracy.”

I think what undermines the public's trust in our court system and undermines our democracy are these baseless attacks on judges, assuming that they are Republican judges or Democratic judges or MAGA-right judges—whatever that is supposed to mean. I guess that means they were appointed by President Trump, but also confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The irony of calling a Senate-confirmed Federal judge a “MAGA judge” in talking about the importance of public trust in the judiciary is pretty rich.

I want to commend Chief Judge Godeby and the judges of the Northern District of Texas from resisting this political pressure and commend them for doing what they know is right for their district and the people who live and litigate within that district. This was, without a doubt, the right decision for multiple reasons.

As a practical matter, the majority leader's preferred case assignment scheme would likely subject litigants to logistical nightmares. I know Texas is a lot bigger than New York. But take the Northern District of Texas, for example. It is one of the largest judicial districts in the country. It stretches over 100 out of our 254 counties and encompasses more than 96,000 acres. If the Northern District of Texas were a State, it would be the ninth largest State. If Senator SCHUMER had his way, a suit filed in one division could ultimately be heard by any division within the Northern District.

Someone—say a woman challenging the State's abortion laws in Fort Worth—could have to travel all the way to Lubbock for her day in court. And a company in Dallas challenging government overreach or perhaps a new environmental regulation would have to go all the way to Amarillo to have that case decided, under this random assignment system. This would obviously create a lot of burdens on litigants—my constituents, Texans, American citizens. It would create burdensome and expensive hurdles that both parties in a case would have to overcome for no real purpose.

We all know that cases decided by district judges get considered by circuit courts—appellate courts—and, potentially, even the U.S. Supreme

Court. But the majority leader's political pressure on the Northern District would ultimately harm access to justice for those litigants who don't have the time or the money to travel long distances or to pay their lawyers in order to do so.

But the more fundamental issue is the constitutional one. Under the law, only Congress has the power to pass venue changes—that is where a case is heard—not the courts. The courts apply laws that the Congress passes and were signed into law by the President. The Constitution vests Congress with the sole authority to determine the structure and organization of the lower courts, and that includes venue laws, where cases are heard. From there, each individual district has the latitude to determine how cases are ultimately assigned.

So if the majority leader wants to change the way that venue laws are applied, he can try to do so, but he has to do so through a change in the law, not by trying to intimidate the judges in that division.

Over the last years, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly launched deeply concerning attacks against America's independent judiciary. Several years ago, five of our Democratic colleagues threatened that the Supreme Court would be “restructured” if it failed to rule a certain way in a case related to the Second Amendment.

The following year, the majority leader, the Senator from New York, stood in front of the Supreme Court and threatened two sitting Supreme Court Justices by name if they didn't rule the way he wanted them to rule in a case involving abortion. He said:

I want to tell you Gorsuch. I want to tell you Kavanaugh. You have released the whirlwind and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

How shameful on the part of the majority leader to stand on the steps of the Supreme Court and to threaten the sitting Justices unless they ruled in a particular way.

The next year, just a few months after President Biden took office, our Democratic colleagues in both the Senate and the House introduced a bill that would allow him to pack the Supreme Court with four new liberal Justices.

A couple years later, Senator WYDEN, the Senator from Oregon, advocated for the Biden administration to ignore a potential court order from a Northern District of Texas court because he didn't agree with it. He actually said that the Biden administration should ignore the ruling of a Federal judge—not appeal it; ignore it.

Then 15 of our Democratic colleagues recommended slashing the Supreme Court's budget if it failed to meet their demand to implement a new code of ethics that had our Democratic colleagues' stamp of approval.

And, more recently, some of our Democratic colleagues have called on

Justice Sotomayor to retire so President Biden can install a new liberal Justice, likely to serve for many years in the future.

Democrats' attacks on our judiciary have varied, but the theme is always the same. It is all about control; it is all about politics; it is all about outcomes—not justice and the rule of law.

Their message is: Deliver the wins we want, impose a code of ethics that we wrote, and retire when we say.

Well, we all know that lifetime tenure is provided for Federal judges to provide for their independence so they can't be intimidated, so they can't be forced to retire. And we can't cut their pay for the same reason.

Forget this idea of fair and impartial courts. They want judges who fall in line, salute smartly, and follow orders. As I said earlier today, an independent judiciary is essential to our democracy and the rule of law. It is the crown jewels of our government, of our Constitution. The courts cannot and must not be subjected to pressure campaigns from anyone—politicians, political activists, or anybody else.

The Federal judiciary certainly is not subservient to Congress; it is a separate and coequal branch of the government—coequal. Our Founders deliberately designed a system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch from forcing the other two to bend to its will. But that is exactly what our Democratic colleagues are trying to do, and it is wrong. It is unconstitutional, and it must be stopped.

Today's Democratic party is trying to blur the lines between the legislative and judicial branches of our government in order to secure partisan wins. And there is a reason why their efforts haven't had much success. Their proposals are unpopular. They are unwarranted, and they are flatout unconstitutional.

I am glad the Northern District of Texas did not cave to Senator SCHUMER's demands or the Judicial Conference's ill-conceived guidance. Democrats have made it clear that they will do whatever it takes to secure partisan wins in the courts.

They ought to try passing laws here in Congress with open debate and opportunity for everybody to participate in the process; but the problem is, when they lose legislative battles, they simply rely on the courts to get the wins that they ultimately want.

But the American people can rest assured that Republicans will continue to defend America's independent judiciary and fight these attacks no matter what form they may take.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for up to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, inflation numbers came out this morning, and it won't surprise anyone to discover that it was yet another month of elevated inflation, par for the course for the Biden administration.

Inflation that not only remained well above the Federal Reserve's target inflation rate for yet another month, it actually kicked up in March to 3.5 percent, not exactly a hopeful trend.

It has been a rough few years for the American people under President Biden, thanks in large part to the President and Congressional Democrats' decision to push forward with their American Rescue Plan spending spree, despite, I might add, warnings even from liberal economists that it ran the risk of setting off inflation. But now the entire Biden administration has been one long inflation crisis.

Today, a typical family is paying \$1,000 more per month to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed when President Biden took office. Now, think about that for just a moment. Today, a typical family is paying \$1,000 more per month—\$12,000 more per year—to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed when President Biden took office—if, of course, these families even have that money available. There is no question that there are families out there—a lot, I suspect—whose standard of living has diminished since President Biden took office because they simply don't have the money to maintain the same living standard with the elevated prices in the Biden economy.

The list of price hikes in the Biden economy is long. Groceries are up 21 percent since President Biden took office. Energy prices are up 38 percent. Gas prices are up 47 percent and are on the rise. The cost of shelter is up 20 percent. Car repairs and maintenance are up 30 percent. And the list goes on.

I mentioned the increase in grocery prices. The cost of food now takes up a larger share of Americans' disposal income than it has in 30 years.

A recent Bloomberg article noted:

Nationally, seven in 10 consumers say they are very or extremely concerned about the cost of groceries. . . . Forty-two percent said they were worried about having enough money to buy food in December, the last time FMI asked, compared to 26 percent at the March 2020 onset of the pandemic.

Well, that is a pretty grim statistic, and it is not the only one. On the home-buying front, one recent article reported:

The income needed to comfortably afford a home is up 80 percent since 2020.

Let me just repeat that.

The income needed to comfortably afford a home is up 80 percent since 2020.

Mr. President, 80 percent—and I don't need to tell anyone that incomes have

not risen by 80 percent over the same period.

President Biden loves to talk about giving Americans “a little bit of breathing room.” Well, Americans have lost their breathing room in the Biden economy. They have seen their disposable income dry up. They have had to downgrade their standard of living. They have had to turn to savings accounts and credit cards to make ends meet. It is no wonder that nearly half of voters say their personal financial situation is getting worse or that 55 percent of Americans say they worry a great deal about inflation or that 58 percent of voters say the economy is on the wrong track.

The sad thing is that President Biden has apparently learned nothing from his inflation crisis. He is still set on the same kind of massive government spending that helped plunge us into this inflation crisis in the first place. The budget he released last month was full of massive new spending programs, accompanied by a staggering \$5 trillion in tax hikes—tax hikes that would unquestionably have their own damaging economic effects, like discouraging job creation and driving up energy prices for hard-working Americans.

President Biden's first term in office has been characterized by economic misery for Americans, and if the President gets his way, a second term would likely be characterized by economic misery as well. It has been 36 months of elevated inflation in the Biden economy—36 months—and the end is still not in sight. It is starting to look like it won't be as long as President Biden is still in office.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ANN MARIE MCIFF ALLEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Ann Marie Allen to the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah.

Born in Richfield, UT, Judge Allen earned her B.A. from Brigham Young University and her J.D. from Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School.

After teaching at BYU J. Reuben Clark Law School and Utah Valley University, Judge Allen began working in private practice under a public defender contract with Beaver County, UT, handling indigent defense cases and Criminal Justice Act panel appointments in Federal criminal matters.

In 2007, Judge Allen became the deputy Iron County attorney and prosecuted a range of felonies and misdemeanors. She returned to private practice in 2013 while also serving part-time as the deputy Garfield County attorney. In 2016, Judge Allen was appointed by the president of Southern Utah University to serve as the university's special counsel and director of ethics and compliance. She became the university's first general counsel in 2018. In 2020, Judge Allen was appointed by then-Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert to the Utah State Fifth District

Court. Over the course of her judicial career, she has presided over hundreds of civil cases and thousands of criminal cases resulting in plea bargains.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Allen as “well qualified,” and she has the strong support of Senators LEE and ROMNEY. Her nomination was unanimously advanced by the Judiciary Committee.

Judge Allen's significant courtroom experience and dedication to service make her an excellent nominee to the District of Utah. I will vote in favor of her confirmation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON ALLEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Allen nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sanders
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Johnson	Schmitt
Budd	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lankford	Smith
Casey	Lee	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Collins	Lummis	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Tuberville
Cotton	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Vance
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Warnock
Daines	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Paul	
Graham	Peters	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO "NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEASURES; ASSESSING PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM, GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MEASURE"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 61, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 61) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, it has been more than 6 months since Hamas's horrific attack on October 7 that killed 1,200 innocent Israelis and led to the capture of 240 hostages. Around 130 people are still being held hostage, and an estimated 100 are alive and remain in captivity in absolutely horrific conditions. The cruelty that has been and continues to be inflicted on them is horrendous, and obtaining their freedom becomes a more urgent priority every day.

In the past 6 months, Israel's indiscriminate bombing has obliterated most of Gaza's infrastructure. Nothing has been spared. More than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed. Another 7,000 are believed to be buried beneath the rubble. And among the dead are hundreds of aid workers and health workers. Nearly 2 million people have been displaced. Aid trucks are lined up for miles in Egypt waiting to get into Gaza, while the bombs and shells keep exploding. The magnitude of this calamity is staggering.

Now, 6 months into this war, Prime Minister Netanyahu has announced that a date has been set for an invasion of Rafah. Rafah today is jammed with an estimated 1 million desperate, destitute Palestinians who were ordered by the Israeli military to leave their homes in the north—homes that have since been demolished—and who are now sheltering under plastic with the few possessions they could carry and not nearly enough food.

And last week, less than a month after Jose Andres briefed me and other Senators on the daunting challenges his remarkable organization, the World Central Kitchen, faces in getting food to desperate families in Gaza, Israeli missiles destroyed three of their vehi-

cles and killed seven of their aid workers.

The descriptions and coordinates of the World Central Kitchen vehicles that were targeted had been shared with the Israeli military. There was nothing about those vehicles or the people in them that could reasonably have been confused with Hamas. The vehicles were far apart. They were labeled as World Central Kitchen vehicles. Each was targeted and destroyed separately.

The deadly attacks on aid and health workers in Gaza have become shockingly common. World Central Kitchen and other humanitarian organizations, which so many people depended on, have had to suspend operations in Gaza. This incident and the killings of other aid and health workers must be thoroughly and independently investigated. Calling it a mistake begs the question: We need to know what happened and why.

This outrageous attack on aid workers and Prime Minister Netanyahu's plans to invade the very place his government told Palestinians to go is the latest evidence that the way the Netanyahu government is conducting this war is terribly wrong. It is yet another tragic reason why a cease-fire is immediately needed.

Our priority must be to secure a cease-fire to free the hostages and get adequate food, water, and medical care to the Gazan population before more innocent people die needlessly. This was affirmed unanimously in the resolution recently adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

But rather than acknowledge Israel's responsibility to implement that resolution and secure a cease-fire, Prime Minister Netanyahu criticized the United States for allowing it to pass. He said the U.S. abstention harms both the war effort and the effort to release hostages.

I could not disagree more. After 6 months of relentless bombing, the war in Gaza has been a disaster. It has been a disaster not only for the Palestinian people but for Israel, for the United States, for the hostages, and for the cause of peace and security in the Middle East.

Last week, families of the hostages were among the tens of thousands of Israeli protesters calling for Netanyahu to resign.

We need to ask ourselves what could possibly need to happen before the United States finally stops financing a war strategy that has so disproportionately killed civilians, used food as a weapon, made Gaza unlivable, and that has no realistic vision of a peaceful future for either Palestinians or Israelis.

I believe that the time has already come. Israel does not need more bombs for Gaza. The United States should stop paying for this.

What Mr. Netanyahu consistently fails to acknowledge is that the American people are paying for this war—a war that most Americans do not sup-

port. It is their tax dollars that have purchased the bombs, tanks, artillery shells, machine guns, and ammunition that have been used by Israel in what has become a war not just against Hamas but a war against the Palestinian people.

Overwhelmingly, Vermonters who have contacted me, like a substantial majority of the American people, are absolutely horrified about what is happening in Gaza.

In all the years he has served as Prime Minister, Mr. Netanyahu has never articulated the vision for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To the contrary, he has been on a mission—which he has confirmed publicly—to destroy any possibility of a future Palestinian state while preserving Israel as a Jewish state.

Those goals are fundamentally incompatible, if Israel is to remain a democracy. And we support the Jewish democratic State of Israel. Yet, on March 22, the Netanyahu government announced the largest seizure of land in the West Bank since 1993.

Nothing can excuse the brutality of Hamas—we all know that—which, for years, has squandered precious resources that could have been used to improve the impoverished lives of the people of Gaza.

But just as Hamas's atrocities and the Iranians and others who aid and abet them should be absolutely universally condemned, so must we recognize that there is a long history to this conflict.

For years, the United States—Republican and Democratic administrations and this Congress—has unconditionally supported increasingly extreme right-wing governments led by Mr. Netanyahu, even though he has consistently acted in ways that are directly contrary to our policies, our principles, and our national interests.

In the West Bank in the past 3 years alone, Israeli land seizures, settlement construction, demolitions of homes, and violence against Palestinians have soared, in flagrant violation of international law.

But rather than hold the Netanyahu government accountable, U.S. government officials keep repeating the same tired refrain that such actions are "an obstacle to peace." And nothing changed. And despite evidence of human rights violations by Israeli soldiers, the Leahy Law has never been applied to Israel—not by this administration or any of its predecessors. And, meanwhile, Congress has continued to approve billions of dollars unconditionally for the Netanyahu government.

I have spoken many times about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Month after month, as Gaza was being destroyed, I and others have called for greater access for aid trucks and the protection of civilians and aid workers. I have called for indefinite cease-fire. President Biden has called for a cease-fire. Vice President HARRIS has called for a cease-fire. And so has the U.N. Security Council.

And Prime Minister Netanyahu has ignored it all, the humanitarian crisis has grown steadily worse, and the war is far from being won. Netanyahu's strategy in Gaza is reminiscent of that famous quote of an unnamed U.S. major in Vietnam who said:

It became necessary to destroy the village in order to save it.

That is what is happening to Gaza. It won't work here, as it didn't work there.

Nobody—nobody—disputes Israel's right to go after the perpetrators of the October 7 massacre. But that atrocity and that security failure did not provide license for Israel to go to war against an entire population killing tens of thousands of defenseless people, targeting aid workers, preventing lifesaving aid from getting to the victims—all while the hostages remain trapped underground not knowing if they will survive another day.

This is not the Israel the American people have supported and defended—with my support—with \$300 billion since its founding 75 years ago—far more aid than we have provided to any other country.

As Jose Andres said:

Israel is better than the way this war is being waged. . . . You cannot save the hostages by bombing every building in Gaza. You cannot win this war by starving an entire population.

The words of Chef Andres.

I recognize that the Prime Minister makes his own decisions, and it is for the Israeli people to hold him accountable. But he is not—and in my view, has never been—a credible partner for the United States. Combating ruthless terrorists like Hamas is a challenge we face, Israel faces, the world faces. But this war is not making any of us safer from terrorism. It is creating the next generation of terrorists.

With an invasion of Rafah looming, the Biden administration has warned Mr. Netanyahu that unless there is a credible plan to relocate the Palestinians who are trapped there, such an invasion would cause unacceptable civilian losses. That, however, does not appear to have dissuaded Prime Minister Netanyahu.

World opinion has shifted sharply against Israel and the United States. The administration, while calling for a cease-fire and more humanitarian aid, is simultaneously sending more bombs and ammunition to Israel. It is an inconsistency that is not sustainable.

It is long past time for the U.S. to adopt a consistent policy, to stop financing a war strategy that was deeply flawed from the very beginning—a strategy of unending death and destruction without any plan for what comes next.

Instead of prolonging this catastrophe, let's use our influence and our resources to advance a consistent policy for the Middle East—a policy that has to be grounded in the recognition that the people of Israel will never be secure without upholding the inherent

rights and dignity of the Palestinian people as well.

After 6 months of war, the situation, regrettably, in Gaza is worse than ever. Hamas is not defeated, nor do the experts that I have spoken to believe it can be. Gaza is all but destroyed. Two million Palestinians lack the basic necessities of life and have nothing to return to.

We need to change course. The hostages need to come home. The killing needs to stop. The war must end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

DOMESTIC SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, it has been more than 5 months since the President submitted a domestic supplemental appropriations request to Congress. And, among other things, it called for funding recovery efforts in communities across the country struck by disasters, including Lahaina Maui.

Every one of these affected communities in Florida, in California, in Vermont, in Mississippi, in Alabama, in Arkansas, in Alaska, in South Dakota, in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee need help. Each one of them is in the middle of a long and difficult process of rebuilding and getting back on its feet.

Recovering from a disaster—whether natural or manmade—it is hard, it is time-intensive, and it is incredibly expensive; surveying the damage in the immediate hours and days following the event; undertaking the complex and often dangerous process of debris removal; rebuilding homes and roads and schools and other essential infrastructure that were destroyed; providing financial assistance to people, families, and small business owners who lost their jobs and livelihoods overnight. It takes months and years and tremendous effort from thousands of people to return these communities to anything close to normal.

Today, another community is, unfortunately, confronting the colossal task of rebuilding—this time in Baltimore in the wake of the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Our hearts go out to the families of the six men who were lost that day. They were fathers; they were husbands; they were brothers; immigrants who worked day and night to provide for their families. And their losses break our collective hearts.

As Baltimore recovers, we stand ready to support all of the communities and businesses that relied on that bridge and the Port of Baltimore every day to get around and move goods through. And as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, I am committed to doing everything I can to help pass the necessary funding to rebuild.

As we do that, we also have a responsibility to support every other community that has been devastated by a disaster because we are all in this together. No State or county—big or

small, red or blue, wealthy or not—can shoulder the burden alone.

When a disaster is so big, so catastrophic for any one State or locality to handle, it falls on the Federal Government to step up and help. It is central to the promise of the Federal Government. We can argue about the size and the scope of the Federal Government all we like—which programs to fund, what levels to fund them at—but even the most libertarian among us can agree that helping our fellow Americans when they are in crisis, when they have lost everything, when they are desperate for support—helping them is patriotic and essential to our roles in the Congress. It is why funding disaster recovery has historically been bipartisan—because people on both sides of the aisle have recognized, rightly, that disasters do not discriminate between red and blue and purple areas. Accidents don't pick and choose their victims. Every community that has had the misfortune of being struck by a disaster needs and deserves help.

Maui is just one example of what these communities are facing. Eight months on from the devastating fires, the needs remain enormous. Thousands of people are still living out of hotels and vacation rentals, unable to rebuild their lives. Roads and water systems have yet to be repaired. Small businesses and their employees continue to struggle without tourism.

For Lahaina to recover, thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt. Critical infrastructure will need to be restored. Businesses will need to get up and running again. So Congress needs to step up and help. That includes providing funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery—or CDBG-DR—Program, as the supplemental request calls for. CDBG-DR funding has long been a lifeline for families and small businesses recovering after disasters. Maui and many other communities nationwide are waiting on this aid.

It has been nearly 6 months since the President called on Congress to help communities recover from disasters. We have waited a long time, and we can't wait much longer. The disasters keep piling up and, with them, the urgent needs of the survivors. People need help.

We need to pass this supplemental and make sure all the survivors are getting the relief they need. This is not each against all; we are truly all in this together. Every community that has been hurt by a natural disaster deserves help, and Congress must provide it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today because we really are at a very historic time for this Chamber. Soon, the House of Representatives is expected to send over Articles of Impeachment against a Cabinet officer for only the second time in our Nation's history. This is not routine business; instead, this is a very serious moment.

On February 13, the House agreed to Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for "willful and systemic refusal to comply with the law" and "breach of public trust."

This Chamber will soon have a constitutional duty to uphold. I firmly believe that the U.S. Senate must conduct a full impeachment inquiry trial for Secretary Mayorkas. Our Constitution gives the Senate the responsibility and the duty to try all impeachments, and it requires a vote of two-thirds of the Senate present before the Federal officer is convicted. That is a pretty high standard for a constitutional process.

For every impeachment in our history, the Senate has held some form of a trial unless the Federal officer has resigned prior to the trial. This time, it should be no different.

Under President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, there have been more than 9.2 million illegal crossings along our country's southern border or, to put it another way, the average monthly encounters have increased 400 percent almost under the Biden-Mayorkas DHS.

The record illegal crossings this past February of 189,922 marked the seventh consecutive month of the highest number of encounters that these months have ever seen. On top of this, there have been 36 straight months with higher encounters at the southern border than any month under the Trump administration. I mean, these numbers are just shocking.

Still, and I have spoken on this before, it is just amazing to me that the President and Secretary Mayorkas haven't tried to change this at all.

Unfortunately, these statistics have become a regular occurrence under the leadership of Secretary Mayorkas, and he bears the responsibility for the worst border crisis of our Nation's history.

Let me be clear. As I said earlier, this crisis did not happen by accident. We have seen the Biden-Mayorkas DHS fail to uphold the law and secure our borders starting on day one of this administration. This broad and willful effort by the Biden administration to open our borders began by ending successful Trump-era policies that brought all those numbers down, like contracts to build the border wall, the "Remain in Mexico" policy—also known as Migrant Protection Protocols or MPP—and safe third country agreements.

Again, the numbers don't lie, and they certainly do not provide the administration with any cover, unlike

the cover the administration gives daily by turning their back to the cartels that are making billions of dollars from human smuggling and drug trafficking operations as long as this crisis continues.

Furthermore, we have seen Secretary Mayorkas abuse the parole process, expanding the program more than any other prior administration, which has led to more than 3 million immigrants coming into our country who would otherwise have been inadmissible. Parole is supposed to be granted on a one-by-one, case-by-case basis, but under Secretary Mayorkas's leadership, DHS has created categorical parole programs to give entry to migrants from many South American and Caribbean countries with minimal vetting.

As the crisis has developed throughout President Biden's 3 years in office, nearly half of the migrants encountered on our southern border are coming from countries outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The immigration crisis on our southern border is now more multifaceted than ever. Why is that? Because it has been allowed to keep fomenting. The open border policies from the Biden-Mayorkas DHS have allowed all of this to happen. We truly have no idea who is entering our country illegally.

We have apprehended 336 individuals on the Terror Watchlist who have illegally crossed our southern border during this administration, but these are just the individuals we know of. To put this into perspective, only 14 terror suspects were apprehended between the ports of entry during the Trump administration—14 over 4 years; 336 in this administration.

Not knowing who is in our country is a national security crisis, and at a time of heightened national security, this is a chance we should not be willing to take.

We have also seen the Biden-Mayorkas DHS abuse the asylum process, expanding eligibility to admit a record number of asylum seekers, which has led to creating a decade-long delay and backlog in our immigration courts. This ensures that anyone who enters our country and passes the very low screening standard will be here for years without any fear of deportation.

This policy allowed the alleged killer of Laken Riley—a nursing student in Georgia who was brutally and senselessly murdered—to enter and remain in this country. Even though he was apprehended by our law enforcement on at least one occasion, he still was here. This will ever serve as a reminder that Secretary Mayorkas's catch-and-release policies have allowed the catastrophe at our southern border to impact every single community.

When our already-overwhelmed Border Patrol agents are faced with thousands of encounters per day of migrants claiming asylum, we know that some border crossers are able to slip through. These are the people who don't want to be caught, and they are

the individuals we need to worry about the most. But don't just take my word for it. In a recent interview, Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens referred to the situation at the southern border as a "national security threat" and that the 140,000 known "got-aways" are what is keeping—he says "keeping me up at night." This is something that all of us should be concerned about and the ripple effect that this causes in communities far away from our southern border.

Additionally, the drugs flowing across our border are responsible for fueling the addiction epidemic that has devastated communities across this country, particularly in my home State of West Virginia. In West Virginia alone, it is estimated that during the year 2023, 1,327 residents died at the hands of illegal drugs. That is the highest per capita of any other State.

At the national level, the numbers are just startling. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, agents seized an alltime high of 27,293 pounds of fentanyl coming across the southern border in fiscal year 2023. That amount of fentanyl is enough to kill nearly 6 million people. However, what is even more troubling is that CBP reported that Federal officials are estimating they were only able to seize between 5 and 10 percent of all the fentanyl that has been smuggled through the southern border. With a Border Patrol that has been stretched unfathomably thin with very little support from this administration, there is no telling the amount of drugs that are getting through undetected.

Regarding the matter that will soon be before the Senate, the impeachment articles against Secretary Mayorkas make serious allegations and detail the crisis we have all seen unfolding for more than 3 years. It is unconscionable for Senator SCHUMER to dismiss these charges without allowing the Senate to hear the evidence. Doing so would deny this body from upholding our constitutional duty to hear a case and decide whether or not Secretary Mayorkas should be convicted or acquitted.

The decision to take up these Articles of Impeachment lies with Senator SCHUMER and the Senate Democrats. They must do the right thing and conduct a full trial.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I appreciate what I heard from the Senator from West Virginia, Senator CAPITO, and I am pleased to follow her and precede a number of my colleagues as we address the issue of the crisis at our southern border.

I want to highlight something I heard her say and reiterate myself, this is a national security threat. There are many reasons to care about what is going on at our borders, and certainly you can take a look at the issue of sovereignty and the nature of our country.

We need to enforce our laws, fentanyl and drugs, human trafficking, but sometimes overlooked is the reality of what a security threat a border like we have between the United States and Mexico is—but really all of our borders. They create a threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, the citizens of our country.

And, yes, we have to deal with the growing drug and crime emergency. It is exacerbated. I have been talking to a number of law enforcement officers in Kansas—sheriff departments and police officers—and there is no question but what they see in Kansas, the challenges are exacerbated by the lack of security, the lack of law enforcement at our borders, and they see the consequences of that activity in human trafficking and drugs.

It is important for us to talk about and focus on all of the things related to our national security. In my view, it is the primary responsibility of the Federal Government to make certain that Americans are safe. And I was on the Senate floor several weeks ago highlighting something I think is hugely important to our national security: the passage of the emergency supplemental.

The consequences of the lack of passing that legislation has consequences to the people of Ukraine and the people of Israel and the Middle East, the safety and security of other countries in the South Pacific, but I highlighted then and would highlight now the passage of that emergency supplemental has a consequence, a negative consequence if it is not passed, on the safety and security of the American people.

And so when I was here to highlight the importance of that legislation and the need to proceed, I also highlighted the consequences of ignoring our border. And I want to say, once again, that our border is a national security issue.

So while we focus on the things that we normally think about national security, sometimes we forget this dangerous circumstance that has been created.

I have been to the border a number of times, numerous times. On my last visit, I watched as Border Patrol agents apprehended Chinese nationals attempting to come into our country illegally. That, in and of itself, ought to cause us to have great concern.

Under Secretary Mayorkas's watch, the U.S. Border Patrol has apprehended 336 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist. Remember the Terrorist Watchlist and the people who came here on 9/11 and the consequences of us failing to exclude them? But 336 have been apprehended from that Terrorist Watchlist, and that doesn't include the ones whom we have not caught.

It suggests to us, suggests to me and I hope to us, that there is a real serious issue about our national security as a result of our country's failures, this administration's failures, on the border.

In fiscal year 2023—a year ago fiscal year—in that year alone, the men and

women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection had approximately 2.5 million encounters along that southern border. These historic levels of crossings at the southern border have put an astronomical—just a tremendous strain on our immigration system and seriously compromised, as I say, compromised our national security.

Not every immigrant is a criminal, but the sheer number of migrants at the border enables those with evil and malicious intentions to enter our country undetected and to harm Americans.

This historic failure is not an accident. Migrants making their way to the United States, often through the assistance of organized criminal organizations, know our laws and the current lack of enforcement of those laws. This administration has created these conditions and has done little, if not—really nothing to dissuade migrants from making that dangerous journey to our borders.

Migrants know that the administration has resisted detaining those who crossed the border illegally. They know that this administration has resisted hardening border infrastructure, and they know that the administration's abuse of the parole system will increase the chance of remaining in the United States if they can get across. All of those factors lead us to where we are today.

Last fall, I questioned the Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Secretary Mayorkas. We had a joint Appropriations Committee. The hearing was on our national security, and the topic was the supplemental I referenced in my remarks several weeks ago on the Senate floor and just a moment ago. And when I asked Secretary Mayorkas if he was willing to work on areas of immigration reform where there is bipartisan consensus—certain issues I believe in regard to border security would receive 60 votes on the Senate floor and be signed into law—the Secretary told me that he wanted comprehensive reform.

I have been in this body, the Senate. I have been in the House before then. We have talked about immigration changes. We have talked about border security. Those two things go hand in hand, in my view, and we know where this insistence that we have comprehensive immigration reform ends.

No evidence in my time in the Senate and no evidence in my time in the House that if we have to do everything—the evidence is that we do nothing, and that is what I told the Secretary. I would tell him that again.

If you are unwilling to work with us to find the things we can agree on, then nothing is going to happen to protect our borders, and our immigration system remains so flawed.

There is value, of course, in comprehensive reform—things that deal with all issues top to bottom—to ensure the needs of safety for the American people and the importance of that to our economy. But, again, my experi-

ence and my time in Congress is that if we keep waiting for comprehensive reform, the result is we do nothing.

Secretary Mayorkas has an obligation to use the tools Congress has already provided to enforce legislation that has already passed. Waiting for comprehensive reform is an excuse for the Secretary and for the President, President Biden, to do nothing.

Mayorkas's inaction on the border and his leniency toward enforcing the law has resulted in what we see, the crisis we face today. We keep waiting to reach the tipping point in that crisis, but that, I think, has long passed. Migrants are living on the streets of New York. We have lost thousands of Americans to fentanyl poisoning, and our borders have been exploited by our enemies.

My point is that America is in jeopardy in many ways. We face tremendous challenges around the globe, and our adversaries and enemies are aligned to do us harm. And one of the places that we cannot look the other way is our border and our border security. It is too great a risk and too much of an opportunity for death and destruction to come to the United States of America.

The Biden administration has made it clear, over the last 3 years, that securing our border is not a priority; it is not a priority of theirs. And now it is up to the Senate to hold the administration accountable for those failures, the failures at our southern border, again, that affect our national security, the No. 1 priority of the Federal Government.

Every State is a border State, and the American people deserve a secure border.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Madam President, in our Nation's 248-year history, the House of Representatives has impeached individuals in 21 cases. Reflecting the grave, highly rare exercise of this constitutional power, the Senate has tried each such case, except where the person resigned office before the Senate trial, rendering such trial moot.

This includes two partisan Democratic impeachments of the former President—one in which the Republicans controlled the Senate and one in which it was equally divided.

Shattering norms, however, is becoming a defining theme for Democrats this year. Why are my Democratic colleagues so eager to shirk their constitutional duty and ignore an impeachment? Because they want to ignore the damning evidence of Secretary Mayorkas's willful violations of immigration law.

I can think of no better example than the Secretary's decision to willfully and knowingly exceed his parole authority set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act. That law permits the Secretary to grant parole but only

on a case-by-case basis, temporarily, and “for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit”; for example, when a person is in need of urgent medical care or the person needs to attend a family member’s funeral. He has even created a new taxpayer-funded parole program to allow aliens from numerous countries to be flown directly into the United States.

He has abused his case-by-case parole authority beyond any degree imaginable. He is now flying 30,000 illegal aliens per month directly into the United States for resettlement.

This is a blatant violation of the law, and it is abuse of the parole law in particular. Two weeks ago, every single Senate Democrat voted against my appropriations amendment to defund this very parole flight program. That vote is impossible to explain to ordinary Americans. They see the absurdity of flying in tens of thousands of illegal aliens right in the midst of an illegal immigration crisis.

So, instead, partisan so-called fact checkers have recently been quibbling over which flights or which airports are being used. This is clearly an attempt to distract from the basic problem with this taxpayer-funded program, which is that it is illegal and it is absurd.

I understand why Democrats want to cover it up though. It is the same reason they don’t want to consider these impeachment articles.

Similarly, the Secretary terminated contracts for border wall construction and refused to expend funds that Congress appropriated for this specific purpose.

Secretary Mayorkas’s impoundment of funds is a clear attempt to usurp the will of Congress by refusing their mandate, our mandate, to build the border wall.

The Secretary has also replaced detention mandates in law with unlawful mass catch-and-release policies that encourage illegal immigration.

The law requires that illegal aliens are detained until they are deported, unless they are clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be allowed into the United States. Instead of complying with this requirement, the Secretary has released millions of illegal aliens into American communities.

We have seen the devastating effects of the Biden administration’s illegal border policies. We have heard from Americans whose lives and property are being destroyed by droves of illegal aliens who are coming into the United States every single day.

We have heard from Border Patrol agents who want nothing more than to do their jobs and secure the border, but whose hands have been tied by the Mayorkas-led Department of Homeland Security.

The American people have seen the chaotic images of the southern border under this administration. They have witnessed the ravaging effects of illegal immigration in their own commu-

nities. This includes drug overdoses, violent crime, local disorder, and the national security threat of unknown bad actors from all over the world coming across our open border.

And 249 people on the Terrorist Watchlist have been encountered at the southern border just last year alone.

Since October, a record number of Chinese nationals—22,000, in fact—have been encountered by Border Patrol; in all, over 10 million illegal aliens have crossed the border under this Secretary’s watch. The collapse of our southern border and the devastating consequences and future risks it has created for our Nation is the greatest national security risk we face as a nation.

The House of Representatives took the extraordinary step of impeaching a government official for his role in this, and yet Senate Democrats want to completely ignore all of this? They don’t want you to hear about it. They want to sweep it under the rug in an election year.

The Secretary’s alleged violations of law warrant a trial before the Senate. It warrants basic diligence in examining the evidence. And every Senator should go on record regarding the charges.

I have cosponsored resolutions by several colleagues establishing impeachment procedures that are in line with past Senate impeachment trials. We are open to debate on the details of the process, but there must be a process.

This is an important point: The current debate is not even whether or not Secretary Mayorkas is guilty as charged but whether we should even examine the question or whether, instead, as the Senate majority leader reportedly plans to do, we should just hide the evidence from the American people and avoid discussing this administration’s failures at all costs.

Why? Because this is an election year. If the majority leader wishes to honor and preserve the world’s greatest deliberative body, I urge him not to take this unprecedented step of blocking consideration of the impeachment articles against Secretary Mayorkas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, the fundamental purpose of our Federal Government is to protect Americans, to keep Americans safe. What we have seen happen on our southern border has put Americans at risk. It is a national security crisis, a drug trafficking crisis—child trafficking, sex trafficking. It is putting Americans at risk. And the people responsible for this open border policy are Joe Biden and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas.

Since the Biden administration has been in power, we have seen a flood of drugs coming across our border. The cartels are making billions. Fentanyl and other illegal drugs are the leading

killer of young Americans in this country. If you are in the age of between 18 and 45, the most likely cause of your death is drug overdose, and the majority of that is fentanyl—70,000 young people a year dying because of fentanyl.

When I was Governor, we saw the amount of drugs coming into my State under Joe Biden go up dramatically. We saw twice as much methamphetamine, three times as much fentanyl, ten times as much cocaine.

We have seen the number of people on the Terrorist Watchlist skyrocket as well. Under the Trump administration, a total of 11 people on the FBI Terrorist Watchlist were caught trying to cross the border during 4 years of President Trump. In the last fiscal year, 169 people on the FBI Terrorist Watchlist were trying to cross the border illegally.

In all, since the Biden administration has been in place, 9.2 million people have either tried to get into this country illegally or have succeeded in getting into this country illegally, and Secretary Mayorkas has willfully refused to support our immigration laws at the direction of this administration. He is culpable in what is going on at our southern border.

If you ask Americans, “Who do you think is responsible?” 57 percent say there has been a willful unenforcement of our laws. Our laws are not being enforced. That includes 61 percent of Independents and a third of Democrats.

And if you wonder who is responsible for this, you need to look no further than a memorandum—a guideline—that was issued in 2021 from Secretary Mayorkas. According to news accounts, Secretary Mayorkas issued a memorandum to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials saying:

The fact an individual is a removable non-citizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them.

Think about that. What he is saying is that, just because somebody broke the law, it doesn’t mean you have to enforce the law against them—in fact, that you shouldn’t enforce the law against them. That is not what the law is about. This is absolutely stunning.

When you are in the private sector and somebody is not doing their job, you hold them accountable. We need to hold accountable the people who have opened our southern border.

Madam President, 57 percent believe that there has been a willful disregard. And not only do those people in our country believe that, but the U.S. House of Representatives has passed an impeachment resolution condemning Secretary Mayorkas, for “willful and systematic refusal to comply with [current U.S. immigration] law” and for “breach of public trust.”

Impeachment is serious, and these allegations are serious. We in the U.S. Senate need to treat them with that level of seriousness.

We have seen an open border policy from this administration. Secretary

Mayorkas is responsible for carrying out the policy. It is now our duty, as a U.S. Senate, to have the trial to determine guilt or innocence. This is a constitutional responsibility. However, it appears that our leader and the Democrats are determined to table this, to set it aside in a manner that is unprecedented. It has never happened that the U.S. Senate has refused to take up the charges.

Folks, we don't need to be breaking more norms in the U.S. Senate. We are abdicating our constitutional responsibility if we do not hold this trial.

The people responsible need to be held accountable. We need to hear the evidence. So why don't the Democrats want to hold this trial? Well, perhaps because they are afraid of the American public hearing again how bad the situation at the southern border is, the 9.2 million people coming in here. Or perhaps they don't want to know how this administration and Secretary Mayorkas is abusing the parole function.

Parole is a function that allows the executive branch to bring in foreigners. It is supposed to be done, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Act, on a case-by-case basis, only in instances of extreme humanitarian need or in the best interest of the country. Under the Obama and Trump administrations, it happened about 5,600 times a year—5,600 times a year. Last year alone, this Biden administration paroled into the country 1.2 million people. We are doing whole classes of people. It is a clear abuse of power.

This administration is also abusing the asylum system, and Secretary Mayorkas is overseeing the Department of Homeland Security with both this new policy in parole and what is going on in asylum.

And think about this: Say you are somebody who comes across that border, and you were granted parole to get to this country, like Jose Ibarra, the Venezuelan accused of killing Laken Riley, and you get into this country. What is the first thing you are doing? You are contacting folks back home to tell them what happened to you.

This creates more incentive for people to come here illegally. It is part of why we have this problem. We need to explore topics like this.

Or perhaps the Democrats know how bad this is and don't want to defend the catastrophe that is going on at the southern border. They don't want to have to defend this administration's policy, what Secretary Mayorkas has been doing with regard to parole. Maybe they think it is bad, too, and don't want to have to defend it.

But whatever the reason, if our leader does not have a trial, it will be the first time this has happened. It will be unprecedented, and we will be breaking, again, another norm for the U.S. Senate.

Impeachment is serious. These charges are serious. The American people deserve an answer. We need to have

a trial. I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to insist upon a trial and uphold our constitutional authority. Let's have a trial so that we can hear and determine the guilt and innocence. That is what the American people deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, next week, we are scheduled to begin a trial of the Secretary of Homeland Security. It doesn't begin a conversation about homeland security in our country. That conversation started years ago now.

The American people are incredibly frustrated with what they are seeing on the southern border, and they keep saying it over and over again—remarkably so in a nation where inflation continues to be stubbornly high, where it is harder and harder to afford a carton of eggs and gasoline and all of the basics of life. In all of the areas that you would think the economy would be the No. 1 issue in the Nation, actually, national security and border security end up being No. 1, regardless of what State you live in. This is no longer a border State issue. Americans feel this is a problem.

Well, they should. In the past 3 years, more people have illegally crossed our southern border than in the previous 12 years combined, and it is not close—the number. We are approaching 8 million people who have illegally crossed our southern border just in the last 3 years.

Cities feel it. Americans feel it. School districts feel it. Communities feel it. Homeless shelters feel it. It continues to spiral into our country.

This is not some accident of migration, as the administration tries to say over and over again—that there is global migration that is happening everywhere. This was a series of Executive orders that were done in 2021 that were intentionally designed to change what is happening at our southern border, and they certainly have.

Decisions were made in 2021 by the Biden administration to be able to shift multiple things, starting with loosening enforcement. On day one of the Biden administration, stop any construction of the wall and announce it publicly: We are no longer going to do wall construction, not even repair.

Step No. 2, dramatically loosen the actual enforcement within the country so that fewer people would actually be deported when they came. So if you crossed the border illegally, it is a much greater likelihood that, once you get across, you will not be deported.

The third thing, they changed the “Remain in Mexico” policy—that simple policy to say that, yes, you can request asylum, but you can't just be released in the country. They shifted it immediately, and shifted it from “remain at the border or in Mexico.” Rather than being in detention, you could be released anywhere in the

country on your own recognizance and to be able to go anywhere you want. That dramatically increased the number of people who were crossing.

They also shifted where the State Department is no longer negotiating deals with Central America—Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—to be able to stop migrants from moving through that direction. They have withdrawn those agreements from Central America, and the State Department stopped putting pressure on recalcitrant countries that wouldn't take their people back.

These are not accidental things. These were intentional actions.

But what I don't think the administration intended was how this has spiraled out of control. They sowed to the wind, and the Nation is reaping the whirlwind of it—almost 8 million people now who have illegally crossed our border.

And now it is no longer people from the Western Hemisphere. Literally, it is people from all over the world. Pick up any tracking, at any point, to be able to track what is happening at the border, and you will find thousands of people who are crossing from China, from Russia, from Pakistan, from West Africa, from all over Asia.

When I talk to people at the border—and I do talk often to them—one of the first things I ask is: What are the trends? What are you seeing?

And for the past year and a half, they continue to tell me: a greater and greater number of non-Spanish speakers who are crossing that border, who are males in their twenties, from all over the world, who are coming.

Just in the past year, we have picked up individuals who have al-Shabaab terrorist connections, picked up folks with Hezbollah terrorist connections, picked up folks with all kinds of different connections to all kinds of different terrorist organizations. And we have been able to pick up some, but some have gotten through or have been released. This is an issue I continue to be able to bring up that this administration is not managing. In the past year, there were over 70,000 individuals who were identified as what was defined as a “special interest alien.” These individuals crossed our border. The administration designated them as a “special interest alien” and then released them on their own recognizance into our country.

Let me clarify what that term is. A “special interest alien”—this is their definition—is a non-U.S. person who, based on the analysis of travel patterns, potentially poses a national security threat to the United States or its interests. Madam President, 70,000 of those in the past year have crossed the border and have been released into the United States.

This is no longer a simple migration issue; this is a national security issue, and it is one this administration has not only invited but they have now chosen to not even take seriously.

This body knows full well—I believe there are some things that can only be done by acts of this body: changing the definition of “asylum,” increasing the number of detention beds. There are multiple issues that we need to do and that we should take responsibility for. But this body should not sit and say that nothing can be done when the White House has authorities they are not using. We should do our job. The White House should do their job. Currently, that is not happening, and the threat continues to increase.

Next week, we start an impeachment trial which has never happened in the history of the Department of Homeland Security—that they would have an impeachment of the Secretary. That starts. But can I say to you, even if the Secretary is removed, the White House still created this policy. The Obama administration had multiple leaders in that role, but they had one policy. The Trump administration had multiple leaders in that role; they had one policy. This White House has a policy of maintaining an open border, and until this White House changes that policy and actually uses the authority they already have, none of this is going to change.

So my challenge is to us. We should do our job and work on the issues we should do, but this White House needs to step up because right now, they are just hoping that none of those 70,000 people they defined as a national security risk actually does an act of terrorism or crime in the country.

I don't want to just hope that someone we have defined as a national security risk doesn't actually carry it out. I think we need to actually enforce the law, I think we need to discourage illegal immigration, and I think we need to actually have a secure border, and I don't believe I am alone in that in this body or in our great country.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and globalist Democrats have been derelict in their duty to secure the border under President Joe Biden—I repeat: derelict in their duty.

Our border is the least secure it has been in the history of our country. In fact, it is almost nonexistent. At least 9 million illegal immigrants have entered our country since the beginning of this administration. Our Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed and receive such little support from the Biden administration to enforce our laws that they have been forced to release millions of illegal immigrants into the United States.

Those who are released on parole are given work permits. Tell me this: How does handing out work permits discourage illegal immigration? It doesn't. How do these actions secure the border? They don't. We might as well start mailing every criminal, drug traf-

ficker, and terrorist an open invitation to invade our country.

I have spoken numerous times on the floor to highlight stories of Americans dying at the hands of illegal aliens: 12-year-old Travis Wolfe of Missouri, 22-year-old Laken Riley of Georgia, Washington State Trooper Chris Gadd. The tragic deaths are a direct result of Secretary Mayorkas's inaction. How many more Americans have to die before the globalist Democratic Party takes meaningful action to secure the border? This madness must end. Americans deserve to be safe from the drug traffickers, terrorists, and murderers who are flooding into our country.

The number of people crossing into the United States who are on the Terrorist Watchlist is unprecedented.

Fentanyl flows freely across our borders and is killing more and more Americans every day. Law enforcement officers in Alabama tell me time and time again that their officers must wear heavy equipment and carry Narcan spray to protect themselves from the fentanyl that is pouring into our communities. Three years ago, they had never heard the word “fentanyl,” says our police chief in the city of Montgomery.

The cartels are trafficking professionals. They are managing the human and drug trafficking at our border. This is a billion-dollar industry that the Biden administration is turning its back on and allowing.

Secretary Mayorkas has completely—completely, 110 percent—refused to do his job. He swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Can any one of us seriously say that Secretary Mayorkas has upheld his oath of office?

Progressive Democrats are wanting to try to table the Articles of Impeachment and sweep Biden's border blood-bath under the rug. Every House Democrat already voted. They have already voted to save Mayorkas's job. Globalist Democrats are lying to themselves and risking the lives of American citizens. Senator SCHUMER and the progressive Democrats can't say they want to fix our border while voting to save Secretary Mayorkas's job.

Despite the critical need to secure our borders and discourage illegal immigration, Secretary Mayorkas travels the world discussing national security with our strategic partners while his own country is being invaded. It is embarrassing.

Last month, Secretary Mayorkas was in Guatemala discussing migration flows from South America to the United States. Have these folks done anything to stop the border invasion from their countries? They have done absolutely nothing.

In February, Mayorkas traveled to Austria to speak with Chinese officials about counternarcotic efforts. Did he discuss with them the flood of Chinese illegal immigrants coming to the United States through the southwest border?

Madam President, 22,000 Chinese nationals have been arrested by Border Patrol agents at the southwest border since October and released into our country. Most of these individuals are single adult males of military age. Yet the media tries to act like all these people who cross the border are nice people, nice women and children. Some of them are, but most are not.

This invasion is more than a border crisis; it is a national security crisis. Yet I seriously doubt that Secretary Mayorkas even brought that up in his meeting with the Chinese officials a few months ago.

In February, Secretary Mayorkas was in Germany for the Munich Security Conference. The Munich Security Conference is the largest international security meeting in the world. Secretary Mayorkas was there giving speeches on strengthening global security and partnership. Americans are dying—dying—from our dangerous open borders, and he is talking about other borders across the world. The Secretary responsible for securing our borders is collecting passport stamps while lecturing other countries on their national security. Our allies must be laughing at us. The Secretary's priority should be here, securing our borders, not somebody else's, and protecting our citizens, not somebody else's.

President Biden has made the United States a joke on the world stage—an absolute joke. We need to get our house in order. We are in trouble.

So far, there has been only talk as far as border security is concerned for the last 3 years. Now is the time for every Senator to go on the record. If you are at all concerned about the drugs and criminals flooding into our country and moving to your State, you will vote for a full and fair trial. This is not a gray area.

Secretary Mayorkas has intentionally—intentionally—failed to do his job. It is time that the Senate take action. The families of Laken Riley, Travis Wolfe, Trooper Gadd, and countless others deserve—they deserve a fair trial.

I will be voting to hold Secretary Mayorkas accountable, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, first, I would like to congratulate and commend the comments by the previous speaker, the Senator from Alabama, who makes important points that are important for the history as well as the future of this country.

I rise today, as he did, to speak about the impeachment of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Mayorkas. I bring with me today to the floor “The Federalist Papers” written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay and refer to Federalist 65.

As I stand here and look at the pages in here and pages in the book and the

pages in the front of the Senate Chamber, I would recommend to them that they read "The Federalist Papers." I recommend the same to my intern who is here on the floor today, Eve Hawkins, and to the students in the Galleries. There is a lot to learn about the country and a lot to learn about our history, our heritage, and the reason we have the Nation we have today.

Federalist 65 talks about impeachment. This is about the abuse and violation of public trust. Hamilton goes on to say that impeachment is an important power to remedy "injuries done immediately to the society itself." This is the case we are here to talk about today and why I bring the book along.

The charges against Secretary Mayorkas are serious, are substantive. The facts in support of them are compelling. They deserve careful consideration by this body. Secretary Mayorkas must be held accountable. His duty as Secretary is to protect the homeland. That is not what has happened. Instead, he refuses to secure the border.

The House charges that Secretary Mayorkas has "willfully and systematically refused," they say, "to enforce border security laws." Secretary Mayorkas wants to open our borders so the entire world, from Beijing to Belize, can come in. He has turned a secure border into a welcome center.

Remember, in September of 2021, the Secretary issued a shocking priorities memorandum. Our country has been shaken as a result of that memorandum, and it has not been forgotten. The memo severely limited who ICE was allowed to arrest—that is Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He also revived the catch-and-release program and abused parole laws. In fact, the Secretary bragged on MSNBC that he had—Secretary Mayorkas—"rescinded so many Trump immigration policies, it would take so much time to list them." For people who prefer a secure border for our Nation and care about our Nation's security, this is an admission of willingness to ignore the law of the land. It also provided an open invitation for illegal immigrants or, as the Biden administration calls them, "newcomers."

After 3 years of open borders, the number of illegal crossings is up to at least 9.2 million people into this country illegally.

Crimes are up. Drug overdose deaths across America are up. What about the number of deportations of criminal illegal immigrants? Well, they are not being sent back. Deportations are down. Arrests are down. Illegal immigrants are not being detained. Murderers, rapists, other criminals—they are not being deported. That is a decision that is coming out of this administration and the Secretary of Homeland Security. Americans like Laken Riley and Ruby Garcia—they have been brutally murdered. America is less safe.

Secretary Mayorkas claims—he has come to the Senate and claimed; he has

come to the House and claimed—that the border is secure. People laugh knowing how untrue it is. It is a lie to the Senate, a lie to the House. It is such a serious matter, though; it is hard to laugh.

Meanwhile, our country is losing control of our borders to the cartels and to the criminals. Every fairminded person knows that these are serious charges, and the Senate must hold a full and fair trial. It is our constitutional duty. The House has done its job. Yet Senate Democrats—each and every one of them—are refusing to do theirs.

It seems, this week, that the Democratic leader is scheming—scheming—to bury these charges against Mayorkas without a full and fair trial. The Constitution demands there be one. The Senate majority leader's actions would turn the Senate from the world's greatest deliberative body into the world's quickest dismissal body.

The Senate majority leader is not here on the floor today. He seems to be afraid of allowing the case against the lawless actions of the Secretary of Homeland Security to even be presented to the American people. His plan to bypass the trial breaks the rules, breaks the standards, and breaks the traditions of this body.

Let us set the record straight: The Senate has always done its constitutional duty. We know the history. The House has sent impeachment articles to the Senate 21 times in the history of this country, and the Senate has never dismissed those articles without the official first resigning. Seventeen of those cases went to trial right here in the Senate and ended in decisions of either guilty or not guilty. Three of the cases were dismissed during the trial. The reason why is that the official resigned or they were expelled before a verdict was reached. One of them never went to trial because the official resigned before the trial began.

The Democratic leader doesn't seem to care about any of this, not at all. He wants to ignore the charges against Mayorkas without a trial at all. This would be disastrous for the Senate and for our Nation.

So, within the next week, the Senate Democrats must make a choice: Will they provide the transparency that the American people demand, the accountability that American citizens deserve? Or will the Democrats—each and every one of them—vote to bury these serious charges before the Senate is allowed to hear a single piece of evidence?

The Senate Democrats have now established a history of coddling criminals, people who have come to this country illegally. All 100 Senators have a solemn responsibility to work to keep our Nation safe and secure. Without a full and fair trial, there will be no accountability.

Republicans want the Senate to do what it has always done—allow the House to present its case, allow the Senate to hold a full trial, and let the American people hear the truth. Hold-

ing a full and fair trial is a matter of transparency and accountability. Avoiding a trial would be an act of partisanship at the expense of public trust.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I did not intend to speak on Secretary Mayorkas, but I want to say a few words before I get to the content of my speech.

What I would say is that I respectfully disagree with my colleagues and my friends on the Republican side of the aisle and with the politics that are being played.

I was the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and I made an awful lot of appointments under what we call will and pleasure. I asked the State senate to confirm people I thought would work and do a great job for the people of West Virginia. It was my responsibility. If it went wrong or they did not basically fulfill their duties, that was my responsibility. If they had criminal charges brought against them, whether they were civil or criminal, then the courts would take it. They have a right to remove, and I would have been respectfully obligated to remove. And, if not, they had a right to impeach.

We are not there. Everyone seems to be upset that Secretary Mayorkas, whom I know to be a good man, is being ostracized for doing the job he has done, that he has been basically directed to do by his boss, the President of the United States. If you are unhappy, go to the polls. It is the boss, OK? That is where it is. I think it has been a disaster. The first 2 or 3 years, right now, have been a disaster.

I have asked—I have begged—the President to change: Secure our border. It has to be secured. It is the most dangerous thing we face.

And when I have said that, I have said: Declare a national emergency.

Well, the mistakes the President has made, basically, were tried to be corrected when he supported the piece of legislation we had before us, about 2 or 3 weeks ago, that was negotiated. The lead negotiator, I think, is one of the most honorable people we have in the Senate, Republican and our friend JAMES LANKFORD from Oklahoma—Senator LANKFORD. I think it was a tremendous piece of legislation that would have given us more security at the border, and it would have stopped all the illegal flow. But it was still politicized, and it didn't happen, and I think Ali Mayorkas is being blamed for that too.

I am sorry. It was not him. And for us to go through a trial with what precious time we have left and all the challenges we have—let's just vote on securing the border. Once and for all, secure the border. Let's vote on taking care of our responsibilities around the world and at home—securing our border and helping our allies defend their own. That is what we should be doing.

Everything is politicized to the point now that we can't get beyond whose fault it is rather than say: Hey, we are Americans. If I am a Democrat and you are a Republican and vice versa, you are not my enemy. You are my colleague whom I might have differences with, but we can work it out. No one wants to find that sensible middle anymore. It is a bad word—"compromise." You never hear it anymore.

But to blame Secretary Mayorkas for your thinking he didn't do the job or what he said was in violation of the Constitution is ridiculous. It is basically something that I can't wait to vote against and get out as soon as it comes here. Why did they wait until next week? We could have voted on it today or tomorrow. Why? Did they want to let it fester a little bit? It doesn't make any sense to me whatsoever.

With that being said, I would hope that we would come to our senses and get to the real problems we have in America, and let's try to help the people who are living through some very high pricing. As far as food, the basic necessities of life are very difficult for an awful lot of people in my State of West Virginia, and I am going to do all I can to help them. But, with that, this is not the way to get our job done—to waste more time on something that is so senseless and reckless.

S.J. RES. 61

Madam President, let me just say I am rising in support of my resolution with Senator CRAMER and my colleague Senator CAPITO that would overturn the Federal Highway Administration's greenhouse gas reduction rule.

We all have a responsibility to the climate—we all are here to do it better—but to be practical about what we are doing, to be sensible. And if it is not feasible, it is not reasonable to go down this path.

The rule is another example of the administration trying to implement laws or bills they wanted but bills they didn't pass.

We are saying: Stay within the confines of the laws we pass.

It is an unworkable, one-size-fits-all approach. It burdens States with setting and enforcing declining emissions standards for travel on highways. It makes absolutely no effort to consider the unique needs of rural States like West Virginia.

Let me explain to you—I and my colleague Senator CAPITO—where we live. It is the most beautiful State—we consider it to be—in the country, with the most beautiful, hard-working people in the country. We all feel that way or we wouldn't be here representing our States. My friend from North Dakota here, Senator CRAMER, feels the same about North Dakota. And I agree with everybody, but we are defending it.

I have a State where I don't have one city with over a 50,000 population. So I am very rural—1.7 million-plus. The bottom line is we don't have a high density of emissions. We don't have

that. To make this into common sense, what they are trying to do is to say that you must—wherever you are now, you must reduce, reduce, reduce. The only way that we can get to where they want us to get to is to quit driving, to quit basically transporting, to quit delivering our food or all of our necessities of life. Don't go to work. Stay home.

That doesn't make any sense at all. For them to go down this one-size-fits-all makes no sense. It does not only undermine the very purpose for our highway system; it just isn't feasible in rural areas without other transportation options.

Our economy would grind to a halt. I have always said: If it is not feasible, it is not reasonable.

Even if the rule were reasonable, it wouldn't matter because the administration simply does not have the authority to do this. They do not have the authority. Transportation—DOT—does not have the authority to do what they are trying to do with this rule.

We know this because, when we were writing the bipartisan infrastructure law, we debated whether to give them that authority. That was part of the negotiations we were going through—Democrats and Republicans—saying together: Should they have that authority?

Guess what. Unanimously, we decided against it. It wasn't in their jurisdiction.

So nothing in any law that Congress has passed allows this administration or any administration to burden States with these measures in order to advance their radical climate agenda, and I say that because I think the President is being ill-advised, with his climate advisers taking him down the primrose path.

It is making a lot of people uncomfortable, with thinking: The government is trying to tell me how I am going to be transported, how I am going to use what vehicle, what I can buy; and they are trying to bribe me with \$7,500. And, if that doesn't work, we will pass a piece of legislation that makes it law to not even manufacture gasoline engines.

It is crazy, just absolutely crazy. I have always believed in market-driven products. If you give me a good product in a market where I can make a free decision and decide whether I can afford it or not, whether it enhances my life, and it is something that I desire, I will make the decision. Don't force me with limiting my options. That is all. And, when it is changing and when you do something better and it is something that gives me a better quality of opportunities in my life, that will make the difference.

I can tell you the American public, the American consumer—and I say this for all women in my family: They were born with a certain gene. They know how to shop. They know how to compare. They know how to make a good deal. And they have something that

men don't have, and they have more sense than we have when it comes to buying things and living within your means.

So with that, I can tell you: Let the market do its job.

So I introduced a resolution of disapproval with Senator CRAMER and Senator CAPITO because we know that this power grab is unreasonable, economically irresponsible, and, most importantly, unlawful. It will be devastating for the rural communities and transportation industries in West Virginia and North Dakota and across all of America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be able to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: Myself for up to 5 minutes, Senator CARPER for up to 10 minutes, and Senator CRAMER for up to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I come here and join my fellow colleagues from West Virginia and from North Dakota to offer my strong support of the resolution offered by Senator CRAMER of North Dakota.

Senator MANCHIN has covered a lot of this, but I think I want to re-cover it because I think it is very important.

The Federal Highway Administration issued the final rule, which we are challenging today, without having the necessary legal authority from Congress. The rule will force our State departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations to develop and set their own declining greenhouse gas emissions targets. State DOTs and MPOs are also going to be required to meet their own targets. If they fail to meet their targets or fail to make significant progress toward them, they are required to develop new plans to ensure that they do meet their targets.

Senator MANCHIN described how difficult it will be for a sparsely populated and, basically, rural area, such as West Virginia, to make a measurable difference in our greenhouse emissions in our transportation sector because, you know, we are in pretty good shape as it is right now.

The expected outcome of this requirement is that it will force State DOTs and MPOs to use their highway funding for ineffective emissions reduction projects rather than on projects that will improve the safety and efficiency of roads and bridges. This restriction on the ability of State DOTs to pick the projects that address their communities' unique transportation needs is unacceptable, and it runs counter to our agreement for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

When we were negotiating that legislation in our committee, we specifically considered giving the Federal Highway Administration the authority to impose a greenhouse gas performance measure and associated targets, but we ultimately rejected that idea. We make the law, and we rejected putting this into our established law for very good reasons.

My colleagues and I have also warned FHWA multiple times that it really lacks the authority for this rule.

In October 2022, in response to the publication of the proposed rule, Senator CRAMER and I, along with 25 of our Senate colleagues, sent a letter to FHWA stating that they did not have the authority to issue the proposed greenhouse gas rule.

We further reminded FHWA Administrator Bhatt of that lack of authority at an oversight hearing just last June.

Despite our clear communication with FHWA and the fact that this rule violates the carefully negotiated bipartisan agreement in the IIJA, Congress must once again address the Biden administration's regulatory overreach.

I would also note that it is not just Congress that has challenged the FHWA's authority to issue a greenhouse gas rule. In two separate legal actions—one in Texas and the other in Kentucky—a total of 22 States, with support from adversely impacted industries, successfully challenged this greenhouse gas rule.

While the States have prevailed over FHWA in Federal Court, I also believe that Congress has a duty to make clear when a Federal Agency has clearly—clearly—exceeded its authority.

Therefore, to ensure that there is no ambiguity whatsoever regarding FHWA's authority, I urge my colleagues to support Senator CRAMER's resolution.

I yield the floor to my friend from Delaware, Senator CARPER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia, my native State, for yielding to me. Out of the three Senators in the U.S. Senate from West Virginia, today we are all speaking on this proposal by Senator CRAMER.

I rise today in opposition to S.J. Res. 61, a Congressional Review Act resolution that would overturn the Federal Highway Administration's greenhouse gas performance rule. This rule is critical to helping the United States meet our climate goals, and I want to start off by laying out the scale of the challenges we face in addressing climate change and the climate crisis.

All of us know by now that we are confronted almost daily by signs that our planet is literally on fire, and as the days and weeks pass, the urgency to act only grows stronger. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States just experienced the warmest winter on record—not “one” of the

warmest winters on record but “the” warmest winter on record. And last year, 2023, was the world's warmest year on record—not “one” of the warmest years on record but “the.” This is not a mere coincidence but an unabated body of evidence that shows our planet continues to grow warmer and warmer.

Extreme weather is affecting communities across our Nation, from hurricanes to drought, to flooding made worse by rising sea levels.

Last year, the Environment and Public Works Committee that I am privileged to lead, along with Senator SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO of West Virginia, held a hearing where we heard firsthand about the negative impacts of extreme heat on our transportation systems and the punishing effects—truly punishing effects—it could have on the health of our transportation workforce.

The science is clear that greenhouse gas emissions are having a substantial effect on our changing climate.

So where do those emissions come from? Where do they come from? Well, the transportation sector in America is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Let me say that again. The transportation sector is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, accounting for nearly 30 percent of our emissions economywide. The transportation sector is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. After that, another 28 percent comes from our powerplants generating electricity, and yet another 25 percent comes from our manufacturing operations, like cement plants and like steel mills. This means that the cars, the trucks, the buses driven on our highways every day are a major source of the emissions that are warming this planet that we call home.

That is why the Federal Highway Administration's greenhouse gas performance rule is so important and must be upheld by Congress. It is simply not possible to meet our climate goals without addressing emissions from the transportation sector.

For my colleagues who might not be familiar with the Federal Highway Administration's performance measure, I would like to take a couple of minutes to talk about what the rule actually does as well as what it does not do.

First, the rule provides a framework for States and metropolitan planning organizations to measure the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated by vehicles on our Nation's highways. This rule does so by using longstanding authorities under the National Highway Performance Program, which have existed in statutes since 2012.

Under the National Highway Performance Program, the Federal Highway Administration can enact measures to assess the performance of our Nation's highways, including for environmental sustainability.

The Federal Highway Administration has already enacted performance meas-

ures in other areas, including safety and congestion.

During negotiations on the bipartisan infrastructure law, some of us wanted to require the Federal Highway Administration to set a greenhouse gas performance measure. That is what we wanted to do. We couldn't get bipartisan agreement to require a greenhouse gas performance measure. The Federal Highway Administration used the discretionary authority it has had since 2012—for 12 years—to set performance measures relating to the environmental sustainability of our highways.

In addition to measuring emissions, States must also establish targets for reducing those emissions over time. However, the rule does not take a one-size-fits all approach. Instead, it gives each State—each State—the flexibility to set its own reduction target. Let me say that again. The rule does not take a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, it gives each State the flexibility to set its own reduction target.

It is also important that our colleagues understand that the greenhouse gas rule does not impose any penalties on States that, for whatever reason, are unable to meet their targets that they have set—not that someone else has set; that they have set. The rule does not require States to transfer highway funding to other modes of transportation or to pay a financial cost if their emissions do not decline in accordance with that State's targets.

That means that under this rule, none of our colleagues' States will see a reduction in the highway funding or any change in the way that highway funds are administered in their States. That bears repeating. This means that under this rule, none of our colleagues' States will see a reduction in their highway funding or any change in the way that highway funds are administered in their States.

In fact, Congress specifically authorized funding the bipartisan infrastructure law to help States meet their emission targets. We established a new Carbon Reduction Formula Program that provides funding to every State for projects that reduce emissions from transportation.

We also provide \$7.5 billion—billion with a “b”—in the bipartisan infrastructure law to build out a national network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Our States are far from being punished. In fact, they have been provided with historic amounts of funding to address climate change.

In closing, let me just say that I believe we have an important choice to make here: Are we going to continue to ignore the significant impact that greenhouse gas emissions are having on our planet or are we going to take reasonable steps, as the Federal Highway Administration has done with this rulemaking, to address the problem head-on?

I hope that our colleagues will join me and others in opposing this Congressional Review Act resolution.

Let me just close with this for another minute, if I could. We have some young peopling sitting up here. They are pages. We call them pages. They are nominated by Senators from all over the country—Democratic Senators, Republican Senators. They come here to go to school. They haven't graduated from high school yet. They come here to pick up their schoolwork, usually in high school, and maybe stay for 1 year, 1 academic year, and eventually go back home, finish their education, and go on to do amazing things. They are just wonderful young people. I am very proud of them—the ones from Delaware and every other State as well.

They have a bright future. They have a bright future. There are also some incredibly scary threats to that future. One of those is that we live on a planet that is growing hotter, growing hotter, and growing hotter. The question is, Are we going to do anything about it? We are trying very hard to do that.

The good news is, we can do something about it, turn it around, and reverse it in ways that create jobs and economic opportunity. We have adopted those in legislation, in the Inflation Reduction Act, in the bipartisan transportation bill, and the treaty called the Kigali treaty. We have done a lot. The key is not just doing those things but continuing to do those things—continue to do those things.

With that, I hope that our colleagues will join me in opposing this Congressional Review Act resolution.

I say this as one who oftentimes works with folks—both my colleagues from West Virginia—on all kinds of issues. This is just one where we don't see eye to eye. My hope is that our colleagues from both sides of the aisle will vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, thank you for the recognition.

At the outset, let me say thank you to Senators MANCHIN and CAPITO for their passionate support and their words today in support of this joint resolution, this Congressional Review Act resolution. I also want to thank the chairman of the EPW, the distinguished Senator from Delaware and my friend. As he just said, we have worked closely together on lots of things. It is a great committee. It is fun to work on. And, again, we just don't see eye to eye on this one, but I just want to offer my respect for the good work that we all do together. I thank the Senator.

Madam President, few things are more frustrating in government than unelected bureaucrats asserting authority they don't have and foisting Federal mediocrity on the excellence of States. Shortly, the Senate will take up my bipartisan resolution that overturns the Biden administration's obvi-

ously illegal—regardless of how you might feel about the merits, an obviously illegal rule that requires State departments of transportation to measure CO₂ tailpipe emissions and then set declining targets for vehicles traveling on the highway systems of their respective States.

This rule is wrong on so many levels and has already been overturned by courts in Texas and Kentucky. Now we, the elected policymakers in our system, have the opportunity to correct course and spare the taxpayers the gross expense of litigating this demonstration of bureaucratic arrogance.

When the Environment and Public Works Committee negotiated the highway bill, we considered giving this authority to the Department of Transportation. But after the hearings and the deliberations, the committee chose not to grant such authority to the Agency, and we passed the bill out unanimously. And it became the foundation for the broader bipartisan bill known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

When the “bipartisan gang” put their proposal together, they, too, chose to leave this authority out of the bill. These decisions were not accidental; they were intentional.

When we pointed this out during the Department of Transportation's official comment period, the Federal Highway Administration provided a very novel rationale. Get this, now. They argued that since Congress was aware of their plans to promulgate this rule and did not explicitly bar it, “Congress intended to leave such determinations to”—get this, now—“Agency expertise to be handled via regulatory authority.”

That is not just arrogance; that is arrogance on steroids.

Here is what the late great Winston Churchill had to say about expertise in government:

Nothing would be more fatal than for the government of States to get into the hands of the experts. Expert knowledge is limited knowledge: and the unlimited ignorance of the plain man who knows only what hurts is a safer guide, than any vigorous direction of a specialised character.

Congress does not “leave” determinations to Agencies. Congress either grants such authority or it does not. And if it does not, the Agency does not possess that power.

In fact, let me read a couple of lines from the courts who have already ruled on this issue.

If the people, through Congress, believe that the states should spend the time and money necessary to measure and report [greenhouse gas] emissions and set declining emission targets, they may do so by amending Section 150 or passing a new law. But an agency cannot make this decision for the people. An agency can only do what the people authorize it to do, and the plain language of Section 150(c)(3) and its related statutory provisions demonstrate the [Department of Transportation] was not authorized to enact the 2023 Rule.

That was Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Judge Benjamin Beaton of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky wrote:

If the Administrator—

referring to the Federal highway administrator.

If the Administrator were allowed to shove national greenhouse-gas policy into the mouths of uncooperative state Departments of Transportation, this would corrupt the separation of sovereigns central to our lasting and vibrant system of federalism. Neither the Constitution nor the Administrative Procedure Act authorizes administrative ventriloquism.

Colleagues, the absence of a prohibition is not a license for bureaucracy to do whatever it pleases. These court rulings underscore Agencies must abide by the law, not invent the authority they desire.

Several States have resoundingly rejected this illegal rule. Several State departments of transportation objected to it in writing. Several States joined this litigation, and 50 Senators have cosponsored this Congressional Review Act.

Let me just quote a couple of States. The Arizona Department of Transportation:

Arizona Department of Transportation disagrees with the justification provided in the NPRM regarding the legal authority for Federal Highway Administration to establish a greenhouse gas emissions performance measure.

The Michigan Department of Transportation writes:

MDOT is apprehensive about supporting new measures not explicitly authorized by Congress . . . Therefore, there is no provision in federal law requiring the Federal Highway Administration to establish a greenhouse gas measure.

Twenty attorneys general from Montana, Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, and a number of other States wrote:

The proposed greenhouse gas measure would be a serious revision of what Congress has written, and Congress has not given the Federal Highway Administration such editorial power.

Madam President, the Biden administration should have never introduced this rule, but now we, the policymaking branch of government, must end it. I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for the Senate and vote for this restoration of article I powers. Vote yes on this Congressional Review Act resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, S.J. Res. 61 is considered read a third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 61

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
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	

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 61) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure” (88 Fed. Reg. 85364 (December 7, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RELATING TO “STANDARD FOR DETERMINING JOINT EMPLOYER STATUS”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 98, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 98) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL COLLECTIVELY TO THE WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES WHO JOINED THE WORKFORCE DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 85, which was received from the House and 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. 85) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other material to win the war and who were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RELATING TO “STANDARD FOR DETERMINING JOINT EMPLOYER STATUS”—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 623

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I would like to talk for a few moments about and I am going to have a motion about the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas.

As you know, Madam President, our government is one of laws, not people—laws, not people. As you also know, the U.S. Senate is built on precedent and custom and history and the law, not political expedience.

We in the Senate are supposed to listen to the American people, not ignore them. One of the ways we do that is by playing by the rules we have all agreed to—all of the rules, all of the time.

Now, my Senate Democratic colleagues today or at least very shortly, however, may be willing to jeopardize centuries of this stability—the sta-

bility that this body has wrought and lives by—for short-term political advantage.

We all know what is going on here. We all know exactly what is going on here. For the very first time in our Nation's history, my Senate Democratic colleagues are seeking to table—maybe even dismiss—an impeachment by the United States House of Representatives of a sitting Cabinet official without holding a full trial. If my Senate colleagues do that, they will be summoning spirits that they won't be able to control.

Let me say that again—the United States House of Representatives. We are not talking here about some “snow bro” who lives off Chicken McNuggets and weed and happens to have an opinion. The United States House of Representatives, elected by all of the American people, spent months investigating our border policy and Secretary Mayorkas's role in it, and then they thoughtfully crafted and they passed with a majority vote two Articles of Impeachment. Now my Senate Democratic colleagues want to toss them out in the trash like a week-old tuna salad sandwich without hearing from either side.

In the more than two centuries that this body has existed, we have never once tabled an impeachment—not once. The Senate has never dismissed impeachment articles under these circumstances either—neither tabled nor dismissed.

If the Senate dismisses these charges without a full trial, it will be the first time in the Senate's long history that it has dismissed impeachment charges against an official it has jurisdiction over without the official first resigning, and that is just a fact of history.

The Senate has the responsibility to hold this trial, and everybody in this body knows it. Yet my Senate Democratic colleagues seem willing to forfeit our constitutional authority in order to bury the evidence of how bad the border crisis is.

Now, I, for one, want to hear the House's evidence, and Senate Republicans are offering our colleagues across the aisle—all of whom I respect, by the way—a menu of options for how to hear that evidence and listen to Secretary Mayorkas's defense without eroding democratic institutions.

If Democrats set a new precedent by making an impeachment trial impossible, as I am afraid they are going to try to do, they will be silencing the voices of the Americans who elected them, and they will have to own the decisions they will be making and bear the consequences tomorrow, and tomorrow may come sooner than they can imagine.

Apparently, my Democratic colleagues are really leaning in on their double standards. Whenever protecting democracy—have you heard that expression?—or upholding “the rule of law”—have you heard my Democratic colleagues talk about the rule of law? I

have. I agree with them. Whenever they use those expressions but it becomes politically challenging, they seem happy to ignore the rule of law and the will of the people, and their political expedience is in full view today. I regret to say that.

We will see what my Democratic colleagues do with respect to my resolution and Senator LEE's resolution.

Senate Democrats, I am afraid, are silencing the American people who want their country's secure border back. The truth is that the American people are tired of the drug trafficking. They are tired of the human trafficking. They are tired of the sexual abuse of women and children. They are tired of the widespread illnesses. They are tired of the death. They are tired of the behavior of President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas with respect to the border. They are tired of the chaos. They believe it is chaotic by design, and they believe it is undermining their national security. And they are right. Now, the American people may be poorer under President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, but they are not stupid. They are not stupid.

In total, more than 9 million people, foreign nationals, have crossed the southern border under President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas—9 million. That is four Nebraskas. Secretary Mayorkas doesn't have any idea who they are. He doesn't have any idea where they are. Customs and Border Protection also seized 53,000 pounds of fentanyl from 2021 to 2023. That is enough to kill every man, woman, and child on this planet, for God's sake—not the United States, this planet.

The southern border is an open, bleeding wound. Now, the majority of the House of Representatives reached that conclusion. That is why they voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas. They have sent us their evidence, and that evidence alleges that Secretary Mayorkas's policies have made our immigration system septic. If I were Secretary Mayorkas, I would want to answer those allegations. As a Senator, I want to hear the evidence, and I know the American people want to hear the evidence.

These are serious charges. By tabling or dismissing the Articles of Impeachment without so much as a trial, like it was just spam in their inbox, my Senate Democratic colleagues are endorsing the Biden administration's lawless approach to the southern border. They are setting a precedent that the next administration can ignore the laws of Congress and the will of the American people as long as it advances the majority party's agenda. That is what they are saying.

Now, my resolution will give the procedures we need to set up the procedures we need to conduct this trial fairly and efficiently.

My resolution is modeled on the procedures that this body used during the second impeachment trial of President Trump. When President Trump's first

impeachment came to the U.S. Senate, Senate Republicans were in the majority. You didn't see us trying to table that impeachment. You didn't see us trying to dismiss that impeachment because we believe in the rule of law all the time, not just when it is politically expedient. We heard the evidence. We did our job. And that is what we ought to do right now.

The proceedings set forth in my resolution are efficient; they are fair; they are honest. They will not uproot the longstanding precedent that we have given to Articles of Impeachment in the past. It will give the Articles of Impeachment serious consideration, as we have always done.

Here is my final point. If my Senate Democratic colleagues—let me say it again, each and every one of whom I respect—if they choose to ignore this impeachment, they will have placed their seal of approval on the lawlessness at the border and the chaos it has brought to so many American communities, and they will have ignored 200 years of Senate precedent—200 years. A charitable interpretation based on policy does not exist for what my Democratic colleagues are going to try to do. It is all based on raw, gut politics and they know it and I know it and everybody in this room knows it. Please don't do it. Please, my friends, don't do it. Please don't allow the Senate to rot from within. The American people deserve better.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 623, my resolution that I just talked about; further, that the resolution be agreed to 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 objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, Madam President. The Senator from Louisiana is my friend. We throw that term around here in the Senate, but it is true. I think he would say the same. We both serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We have worked on issues together. We have been adversaries, but we have done it respectfully, and it will continue, I hope, to this day.

But the gentleman, the Senator from Louisiana, brings to the floor of the Senate and to this debate special qualities. He sounds many times like a homespun backwoods lawyer. Don't be fooled. He is a graduate from a famous university in England—I have forgotten which one—Oxford, Cambridge, one of those. They are not in the Big 10, I am sure of that, but I know they are in England. I congratulate him. I was never even considered for a university of that stature. He is a brilliant lawyer

and Senator and raises important questions, not just for the moment but for history.

The question before us today that he is raising is about the purported impeachment—I should say actual impeachment—of a member of President Biden's Cabinet, Mr. Mayorkas, the Secretary of Homeland Security. That is now about to be reported to the Senate, and we have constitutional responsibilities when it is reported.

In this situation, we are waiting for the actual report to arrive. I think it will be momentarily, perhaps this week or next, and we will take up this matter as we are required to do.

The House Homeland Committee engaged in a yearlong investigation of Secretary Mayorkas and his alleged maladministration of the border of the United States. This committee in the House held 12 hearings, testimony from more than two dozen witnesses, producing nearly 400 pages of reports.

The Senate, when sitting as a Court of Impeachment, is not responsible for making the case on behalf of the impeachment managers. We are the jury. We are the ones who will decide the impeachment. Our duty is to make the determination based on the Articles of Impeachment and the facts at hand. We are not a factfinding operation.

My friend from Utah is also on the floor. During the first Trump impeachment, he said that "the Senate—here sitting as a court of impeachment—has both the authority and the obligation to decline to hold a full trial where the material facts in the case are not in dispute."

The facts are not in dispute here. This is the first time that the House has successfully impeached a sitting Cabinet-level official without providing any evidence of a high crime or misdemeanor. None. All those hearings, all those pages, all those witnesses—no evidence of high crimes or misdemeanors. And that is a requirement in the Constitution. The Articles of Impeachment that will be before us contain zero evidence that Secretary Mayorkas has committed high crimes and misdemeanors. Instead, it can be read as a summary of Republican grievances with this administration's approach to border policy, immigration, detention, and methods of removal and parole—all of which is conduct that falls squarely within the executive branch's constitutional prerogative. Fortunately, the Constitution was designed to prevent this type of partisan politics driving this effort from contaminating the extraordinary process of impeachment.

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention considered and rejected the concept of maladministration as an impeachable offense, in part, because they feared the misuse of impeachment for purely political retribution.

The Constitution empowers the Senate to have the sole power to try all impeachments and to determine the rules of its proceedings, but the Senate

only has the power to convict, remove, and disqualify officers whose conduct meets the constitutional standard. That standard is well known to all Members of Congress and to the Senate particularly.

Given that the Senate only has the power to convict, remove, and disqualify officers who have committed "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors," the appropriate Senate response to impeachment articles that do not articulate those charges is obvious.

If congressional Republicans were genuinely interested in addressing concerns about our border, they should be willing to work on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation fixing our broken immigration system and give this President and Secretary Mayorkas the tools they have asked for to address the situation at the southern border.

I want to make sure this is clear on the record. The border is broken. It needs to be fixed and what we should do and what we did do was to establish a bipartisan committee. The Republicans said: We insist that JAMES LANKFORD, a respected Senator from the State of Oklahoma, speak for us and negotiate for us when it comes to changing the rules at the border. We agreed with that.

Senators worked with Senator LANKFORD, whom I respect, and came up with a bipartisan proposal that gave new authority to the President and to the executive branch to deal with the crisis at the border. What happened on the Republican side of the aisle when JAMES LANKFORD, the Republican Senator from Oklahoma, came up with this proposal? All but seven of them—I believe that was the number—walked away and said they wouldn't even support it.

Why did they do it? You know why they did it—because Donald Trump announced he wanted no part of any agreement, any bipartisan effort to solve the problem. Then, former President Trump said: And blame me.

Well, I am blaming him. We had an opportunity to actually do something on the floor of the Senate when it came to the border. He stopped it. And so many of the Republican Senators who begged us to work with Senator LANKFORD turned their backs on him after the yeoman's effort he put into this undertaking. That is the reality.

We had our chance, on a bipartisan basis—and still do—to solve this problem rather than engage in any political stunt. Instead, the vast majority of Republicans, including the Senator from Utah and others on the floor, recently blocked the bipartisan border reform bill that was written by the Republicans' designated negotiator, Senator LANKFORD. They had their chance. It didn't work; neither will this. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will respond, briefly.

The U.S. House of Representatives—the U.S. House of Representatives—has found, after lengthy investigation, that the chaos at the southern border is manmade, and the U.S. House of Representatives has alleged that that man's name is Secretary Mayorkas.

We need to hold a trial.

Now, Senator DURBIN is my good friend and, as usual, he is eloquent, and he sounds very confident that the evidence will exonerate Secretary Mayorkas.

How does he know? He hasn't heard the evidence, and he doesn't want to hear the evidence because he is scared that the American people might disagree.

That is what this is all about—raw, gut politics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 624

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the House impeached Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. He is the second Cabinet official to be impeached in all American history. The last Cabinet member to be impeached was William W. Belknap in 1876.

The Senate held trials in virtually all previous impeachments, except for those in which the impeached officer no longer held office. However, Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER now wants to effectively pardon Secretary Mayorkas—pardon him from this impeachable offense, pardon him from the impeachment itself—without letting us even examine the evidence.

No, the facts are not in dispute in this case. They are not in dispute in the least. If they were, there wouldn't be a need for a full trial. There would be a need, still, at a minimum, be a need to reach a verdict of guilty or not guilty because in literally every other circumstance in the history of the Republic—unless circumstances have arisen that have rendered the case moot—the U.S. Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, adjudicates the matter, whether through short proceedings or long ones, whether through a trial conducted on the Senate floor or by delegation to a select committee. It does, in fact, reach a verdict of guilty or not guilty, as is the Senate's constitutional obligation. But when the Articles of Impeachment arrive, we have to remember that we have a constitutional duty to hold a trial.

Again, what that trial consists of may depend on the circumstances, but we still have to hold a trial sufficient to get to the point, in the absence of the case being rendered moot or something of that nature, to reach a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

Now, I am so grateful to House Speaker MIKE JOHNSON for delaying delivery of these so that we can give our full consideration. Ignoring the evidence before us betrays the trust of those who sent us here.

In this spirit, I have introduced a resolution, a resolution to ensure that we are prepared to consider the impeach-

ment articles in a manner befitting our responsibilities. You see, the Senate has three states of being. It is always either sitting in a legislative capacity, where we pass bills, we debate and amend and ultimately pass or decline to pass legislation; the Executive Calendar, where we consider Presidential nominations and consider ratification of treaties; or a third state of being, of course, consists of a Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment. We are always in one of those three states.

We have a separate set of rules governing our impeachment proceedings, but those rules aren't so specific as to define the precise details of each and every impeachment proceeding. Those have to be negotiated independently through resolutions.

It is to that end that I offer this resolution to put meat on the bones of the Standing Rules of the Senate on impeachment trials.

This resolution mandates that the Senate begin deliberations on the impeachment articles no later than 7 session days after the House of Representatives transmits them to the Senate. This timeline is not just for the Senate but so that the American people can hear from Secretary Mayorkas himself. He is afforded up to 7 session days to respond to the charges that will be presented to us by the House.

Both parties in this debate would be permitted to submit trial briefs within specific deadlines, ensuring that all arguments are heard and considered with the gravity they deserve.

It requires the House to file its records, including materials from the Judiciary Committee and documents related to Secretary Mayorkas's impeachment. These records, which are subject to scrutiny and objection by Mayorkas, are crucial evidence in our proceedings.

My resolution lays out how motions and arguments will be carefully managed. Motions, except those to subpoena witnesses or documents, would be required to be filed before the proceedings start.

The structure of the presentations and questioning would be designed to allow Secretary Mayorkas to comprehensively present his case.

After the questioning period, we would proceed to final arguments and decide whether Secretary Mayorkas is guilty or not guilty.

With my resolution, we would be ready to conduct a fair and legitimate trial.

So, to my colleagues, if you are confident that the charges against Secretary Mayorkas are baseless, then why object to organizing a fair and legitimate trial? Why try to sweep this under the rug? Why pardon someone before they are even afforded the opportunity to prove their innocence?

If you trust that Secretary Mayorkas didn't authorize millions of individuals to enter illegally into our country for swift and precursory release into the interior, don't object to my resolution; just hold a trial.

If you are certain that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't, in fact, increased the pull factors incentivizing parents across the globe to send some 430,000 unaccompanied children into the United States—in many cases, to end up in the hands of traffickers—then, by all means, don't object; hold a trial.

If you are confident that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't created at least 13 illegal immigration parole programs designed to increase the flow of people into this country by the hundreds of thousands, in violation of the very law invoked to facilitate their admission, then don't object; hold a trial.

If you are so sure, so confident, so certain that, under Secretary Mayorkas, Customs and Border Protection hasn't dramatically decreased its vetting processes for allowing Chinese immigrants to cross our border with military-age Chinese males, don't object; hold a trial.

If you believe that we haven't seen a dramatic increase in the known terrorist encounters at our southern border, don't object; hold a trial.

If you are confident that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't allowed enough fentanyl to flow across the southern border to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States of America, don't object; hold a trial.

An invasion, Madam President, is taking place on American soil. At least 8 million people—that is at the low end—have illegally crossed our border since Mayorkas became the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the numbers just keep rising. This unprecedented influx includes gang members. It includes drug traffickers, human traffickers, dangerous individuals from every single country in the world, including the thousands of military-age males from China. In December alone, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reported 302,000 encounters. That is in 1 month—the highest number ever recorded in a 1-month period. These are not the kinds of records he should try to break, but he has broken them again and again and again.

Now, to be clear, Secretary Mayorkas has the tools to stop this invasion—to halt it in its tracks—and he has the tools to do it today. Not only does he have the tools, but he has the obligation and the sworn responsibility under the laws of the United States to do so. He doesn't need legislative action from Congress.

These aren't victimless crimes. The tragic case of Laken Riley—a life cut short by an illegal alien, one of the millions whom Secretary Mayorkas has allowed to enter our country unchecked—is a reminder of the human cost of this prolonged, severe, and deliberate malicious abdication of duty. Laken isn't alone. Her case represents hundreds of thousands of families across the Nation whose lives have been upended by the invasion that our leaders willfully allowed to happen and, indeed, invited. In fact, they encouraged them to happen.

Should Secretary Mayorkas be found guilty, these are impeachable offenses of the highest order. Make no mistake, this is not mere maladministration. This is a deliberate, willful, malicious determination to break the law in order to bring in millions of people who do not belong here.

There is no doubt, at this point, that the invasion of our southern border has inflicted pain and suffering on countless Americans. So we are obligated to figure out who is responsible and to make sure that they are held responsible. That is exactly why we are here.

To that end, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 624; further, that the resolution be agreed to 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 objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. It is, indeed, unfortunate that this has happened. We have followed the model of previous resolutions that have been used in order to set up impeachment debates. This one was based off of one of the impeachment trials of the 45th President of the United States. These terms were agreeable under previous impeachment proceedings, and now they are not.

This is not the kind of case in which the material facts are undisputed nor is this the kind of case in which the office held by the person impeached has been vacated either by death or resignation. And so, in order to comport with, comply with, to follow the precedents that we have consistently followed in this country that have been in place for some two and a half centuries—to say nothing of the constitutional obligation behind those precedents and those customs—we need to hold a trial.

It is not enough simply to stand up and say: We are choosing not to address these. We don't feel like addressing these. We are going to decline to address them without a finding of guilt or innocence.

This is not appropriate. So, if they don't like these particular terms, then perhaps we can find another resolution that will allow us to approach these proceedings with dignity and fairness as an institution, showing dignity and fairness to the accused and to the American people alike, including and especially those Americans who have been victimized by the acts of lawlessness carried out by this administration under the leadership of Secretary Mayorkas.

We have an obligation to do this. Absent one of the circumstances not present in this case, where the case becomes moot—this one is not. We have an obligation, regardless of what the

precise procedures look like, to reach a verdict, to make findings, to convict or acquit, to reach a verdict of guilty or not guilty. It is wrong for us to ignore this duty, and it is also phenomenally dangerous.

This precedent having been set will suggest that, from this moment henceforth, insofar as the party of the President of the United States is the same party that controls a majority of the seats in the U.S. Senate, Articles of Impeachment passed by the House of Representatives will be essentially dead letter, to be dismissed without a verdict—without a finding of guilt or innocence, of guilty or not guilty. It would be a shame, and it would be a derogation of our constitutional responsibility.

My hope, my expectation is that we can find some other means. If this one is not acceptable to the body, to my friend and colleague from Illinois, then perhaps another will, but we must keep trying. We can't pretend that we can simply table these. That is not what we are required to do here, and it is a derogation of our responsibility.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 622

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, there are times when the eyes of history are upon the U.S. Senate. This is one of those times. We are facing today an existential crisis at our southern border. It is qualitatively different than anything we have ever faced at our southern border in the history of our Nation.

A few moments ago, the Senator from Illinois acknowledged the border was broken, although he acknowledged it in the classic Washington way of using the passive voice—"the border is broken"—that is designed to hide and obscure who broke the border.

He is correct that the border is broken, but it was broken deliberately by the President of the United States, Joe Biden; by the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS; by the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas; and by every single Senate Democrat who repeatedly has rubber-stamped and embraced this open border policy.

The Senator from Illinois said the border is broken. He is also the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, on which Senator LEE serves, and on which Senator KENNEDY serves. In the past 3 years, we have held precisely zero hearings on the crisis on our southern border. The Senate Judiciary Committee cannot be bothered to inquire as to the cause of this crisis.

Understand why Alejandro Mayorkas became the second Cabinet Secretary in the history of the United States to be impeached. The last one was in 1876—the Secretary of War—and now, 148 years later, Alejandro Mayorkas joins him. It is not because Alejandro Mayorkas is incompetent. It is not because he is negligent. It is not because he is bad at his job. Rather, unfortunately, Alejandro Mayorkas is very,

very good at his job. However, he does not view his job as securing the border. He does not view his job as protecting our homeland security.

Rather, he views his job as openly and directly violating—flouting—Federal law and aiding and abetting the criminal invasion of this United States. He is not trying to secure the border. He is trying to accelerate the invasion that is happening. He wants more illegal aliens and more criminal illegal aliens released into this country. Under the Biden administration, 10.4 million illegal immigrants have been released into this country.

Senate Democrats are desperate to avoid the misery and suffering and death that their radical policies have produced. At a hearing before the Judiciary Committee, I asked Secretary Mayorkas how many migrants died last year crossing illegally into this country.

He said: I don't know. I have no idea.

I said: Of course, you don't. The number is 853. That is a number from your own Department, but you don't care about the dead bodies that Texas farmers and ranchers are finding—nearly three a day.

When I brought 19 Senators down to the border to see firsthand what was happening, we went out on a boat on the Rio Grande River, and we saw a man floating dead in the river, who had drowned that day. By the way, those 19 Senators were only Republicans. I have invited my Democrat colleagues. I have invited the Senator from Illinois: Come to the southern border and see the people who are dying because of the policies you support. None of them have any interest in seeing firsthand the deaths they are producing.

I have looked in the eyes of children—of little boys and little girls—who have been brutalized by human traffickers day after day after day. None of the Senate Democrats want to take responsibility for the little girls and little boys to whom unspeakable evils are being done.

I have looked in the eyes of women who have been repeatedly and violently raped by human traffickers. None of the Senate Democrats want to take responsibility for the horrific violence and suffering their open border policies have produced.

When I asked Secretary Mayorkas about colored wristbands on a poster I displayed at the Senate Judiciary Committee, he responded by saying he had no idea what those wristbands are.

Those colored wristbands are worn by just about every illegal alien coming to this country. The colors correspond to how many thousands of dollars they owe the cartels. Understand, the cartels don't view them as human beings. They don't even view them as livestock. They are cargo. The colors show how many thousands of dollars they owe.

If you stand on the banks of the Rio Grande River, you will see hundreds or even thousands of those colored wrist-

bands laying there in the grass. And what Alejandro Mayorkas was saying, as I told him—I said: Mr. Secretary, you have just told the American people you are utterly incompetent at your job, and you don't even give a damn enough to pretend to try.

When I invited my Democratic colleagues to come to the border and see the wristbands, the Democrats don't take us up on it.

Understand why those wristbands matter. Thousands upon thousands of teenage boys, they turn themselves in to the Biden administration. They say: Where do you want to go?

Some will say Chicago; some will say New York; some will say Los Angeles. And the Biden administration puts them on an airplane, puts them on a bus, and sends them to every city in America.

The mayor of Chicago, the hometown of the Senator from Illinois, has declared it a crisis, the illegal aliens pouring into his city. Yet Senate Democrats not only will do nothing about it, they continue the policies in place that make it worse and worse and worse.

Understand, those teenage boys, when they arrive in Chicago or L.A. or New York—and, by the way, the Democratic mayor of L.A. has also said it is a crisis. The Democratic mayor of New York has said it is a crisis. The Democratic mayor of Boston has said it is a crisis. The Democratic Mayor of Washington, DC, has said it is a crisis.

When they arrive, they owe the cartels thousands of dollars. If they don't pay the money back, the cartels will murder their families. And so they are working for the cartels.

There are crimes going on in your home State of California today by illegal immigrants the Biden administration has released that are working for the cartels. There are Californians who are being robbed right now, who are being carjacked, who are being assaulted. There are people in Chicago who are being robbed, who are being assaulted.

You want to understand the misery, take a look at Laken Riley. There has been a lot of discussion about Laken Riley; although, sadly, only on one side of this Chamber. If a Democratic Senator has said the words "Laken Riley," I have not heard it come from their mouths.

Laken Riley was a beautiful 22-year-old woman who was murdered because of the Democrats' open border policies. How can I say that with such certainty? Because her murderer, an illegal immigrant from Venezuela, was apprehended in El Paso. We had him. We had him. He was arrested. All Joe Biden and all Alejandro Mayorkas had to do was follow the law, and we would have put the murderer on a plane and flew him back to Venezuela. And he never would have been in Georgia murdering Laken Riley.

But Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas made the decision that poli-

tics matters more than protecting American citizens, and so they released this violent criminal.

He went from El Paso to New York City, where he was arrested again. We had him a second time, this time for endangering the safety of a child.

Unfortunately, New York City is a sanctuary city run by Democratic politicians, so what did they do? They let him go a second time, and he went down to Georgia. And Laken Riley, 22 years old, was out jogging, a nursing student. She is out jogging like millions of people do across America, and this murderer took a brick and beat her to death.

If either Joe Biden or Alejandro Mayorkas had followed the law or if New York had kept him in jail, she would still be alive.

Do you know what I also haven't heard from Senate Democrats? The name Jeremy Caceres. Jeremy Caceres is a beautiful 2-year-old boy, murdered in Prince George's County, MD, just miles from where we are right now, murdered by an illegal alien that Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas released.

Just a few weeks ago, news broke of an illegal alien from Haiti that not only did Biden release but flew from Haiti to the United States. The Biden administration has had over 300,000 secret flights bringing illegal aliens to America. In this case, they brought the Haitian illegal immigrant to Boston, MA. And what happened just a couple of weeks ago, he was arrested for violently raping a 15-year-old girl who is seriously disabled.

These are the very real consequences of the Democrats' open border policies. Yet Democratic Senators don't want to confront the people who are dying, who are suffering because of them.

Alejandro Mayorkas was not impeached because he is negligent; he is impeached because he is actively defying the law. By the way, he has turned the Mexican drug cartels into decabillionaires.

According to the New York Times, in 2018, the revenue from human trafficking the cartels earned was roughly \$500 million. Last year, it was \$13 billion. Thanks to Joe Biden and Senate Democrats, the drug cartels' profits have gone up 2,600 percent. That is why the House has impeached Alejandro Mayorkas.

Now, what is the Senate to do when impeachment occurs? Well, fortunately, we have a document that tells us what to do. It is called the Constitution of the United States.

Under the Constitution, it is the sole power of the House to impeach and the sole power and responsibility of the Senate to try.

Twenty-one times in our Nation's history in more than 200 years, the House has impeached an individual and sent Articles of Impeachment over to the Senate. Here is what has happened in those 21 times:

In one time, the Senate concluded it had no jurisdiction because the individual impeached was a Senator, and

impeachment only attaches to members of the executive branch or the judicial branch. So they dismissed that one for lack of jurisdiction.

In three of them, the individuals impeached were no longer in office, and so the Senate didn't act because it was moot. It was no longer necessary to resolve because the individual impeached was out of office.

In the remaining 17 times, all of them—100 percent of the time—the Senate conducted a trial, the Senate heard evidence, and the Senate adjudicated guilt or innocence. Each Senator stood up and said “guilty” or “not guilty.”

Well, next week, when the articles arrive, we are told that Senator SCHUMER intends not to proceed to a trial, not to follow the Senate rules of impeachment, not to allow any evidence but simply to move to table—to throw it out at the outset.

Why is Senator SCHUMER doing so? Three reasons:

No. 1, he desperately, desperately wants to stop the House managers from presenting their evidence.

The Senator from Illinois says: He knows there is no evidence. It is like an ostrich putting his head in the sand. One way to know there is no evidence is look at no evidence, hear no evidence, consider no evidence, and do everything you can to prevent the American people from hearing evidence.

No. 2, the Senate Democrats want to stop a trial. They don't want the American people to know the suffering and misery and dead bodies their policies are producing.

But No. 3, the Senate Democrats desperately want to prevent Democrats who are on the ballot right now from casting a vote of guilty or not guilty. They want to avoid an adjudication, because, do you know what? Senate Democrats are back in their home States saying: Gosh, I am really concerned about illegal immigration.

If they were really concerned, we can decide that next week by voting to fulfill our constitutional obligation to hold a trial.

Now, let me say something. I look and see the Senator from Illinois; I see the Senator from West Virginia. All three of us were on the Senate floor at another momentous time in 2013, when then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid exercised the nuclear option and blew up the filibuster for nominations. That did enormous damage to the institution of the Senate.

I remember standing in the well of the Senate, 10 feet from where I am now, and turning to Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR that day. I told her, I said: You are going to regret this day. This is a catastrophic mistake.

I told her then: The result of this decision from Harry Reid and the Democrats will be more judges and Justices on the Court in the mold of Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

If you want to know why *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, it is because

Harry Reid and the Democrats exercised the nuclear option in 2013. Had they not done so, there is no way this Senate would have confirmed all three of the nominees put forward. It was the direct consequence of the utter disregard for this institution Senate Democrats have.

I bring that up because we are at a second moment that is equally consequential, except instead of nuking the Senate rules as they did in 2013, Senate Democrats are preparing to nuke the Constitution of the United States itself, the impeachment clause, which every single time that the Senate has had jurisdiction and the person has been in office, the Senate has held a trial. If Senate Democrats proceed next week to table that, they will blow up that precedent.

I am here to make a prediction. Senate Democrats sometimes behave like small children with no ability to look to the future and anticipate the consequences of their actions. Everyone can recognize right now we have got a Presidential election coming up in November. None of us knows the outcome. I am going to posit to you right now: There is a significant chance Donald Trump will be reelected as President. I am also going to posit to you that is an outcome no one on the Democratic side wants to see happen.

There is also a significant chance Republicans will retake the Senate. But there is a possibility that Democrats will retake the House. That is a very likely scenario in this election.

If that happens—I turn to my friend from West Virginia because I want you to contemplate what will happen. If that happens, I am going to make a prediction: One year from today, we are going to be on the Senate floor, and if Democrats control the House, they will have impeached Donald Trump again, impeached him a third time and maybe a fourth time and maybe a fifth time. If they have the House, that is what they are going to do.

And if and when those impeachment articles come over to the Senate, if Senate Democrats next week dismiss this impeachment, I am telling you right now, Senate Republicans will do the same thing to any impeachment that comes over from the House. What Senate Democrats will have done is effectively eliminated the Senate's power of impeachment anytime the Senate is the same party as the President.

Many of us were here the last time this scenario happened. It was the first Trump impeachment. The first Trump impeachment, he had a Democratic House, a Republican Senate, and a Republican President. The Democrats in the House impeached Donald Trump. They sent Articles of Impeachment over. The Senate Republicans could have played these games and tried to table the impeachment and said: We are going to shirk our constitutional duty; we are not going to have a trial. But we didn't. We followed the Constitution.

My question for my colleagues here is: Is there even one Democrat who cares about the institution of the Senate, who cares about the Constitution, who cares about democracy?

Democrats love to pound their chest and say they are defending democracy while they are engaging in a relentless assault on democracy.

I have an organizing resolution that would follow the precedent and simply appoint an impeachment committee to hear the trial. The trial doesn't have to be on the Senate floor; that is typically done for Presidents. Instead, the impeachment committee could hear the evidence, which is what the Senate has done over and over and over again.

By the way, every Democrat who says we have got other things to focus on—FISA and other matters—the impeachment committee would proceed parallel with the Senate floor considering other business. So it would delay nothing on the Senate floor to follow our Constitution and have an impeachment committee. But it would avoid destroying the impeachment power of the Senate, destroying the Constitution. And it would also give the American people a chance to hear the evidence and to hear the presentation of the House managers.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 622; further, that the resolution be agreed to 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 objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the date was June 27, 2013, and on the floor of the U.S. Senate we had done something that no one believed could be achieved: We had, through the Gang of 8, established a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

I was part of that Gang of 8—eight Senators, four Democrats and four Republicans—who labored for months to create that legislation. It was comprehensive, as I noted. It covered every aspect, from border all the way through the immigration process.

We brought it to the floor in the hopes that, for the first time in decades, we would finally reach an agreement, a bipartisan agreement. The people who were involved in it—John McCain on the Republican side, Senator Flake from Arizona, Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina, and four Democrats—worked hard to bring this to the floor. It was an opportunity for us to finally do something together.

It got 68 votes. We needed 60, but we got 68 votes. There was a lot of celebration because business and labor and others were supporting us and so happy that we got it done.

We know what happened to that bill. It went over and died in the House of

Representatives. The Republican leadership over there refused to even call it for consideration. Of the Republican Senators currently on the floor, two of them were on the floor on June 27, 2013. They both voted no.

Listen to the speeches and ask yourself the question: If the border and immigration policy need to be fixed in America, why weren't you there when we had a chance for a bipartisan approach to comprehensive immigration reform?

And to make it even worse, there was an argument made that we would not provide defense supplemental spending, asked for by the administration, around the world, unless we came up with a border reform bill within the last several months. And the Republicans said: We have a leader on our side of the aisle whom we want to head up our effort to come up with a bipartisan bill to deal with the border. We do believe it needs to be fixed; it is in crisis.

They proffered JAMES LANKFORD, a conservative Republican Senator from Oklahoma, a highly respected Senator. I may disagree with him on many issues, but I respect him as a Member of the Senate. He was to be the lead negotiator, and we respected that request. Democrats had CHRIS MURPHY and KYRSTEN SINEMA joining in the effort and prepared to bring to the floor a major—it was a bipartisan approach to solve this problem.

Why is that necessary? Because in this body you need 60 votes. If you don't have 60 votes, you are wasting your time. We needed something bipartisan.

And so this measure was headed to the floor. And at the last minute, former President Donald Trump announced that he wanted to stop the process; he did not want to even attempt to solve the problem with bipartisan legislation. He said: You can blame me if you want to. And I blame him again. Yes, he did that.

And, unfortunately, the Republican Senators were complicit, most of them, in that effort instead of respecting what JAMES LANKFORD had achieved and what a bipartisan bill would have made.

So you can say what you want and make all the speeches about bodies and suffering, and I am sure most or some of that is true. But the bottom line is, when you had a chance to do something about it with the bipartisan Gang of 8 bill, you voted no, and when you had a chance to support JAMES LANKFORD's bipartisan approach to fixing the border, you were not there to be seen. You were loyal to Donald Trump and not loyal to the situation that we face in the Senate.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I have 2 minutes to respond to Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, nowhere in Senator DURBIN's remarks did we hear any mention of the children being brutalized by traffickers. Nowhere did we hear of the women trapped in sex slavery. Nowhere did we hear the words "Laken Riley." Nowhere did we hear "Jeremy Caceres." Nowhere did we hear a word about the dead bodies—three a day, nearly—that are being found on Texas properties. Nowhere did we hear a word about the suffering.

Instead, what did he do? He pointed to the Democrats' longstanding objection that granted amnesty to as many people as possible so they get more Democrat voters.

The Gang of 8 bill was a terrible bill. And Senator DURBIN is unhappy that democracy operated and the House of Representatives made the decision not to pass it. That is the way our system works.

That is what led Senate Democrats and Joe Biden to decide to just open the border lawlessly because they couldn't actually get the votes to pass their bill.

The Schumer bill he is talking about would have made this situation worse. And understand what Senator DURBIN is saying. It is the policy of Senate Democrats to support these open borders. They don't have any arguments on the merits.

By the way, Joe Biden inherited the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. All he had to do was nothing because we had success in securing the border. And Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas deliberately broke the border, and they continue the policies in place that ensure tomorrow more children will be brutalized and more women are going to be raped. They know that, and they are not willing to do anything to stop it.

That is, I believe, immoral and wrong, and the Senate should hold a trial as the Constitution requires. We owe that to the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators have up to 5 minutes each: myself, Senator MANCHIN, and Senator MARSHALL and Senator CASSIDY for up to 10 minutes before the rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.J. RES. 98

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, we have had several times recently—and I am talking about since the Biden administration came into office—to where, when you can't legislate, all of a sudden you use Executive orders and rulings.

You have heard of the deep state. That is what happens when you can't get your way legislatively, which means you have got to get 60 Senators corralled here to do it, and you start

doing things—in many cases, pushing legal limits administratively. That is when government has gone wild.

I want to take you back to about a little over a year and a half ago when COVID was in the rearview mirror. If you remember, there was the effort to try to force vaccinations on every individual in the country working for an employer with 100 employees or more. That would have been almost everyone. You had folks in Indiana that owned businesses wondering, now that this was all in the rearview mirror: Why would you do it? It is government gone wild.

It was our office that dusted off the Congressional Review Act that said enough is enough. Of course, Speaker of the House PELOSI wasn't going to take it up there. We did pass it in the Senate. And thank goodness the Supreme Court came in about 2 weeks later and said: Enough is enough; that is unconstitutional.

We had to do it another time on all your hard-earned money you put into your investment accounts. You heard of ESG—environment, social, and governance—that that should be of equal value as return on investment. You know it shouldn't be. That is when you are trying to weave in ideology along with investment returns. We had to dust it off again. And that passed in the Senate and the House and generated President Biden's first veto.

The number of times we have had to do it since then—too many to count. We are doing it again here this evening.

I have led bipartisan letters to the NLRB, National Labor Relations Board, raising concerns about its proposed rule regarding joint employer status over the past couple years to no avail.

And what they are wanting to do—again, this is getting into Main Street, into small business, and leveraging that Executive power to do something that would mess up what has worked well for a long time.

This rule replaced the 2020 joint employer rule that focused on "direct and immediate control" as the criterion and replaced it with an "indirect, reserved" control standard, which means it is subjective; you can do whatever you want because you don't want that particular rule that would have kept it where it has always been and where it has worked.

It has caused confusion for franchise owners for years; in fact, franchisees just as bad. Those are the Main Street business owners. It would have immediate and long-term negative effects on millions of workers in thousands of businesses when the economy is already reeling from the inflation and the sugar-high economy based upon borrowed money spent to help few parts of it. That is what they have given us, and then they want to do this. Franchisors and franchisees, Main Street America, gets impacted by it.

Moving forward with this misguided rule, the NLRB would hurt entrepreneurs. That is the backbone of our economy. They are the ones who start things that someday may become a larger business. Thirty-two percent of small business owners say they would not have a business if it were not for franchising. The NLRB should not move forward with this joint employer rule because it will have a negative economic impact. It is actually inconsistent with common law. The Board should maintain the 2020 rule. It wasn't broken. It was working. They seem to be doing everything to try to fix it when it is not broken.

I yield the floor to the Senator from West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today, and I agree with my friend and my colleague from Indiana Senator BRAUN, my friend and my colleague from Louisiana Senator CASSIDY, and my friend and my colleague from Kansas Senator MARSHALL.

I rise today in support of the joint resolution of congressional disapproval to overturn the National Labor Relations Board's new joint employer rule.

This rule is just another example of Executive overreach and the partisan politics that we deal with all too often.

Small businesses are the heart of our economy, from the States like myself in West Virginia—small, rural States. This is the backbone of our business society. And especially, we have 98 percent of our businesses are small in West Virginia. I don't have one city in my State with a population greater than 50,000. So I am 1.7 million of small towns and cities. This is who we are.

The COVID-19 pandemic was hard on small businesses and franchises, with an estimated 32,700 franchise businesses closing during the first 6 months of the pandemic. The last thing they need is greater uncertainty caused by this rule.

And the joint employer rule has caused confusion for franchise owners for years—telling them they could be held liable for actions taken by businesses with their brand, potentially subjecting them to corporate control.

Franchising is a pathway to entrepreneurship for Americans across the country, and it helps build generational growth. By providing access to capital, training, managerial assistance, and a system of support, which is so needed in small rural areas, the franchise model helps many Americans overcome the numerous barriers to owning their own business—for the first time, the dream coming true of having your own business and controlling your destiny.

One out of every three franchise owners say they wouldn't own a small business without the franchise business model that they buy into. The unique model is used by over 5,000 independent businesses in my State of West Virginia, providing over 45,000 jobs.

This new rule has further confused the issue and put the franchise model at risk. Under this rule, businesses are liable for entities they do not control. I repeat: Under this rule, businesses will be liable for entities that they do not control. And it makes no sense.

Let me give you an example. If under this brand there are uniform standards for their products or they would require hair nets to be worn, they would then be found as a joint employer. It is as simple as that, if that is part of the model that you buy into, part of the franchise you bought has certain requirements to deliver products safely and healthfully.

This is despite the fact that they have no responsibility—no responsibility—or role in hiring, firing, or wage decisions for the employees in any way, shape, or form.

Does that make any sense? It just doesn't.

Franchisees, for years, have enjoyed the independence of running their own businesses and making their own decisions about their employees, working with their employees in joint relationships. If a franchisor is now held responsible for these decisions, the franchise model will essentially no longer exist. The guidelines won't be there because they are totally liable and responsible.

The bottom line is, this rule will shut the door on thousands of Americans who want to start—or maybe already have—a business and fulfill the American dream. That is why I introduced the Congressional Review Act with the Senators whom I just mentioned and our colleagues to make clear this rule does not work.

Businesses should not be liable for entities they do not control. The National Labor Relations Board moved forward on this rule without bipartisan support, and I can assure you they did not have my partisan support.

A member of the Board even found that this rule would be “even more catastrophic” than previous attempts to change the standard and potentially “harmful to our economy.” We know previous attempts to change the joint employer standard resulted in a 93-percent—I repeat again, 93-percent—increase in litigation, a loss of over 376,000 job opportunities, and were eventually struck down by the courts.

This doesn't work. The courts have already ruled it doesn't work. And it will happen again, but here we go. Here we go.

We should be focused on bolstering our economic growth and protecting Main Street businesses, not obstructing them.

I am standing here today for the thousands of small businesses not only in my State but across the country. There are hard-working employees in the surrounding communities who are going to be harmed by this rule.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, my friends on both sides, Democrat and Republican, basi-

cally to vote yes on this resolution and allow us to continue to work towards a bipartisan, commonsense solution instead of a more partisan, political position.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, the Senate will soon vote on the Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval, hoping to overturn the Biden administration's new joint employer rule. This policy threatens the viability of the American franchise model in favor of coerced unionization.

There are 800,000 franchise businesses operating in our communities. They employ over 9 million Americans. The franchise model has particularly empowered underrepresented groups in the business community, such as women and people of color. This allows them to become a successful business owner, to live the American dream, and to create an opportunity for their own family and for their employees.

President Biden's new joint employer rule threatens this critical business model. It forces legal liability onto franchisors for the labor decisions of individual franchise owners despite the franchisor having no operational authority over the business's employees.

Saddling franchisors with liability for thousands of franchise owners that operate as small businesses is a sure way to destroy the system of franchising. According to the International Franchise Association, when the Obama administration imposed a similar policy, small businesses lost \$33 billion per year collectively due to increased liability costs.

The Biden administration's policy has strong opposition from Republicans and Democrats. It is also opposed by over 100 organizations, including those representing small businesses and workers who will be severely impacted.

It is not surprising that the joint employer rule is a major priority for large labor unions. It is easier for unions when they only have to negotiate with one major entity rather than with each individual small business. This allows the union to wield more influence in the collective bargaining process.

President Biden promised to have the most pro-union administration in history. This priority should not be making it easier to forcibly and coercively unionize workers while undermining the business model of the establishments they work for. It should be supporting workers and increasing economic opportunity. Unfortunately, this policy does the opposite. It threatens the jobs of the over 9 million American workers employed by and earning a living from the franchise business model.

I close by encouraging all my colleagues to pass this bipartisan CRA resolution and support those Americans who otherwise would not be able to own a business without the franchise model. Let's stop this harmful overreach that only hurts jobs and economic development in our communities and denies opportunities for Americans seeking a better life.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I want to thank also the Senator from the great State of Louisiana for his leadership on this very important issue.

The joint employer rule from the NLRB will crush the franchise model as we know it. It is going to crash the model of business that brought financial freedom to millions of Americans.

What I love about the franchise models everywhere I go, visiting with these owners—it has been so helpful for minorities, for veterans, for women. These franchises provide a model, the framework on how to be successful, but this new rule from the NLRB would destroy the model as we know it.

Now, I am not sure that Kansas had the first franchise, but in my mind, they did. I remember when Pizza Hut started. It was started by some students out of Wichita State University delivering pizzas to their fellow students. Not long after that came Rent-A-Center, Freddy's Frozen Custard, Goodcents subs, and many, many more. And that story has been repeated all across the country. These businesses started off small but through franchising were able to grow into national successes. Today, there are 7,500 franchises employing 75,000 employees across the State.

Now, again, everywhere I go across the State of Kansas, people want to talk about inflation, but what is becoming more prominent, especially to a business owner, is regulations, just this overburden of regulations that is keeping us all down and driving up the cost of doing business. More regulations means more money, more cost to that owner.

The question I get from folks is, Why does the White House want to fix something that is not broken? Listen, the system is working just fine right now. So why are we trying to fix it?

I remember President Reagan talking about the 10 words every American hates to hear: "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help you." We need less regulations, not more regulations.

This definition is overly broad, and this rule threatens the success stories for all those happy endings, for all those American dreams that have become true. Instead of being independent business owners, franchisees will be reduced to middle managers—killing jobs, killing income as well. This rule attempts to trigger joint employer status if two employers share

the essential terms and conditions of employment but then talks about indirect control as one of these terms and conditions. So instead of making overly broad and burdensome rules, we should pass bills like our own Save Local Business Act, which provides clear and consistent standards for treating joint employment status.

I ask my colleagues to join us in supporting this CRA. This rule from the Federal Government is a solution in search of a problem.

I yield the floor. The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H. J. RES. 98

PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. MARSHALL. 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 clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	King	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cornyn	Lummis	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Lee
Menendez

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 98) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from New Hampshire.

PROHIBITING THE USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT, ADMINISTER, OR ENFORCE CERTAIN RULES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY—MOTION TO PROCEED

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 350, S. 4072.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 350, S. 4072, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 634, S. Res. 635, and S. Res. 636.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that 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 were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Amred Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117-263, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the National Commission on the Future of the Navy: Harlan Kenneth Ullman of the District of Columbia.

MORNING BUSINESS

NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of economic development organizations and economic development professionals in Montana and across the Nation in honor of National Economic Development Week.

Every May, we recognize the valuable work these men and women do to create high-quality, good-paying jobs for folks across the country. Our economic developers are essential in building and strengthening many of the building blocks that our communities depend on and are critically important to achieving a thriving economy.

And it is not just about creating jobs. Our economic developers are a vital

piece of the puzzle for workforce development and talent attraction, small business development, infrastructure and broadband development, predisaster mitigation and postdisaster recovery, and much more.

This Economic Development Week, I want to thank all of our economic developers in Montana and across the country for the hard work you do to keep our communities strong, and I encourage all of my colleagues to celebrate alongside me.

Thank you, and happy Economic Development Week.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM J. CAVANAUGH

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to honor COL William J. Cavanaugh, his contributions to the Air Force Research Lab at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH, and his distinguished 31-year service in the U.S. Army. Colonel Cavanaugh was instrumental in the design and architecture of the AFRL Bio Acoustics Lab anechoic chamber. Seventy years after its completion, the anechoic chamber is still used today and the research done works to save the lives of our servicemembers on the battlefield. The American Institute of Physics featured Colonel Cavanaugh in their oral history and highlighted Colonel Cavanaugh's far-reaching impacts on the scientific community.

In December of 2022, the Ohio Legislature's 134th Generally Assembly adopted HCR 32 to recognize "Colonel William J. Cavanaugh for his contribution to the design and architecture of the United States Air Force Research Lab Bio Acoustics Laboratory, and for his outstanding and enduring service to our nation."

It is fitting to honor Colonel Cavanaugh for his lasting contributions that have saved the lives of our men and women in uniform. Sites from the National Veterans Memorial and Museum to the National Museum of the United States Air Force have all commemorated Colonel Cavanaugh and his work. As we expand and support the vital work that Ohioans continue to do at Wright-Patt and the Air Force Research Lab, it is important to ensure that future generations learn about past leaders, including Colonel Cavanaugh, and the difference they made for our State and our country.

Today, I join a grateful State and a grateful nation in thanking Colonel Cavanaugh for his dedication and service to Ohio and our Nation.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:43 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in

which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S 2051. An act to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1246. An act to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

H.R. 1792. An act to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1829. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.

H.R. 4389. An act to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6233. An act to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6443. An act to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6492. An act to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6655. An act to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1246. An act to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1792. An act to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4389. An act to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6233. An act to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6443. An act to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 6655. An act to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1829. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.

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-3963. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Triclopyr; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11763-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3964. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3965. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3966. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DoD Freedom of Information Act Program; Amendment; Correction" (RIN0790-AK54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3967. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN0790-AL72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3968. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation" (RIN0790-AL69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3969. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Transfer and Adoption of Military Animals (DFARS Case 2020-D021)" (RIN0750-AL07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3970. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible Individuals" (RIN0790-AJ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3971. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,

transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2023 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3972. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exemption for Certain Investment Advisers Operating Through the Internet” (RIN3235-AN31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3973. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions of Entities, Revisions of Entries, and Removal of an Entity from the Entity List” (RIN0694-AJ53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3974. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act Supplemental Rule” (RIN3064-AG03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3975. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council’s 2023 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3976. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Share Repurchase Disclosure Modernization” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3977. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3978. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3979. 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 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3980. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Export Administration Regulations End-User Controls: Im-

position of Restrictions on Certain Persons Identified on the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN List)” (RIN0694-AI82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3981. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank’s annual report on its operations for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3982. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2023 Consumer Response Annual Report”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3983. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of Financial Research, Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3984. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (Financial Institutions), Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3985. 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 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3986. 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 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3987. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Additional Export Controls: Certain Advanced Computing Items; Supercomputer and Semiconductor End Use; Updates and Corrections; and Export Controls on Semiconductor Manufacturing Items; Corrections and Clarifications” (RIN0694-AI94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3988. 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 Clothes Dryers” (RIN1904-AF59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3989. A communication from the Policy Advisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2023-2024 Station-specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations” (RIN1018-BG71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3990. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Diego County; 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Non-attainment Area Requirements” (FRL No. 9538-01-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3991. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Request From States for Removal of Gasoline Volatility Waiver” (RIN2060-AV73) (FRL No. 9845-02-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3992. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; CA; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 10574-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3993. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Updates to the State Implementation Plan Incorporation by Reference Provisions” (FRL No. 10675-02-R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3994. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Negative Declaration for Existing Sulfuric Acid Plants; Plan Revision Kraft Pulp Mills” (FRL No. 11401-02-R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3995. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of *Chrysopsis floridana* (Florida Golden Aster) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants” (RIN1018-BE00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3996. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp., Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories” (RIN2135-AA55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3997. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.253 Rev 0, Guidance for a Technology-Inclusive Content of Application Methodology to Inform the Licensing Basis and Content of Applications for Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Non-Light Water Reactors" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3998. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.234 Rev 1, 'Evaluating Deviations and Reporting Defects and Non-compliance Under 10 CFR Part 21'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3999. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a summary of actions taken by the Commission in response to recommendations contained in various Government Accountability Office reports that address NRC activities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4000. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4001. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4002. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4003. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program - Tribal Program Implementation"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4004. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program - Toxic Reduction Lead"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4005. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the 24-Hour PM10 Standards; Sacramento County Planning Area, California" (FRL No. 10958-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4006. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 11615-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE, from the Committee on the Budget:

Report to accompany 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 (Rept. No. 118-168).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4093. A bill to review and consider terminating the designation of the State of Qatar as a major non-NATO ally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4094. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of the Medicare Diabetes Prevention program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4095. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings, and to ensure that venue in patents cases is fair and proper, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 4096. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the random assignment of certain cases in the district courts of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4097. A bill to modernize the defense capabilities of the Philippines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 4098. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of

foreign corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4099. A bill to increase the capacity, resiliency, diversity, and security of the United States food supply chain by codifying and expanding the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4100. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the National Cemeteries Foundation to support the educational outreach activities of the Veterans Legacy Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BARASSO):

S. 4101. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the continued designation of hospitals that meet mountainous terrain or secondary roads distance requirement as critical access hospitals and to modify distance requirements for ambulance services furnished by critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4102. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include training regarding financial protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act in certain financial literacy training programs for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4103. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to implement the anti-fraud and abuse recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4104. A bill to address gun violence, improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, address mental illness in the criminal justice system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 4105. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to accelerate the implementation of quantum information science technologies within the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4106. A bill to affirm and protect the First Amendment rights of students and student organizations at public institutions of higher education; 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 Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 631. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2024 as the "Month of the Military Child"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. Res. 632. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 633. A resolution reaffirming the United States' commitment to Taiwan and recognizing the 45th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 634. A resolution recognizing the cultural and educational contributions of the Youth America Grand Prix throughout its 25 years of service as the national youth dance competition of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 635. A resolution designating the first week of April 2024 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 636. A resolution designating February 29, 2024, as "Rare Disease Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 160

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 160, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to certain organizations for members of the Armed Forces.

S. 704

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) 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. 949

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to exempt industrial hemp from certain requirements under the hemp production program, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision and dental plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1897

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1897, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 relating to de minimis treatment under that Act.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to amend the Internal Rev-

enue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes.

S. 2256

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2256, a bill to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to support and strengthen the fighter aircraft capabilities of the Air Force, and for other purposes.

S. 2397

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2397, a bill to amend section 495 of the Public Health Service Act to require inspections of foreign laboratories conducting biomedical and behavioral research to ensure compliance with applicable animal welfare requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator

from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3569

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3569, a bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the disclosure process for intellectual property created under a Federal grant, and for other purposes.

S. 3681

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3681, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3697

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3697, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 3775

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3775, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3778

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3778, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to modify eligibility for the State response to contaminants program, and for other purposes.

S. 3806

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3806, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the cost of living adjustment exclusion from income under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3953

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3953, a bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 3982

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3982, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Expanding Access to Local Foods Program, and for other purposes.

S. 4072

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 4072, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

S. RES. 450

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 450, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions.

S. RES. 559

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 559, a resolution recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militia in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4095. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide in-

junctive relief, to modify venue requirements relating to bankruptcy proceedings, and to ensure that venue in patents cases is fair and proper, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4095

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Helping Outcome Preferences Act" or the "SHOP Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONWIDE INJUNCTION ABUSE PREVENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 85 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1370. Limitation on authority to provide injunctive relief

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a district court may not issue any order providing injunctive relief unless such order is applicable only to—

"(1) the parties to the case before the court; or

"(2) similarly situated individuals in the judicial district in which the district court has jurisdiction."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 84 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1370. Limitation on authority to provide injunctive relief."

SEC. 3. PREVENTING JUDGE SHOPPING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2075 the following:

"§ 2076. Preventing judge shopping

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Rules promulgated under this chapter may not permit an attorney to be admitted to practice in any Federal court if a disciplinary body of judges properly constituted under the rules and procedures of a Federal court determines that such attorney has engaged in judge shopping.

"(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term 'judge shopping' means attempting to interfere with a court's case assignment process for the purpose of influencing the assignment of a particular judge to preside over a particular case by—

"(1) engaging in ex parte communications with a judge or a judge's chambers;

"(2) successive filing of materially identical suits within a State, district, or circuit without good cause;

"(3) successive filing of materially identical suits with different plaintiffs;

"(4) improperly marking a suit as a related case under existing court docketing practices; or

"(5) otherwise attempting to change the assignment of a case after its filing, excepting a motion to recuse."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2075 the following:

"2076. Preventing judge shopping."

SEC. 4. BANKRUPTCY VENUE REFORM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act of 2024".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Bankruptcy laws provide a number of venue options for filing bankruptcy under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, including, with respect to the entity filing bankruptcy—

(A) any district in which the place of incorporation of the entity is located;

(B) any district in which the principal place of business or principal assets of the entity are located; and

(C) any district in which an affiliate of the entity has filed a pending case under title 11, United States Code.

(2) The wide range of permissible bankruptcy venue options has led to an increase in companies filing for bankruptcy outside of the district in which the principal place of business or principal assets of the company is located, a practice that is commonly known as “forum shopping”.

(3) Forum shopping—

(A) has resulted in a concentration of bankruptcy cases in a limited number of judicial districts;

(B) prevents small businesses, employees, retirees, creditors, and other important stakeholders from fully participating in bankruptcy cases that have tremendous impacts on their lives, communities, and local economies; and

(C) deprives district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States of the opportunity to contribute to the development of bankruptcy law in the jurisdictions of those district courts.

(4) Reducing the incidence of forum shopping in the bankruptcy system will strengthen the integrity of, and build public confidence and ensure fairness in, the bankruptcy system.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to prevent the practice of forum shopping in bankruptcy cases filed under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code.

(d) VENUE OF CASES UNDER TITLE 11.—Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending 1408 to read as follows:

“§ 1408. Venue of cases under title 11

“(a) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), for the purposes of this section, if any entity is subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m and 78o(d)), the term ‘principal place of business’, with respect to such entity, means the address of the principal executive office of the entity, as stated in the last annual report filed under such Act before the commencement of a case under title 11 of which the entity is the subject.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—With respect to an entity described in paragraph (1), the definition of ‘principal place of business’ shall apply, for purposes of this section, unless another address is shown, by clear and convincing evidence, to be the principal place of business of such entity.

“(b) VENUE.—Except as provided in section 1410, a case under title 11 may be commenced only in the district court for the district—

“(1) in which the domicile, residence, or principal assets in the United States of an individual who is the subject of the case have been located—

“(A) during the 180-day period immediately preceding such commencement; or

“(B) for a longer portion of such 180-day period than the domicile, residence, or principal assets in the United States of the individual were located in any other district;

“(2) in which the principal place of business or principal assets in the United States of an entity, other than an individual, that is the subject of the case have been located—

“(A) during the 180-day period immediately preceding such commencement; or

“(B) for a longer portion of such 180-day period than the principal place of business or principal assets in the United States of the entity were located in any other district; or

“(3) in which there is pending a case under title 11 concerning an affiliate that directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds 50 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of, or is the general partner of, the entity that is the subject of the later filed case, but only if the pending case was properly filed in such district in accordance with this section.

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), no effect shall be given to a change in the ownership or control of an entity that is the subject of the case, or of an affiliate of such entity, or to a transfer of the principal place of business or principal assets in the United States, or to the merger, dissolution, spinoff, or divisive merger of an entity that is the subject of the case, or of an affiliate of such entity, to another district, if such event takes place—

“(A) during the 1-year period immediately preceding the date on which the case is commenced; or

“(B) for the purpose, in whole or in part, of establishing venue.

“(2) PRINCIPAL ASSETS.—

“(A) PRINCIPAL ASSETS OF AN ENTITY OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of subsection (b)(2) and paragraph (1) of this subsection—

“(i) the term ‘principal assets’ does not include cash or cash equivalents; and

“(ii) any equity interest in an affiliate is located in the district in which the holder of the equity interest has its principal place of business in the United States, as determined in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

“(B) EQUITY INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(1), if the holder of any equity interest in an affiliate is an individual, the equity interest is located in the district in which the domicile or residence in the United States of the holder of the equity interest is located, as determined in accordance with subsection (b)(1).

“(d) BURDEN OF PROOF.—On any objection to, or request to change, venue under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of a case under title 11, the entity that commences the case shall bear the burden of establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that venue is proper under this section.

“(e) OUT-OF-STATE ADMISSION FOR GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS.—The Supreme Court shall prescribe rules, in accordance with section 2075, for cases or proceedings arising under title 11, or arising in or related to cases under title 11, to allow any attorney representing a governmental unit to be permitted to appear on behalf of the governmental unit and intervene without charge, and without meeting any requirement under any local court rule relating to attorney appearances or the use of local counsel, before any bankruptcy court, district court, or bankruptcy appellate panel.”; and

(2) to amend section 1412 to read as follows:

“§ 1412. Change of venue

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding that a case or proceeding under title 11, or arising in or related to a case under title 11, is filed in the correct division or district, a district court may transfer the case or proceeding to a district court in another district or division—

“(1) in the interest of justice; or

“(2) for the convenience of the parties.

“(b) INCORRECTLY FILED CASES OR PROCEEDINGS.—If a case or proceeding under title

11, or arising in or related to a case under title 11, is filed in a division or district that is improper under section 1408(b), the district court shall—

“(1) immediately dismiss the case or proceeding; or

“(2) if it is in the interest of justice, immediately transfer the case or proceeding to any district court for any district or division in which the case or proceeding could have been brought under such section.

“(c) OBJECTIONS AND REQUESTS RELATING TO CHANGES IN VENUE.—Not later than 14 days after the filing of an objection to, or a request to change, venue of a case or proceeding under title 11, or arising in or related to a case under title 11, the court shall enter an order granting or denying such objection or request.”.

SEC. 5. VENUE EQUITY IN PATENT CASES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Venue Equity and Non-Uniformity Elimination Act of 2024”.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 1400(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of section 1391, any civil action for patent infringement or any action for a declaratory judgment that a patent is invalid or not infringed may be brought only in a judicial district—

“(1) in which the defendant has its principal place of business or is incorporated;

“(2) in which the defendant has committed an act of infringement of a patent in suit and has a regular and established physical facility that gives rise to such act of infringement;

“(3) in which the defendant has agreed or consented to be sued in such action;

“(4) in which an inventor named on the patent in suit conducted research or development that led to the application for the patent in suit;

“(5) in which a party has a regular and established physical facility that such party controls and operates, not primarily for the purpose of creating venue, and has—

“(A) engaged in management of significant research and development of an invention claimed in a patent in suit before the effective filing date of the patent;

“(B) manufactured a tangible product that is alleged to embody an invention claimed in a patent in suit; or

“(C) implemented a manufacturing process for a tangible good in which the process is alleged to embody an invention claimed in a patent in suit; or

“(6) in the case of a foreign defendant that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1) or (2), in accordance with section 1391(c)(3).”.

(c) MANDAMUS RELIEF.—For the purpose of determining whether relief may issue under section 1651 of title 28, United States Code, a clearly and indisputably erroneous denial of a motion under section 1406(a) of such title to dismiss or transfer a case on the basis of section 1400(b) of such title shall be deemed to cause irreparable interim harm.

(d) TELEWORKERS.—The dwelling or residence of an employee or contractor of a defendant who works at such dwelling or residence shall not constitute a regular and established physical facility of the defendant for purposes of section 1400(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself,
Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO,
Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms.
CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.
HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL,
Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr.

FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 4096. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the random assignment of certain cases in the district courts of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4096

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “End Judge Shopping Act”.

SEC. 2. DIVISION OF BUSINESS AMONG DISTRICT JUDGES.

Section 137 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT OF OTHER CASES.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘law’ includes, with respect to an executive branch or a State or Federal agency, a rule, a regulation, a policy, and an order.

“(2) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT.—Any civil action brought for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief seeking (whether facially or as-applied) to challenge the constitutionality or lawfulness of, or to bar, restrain, vacate, set aside, or mandate the enforcement of, any provision of a Federal law on a nationwide basis, or any provision of a State law on a statewide basis in that State, shall be randomly assigned to a judge of the district court in which the civil action is filed.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2024 AS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 631

Whereas millions of brave United States servicemembers and veterans have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America in active-duty posts around the world;

Whereas there are more than 1,560,000 children connected to the military across the United States;

Whereas it is only fitting that the people of the United States take time to recognize

the contributions of servicemembers and veterans, celebrate their spirit, and let the men and women of the United States in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, the people of the United States are taking care of their children;

Whereas the recognition of a “Month of the Military Child” will allow the people of the United States to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, struggles, and unconditional support of United States troops;

Whereas, when a servicemember joins the military, it is a family commitment to the United States, and military children are heroes in their own way; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage the United States to provide direct support to military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 2024 as the “Month of the Military Child”; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe the Month of the Military Child with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and show appreciation for military children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUJÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 632

Whereas the week of April 1, 2024, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2024 is “Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health”;

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2024 is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the United States and the global community are continuing to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires support for—

(1) a robust public health infrastructure and workforce;

(2) State, territorial, local, and Tribal health departments, health care workers, public health laboratories, and first responders;

(3) activities related to epidemiology and public health data;

(4) relieving financial burdens for individuals in the United States hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through public health emergency leave;

(5) State Medicaid programs and community health centers to ensure care for vulnerable populations;

(6) collaboration among the Federal Government, State and local governments, Tribal health organizations, schools, businesses, and employers to support public health measures;

(7) investments in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which support infectious disease outbreak preparedness and critical public health infrastructure for State and local health departments and public health laboratories;

(8) a comprehensive effort to ensure successful vaccination campaigns that boost access to vaccines for vulnerable populations and trust in vaccine safety and effectiveness; and

(9) efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 deaths, vaccine access and testing, and important health outcomes outside of the pandemic such as maternal mortality;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the healthiest States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic diseases, and the prevalence of infectious diseases;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burdens of illness and death, as compared to the entire population of the United States;

Whereas violence is a leading cause of premature death, and it is estimated that more than 7 individuals per hour die a violent death in the United States;

Whereas deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United States billions of dollars, and the violence of homicides can cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas 49,449 people died by suicide in 2022, with firearms being used in over 50 percent of suicides;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse and neglect in the past year, with 1,750 children dying of abuse and neglect in 2020;

Whereas significant progress has been made in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022;

Whereas there are still stark disparities in infant mortality by race, ethnicity, geography, and income, as evidenced by the fact that Black infants experience infant mortality at a rate twice that of White infants;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, with the rate of maternal mortality being 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021;

Whereas an estimated 84 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas, from 2017 to 2019, American Indian or Alaskan Native mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate twice that of White mothers, and Black mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate almost 3 times that of White mothers;

Whereas there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from 2020;

Whereas cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005, to 11.5 percent of the population in 2021;

Whereas e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among youth since 2014, with 10.0 percent of high school students reporting e-cigarette use in 2023;

Whereas, in 2020, there were approximately 32,000 deaths in the United States due to exposure to particulate matter, 37 percent of which were directly related to fossil fuel burning;

Whereas heat-related mortality for people over 65 is estimated to have increased by approximately 74 percent from 2000 through 2004 compared to 2017 through 2021;

Whereas voting helps shape the conditions in which people can be healthy, and good health is consistently associated positively with higher likelihood of voter participation, but only 52.2 percent of eligible adults reported voting in the November 2022 elections;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas the vaccination of the public is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas each 10-percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a—

(1) 6.9-percent decrease in infant deaths;

(2) 3.2-percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;

(3) 1.4-percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and

(4) 1.1-percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms; and

(3) other disasters, including disasters caused by human activity and public health emergencies;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes;

Whereas, in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in—
(A) preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(B) mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in the United States;

(C) addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(D) improving the overall health of individuals and communities in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to—

(A) improve the health of individuals in the United States; and

(B) make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest Nation in the world by—

(i) providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(ii) strengthening the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 633

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. 3301 et. seq.; referred to in this preamble as the “TRA”), which was enacted on April 10, 1979, has been a cornerstone in upholding peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait for 45 years, reflecting the enduring political, international, and economic interests of the United States;

Whereas United States relations with Taiwan are carried out through the American Institute in Taiwan pursuant to the TRA;

Whereas in 1982, President Ronald Reagan further clarified the importance and resilience of the United States-Taiwan relationship with the issuance of the Six Assurances to Taiwan;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances are cornerstones of United States policy with respect to Taiwan;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances have been essential components in helping to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific, thereby furthering the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan is a key United States partner in the Indo-Pacific that shares similar values, deep commercial and economic links, and strong ties;

Whereas the TRA enshrines in law the United States' commitment to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas the TRA states it is United States policy to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have forged ever closer economic and security relations over the last 45 years based on—

(1) their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and free market principles; and

(2) their willingness to partner in efforts to promote democratic resilience, counter disinformation, and to address other global challenges, such as those related to the environment, public health, energy security, education, women's empowerment, digital economy, poverty, and natural disasters;

Whereas in 1971, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 2758 (XXVI), which does not address—

(1) Taiwan's political status; or

(2) the issue of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to falsely assert that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) “resolved, politically, legally and procedurally, the issue of the representation of the whole of China, including Taiwan, in the United Nations and international institutions”;

Whereas Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest trading partner and, in 2023, the United States and Taiwan signed the first agreement under a United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade;

Whereas the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (Public Law 117-263), which was enacted in 2022, included important provisions—

(1) to expand United States-Taiwan security cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship through the Taiwan Fellowship Program; and

(2) to develop a strategy for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations;

Whereas the Global Cooperation and Training Framework exemplifies the commitment of the United States and Taiwan to collaborate on global challenges, enhancing global capacity through cooperation and the sharing of best practices in areas such as public health, environmental protection, and cybersecurity;

Whereas the programs under the United States-Taiwan Education Initiative significantly contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations through educational exchanges, language learning, and professional development, facilitating mutual understanding and collaboration between the peoples of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the United States-Taiwan Science and Technology Agreement and the inaugural Science and Technology Cooperation Dialogue highlight the dedication of the United States and Taiwan—

(1) to advancing collaboration and understanding between their respective science and technology communities; and

(2) to fostering innovation and addressing shared challenges through joint research and development efforts; and

Whereas Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the 3 peaceful transfers of power from 1 political party to another over 3 direct Presidential and 10 direct legislative elections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which, together with the Six Assurances, are cornerstones of the United States' unofficial relationship with Taiwan;

(2) reiterates that the President should continue regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan consistent with Taiwan's self-defense requirements;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State to actively engage internationally in support of Taiwan's membership or meaningful participation in international organizations;

(4) reaffirms the importance of cultivating close ties through initiatives such as the Fulbright Program and the Taiwan Fellowship Program; and

(5) acknowledges the important work done by the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in support of joint United States-Taiwan interests.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX THROUGHOUT ITS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS THE NATIONAL YOUTH DANCE COMPETITION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 634

Whereas the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is recognized as the largest in the world and the first in the United States student ballet scholarship competition;

Whereas YAGP is dedicated to bringing dance to the United States and dance of the United States to the world;

Whereas, over its 25-year history, YAGP has provided scholarship opportunities to ballet students in all 50 States and in more than 40 countries across 5 continents;

Whereas YAGP has provided young dancers from all 50 States the chance to perform professionally in the United States and abroad;

Whereas YAGP regularly conducts competitions, master classes, education events, and performances in over 15 countries;

Whereas YAGP has provided more than 250,000 dance students of all backgrounds with the life-changing opportunity of receiving top-quality dance education, allowing them to pursue a career in dance;

Whereas YAGP has awarded over \$5,000,000 in scholarships to world-renowned dance schools;

Whereas, as a result of YAGP's work to provide a pathway into ballet for individuals from all communities, the representation of dancers of diverse backgrounds in the United States and in international dance schools and companies has increased by 30 percent;

Whereas over 450 YAGP alumni are dancing professionally in 80 companies worldwide, including 60 YAGP alumni currently dancing in American Ballet Theatre, recognized by the Congress as America's National Ballet Company; and

Whereas YAGP has been recognized for its contribution to international dance by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Youth America Grand Prix for over 25 years of service as the national youth dance competition of the United States, during which it has provided world class instruction and performances in all 50 States;

(2) acknowledges that the Youth America Grand Prix also serves as a platform for cross cultural exchanges for ballet students from all 50 States of the United States and students from around the globe;

(3) recognizes that the Youth America Grand Prix's groundbreaking and innovative education, outreach, scholarship, and performance opportunities for talented young dancers help support and develop dance artists in the United States and abroad; and

(4) celebrates Youth America Grand Prix's critical role in ensuring the future of dance in the United States and worldwide by supporting the next generation of talented young dance artists and dance audiences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2024 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 635

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" for the 19th year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2024 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 636—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 636

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is a disease or disorder that affects a small number of patients;

Whereas, in the United States, a rare disease or disorder affects fewer than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 30,000,000 individuals in the United States are living with at least 1 of the more than 7,000 known rare diseases or disorders;

Whereas children with rare diseases or disorders account for a significant portion of the population affected by rare diseases or disorders in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases and disorders are serious and life-threatening;

Whereas 2024 marks the 41st anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), a landmark law enabling tremendous advances in the research and treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas programs such as the Accelerating Rare Disease Cures Program of the Food and Drug Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "FDA") aim to drive scientific and regulatory innovation and engagement to accelerate the availability of treatments for patients with rare diseases;

Whereas 28 of the 55 novel drugs approved by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the FDA in 2023—

(1) were approved to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition; and

(2) received an orphan-drug designation;

Whereas, although the FDA has approved more than 1,100 drugs and biological products for an orphan indication for the treatment of a rare disease or disorder, approximately 90 percent of rare diseases do not have a treatment approved by the FDA for their condition;

Whereas financing life-altering and life-saving treatments can be challenging for individuals with a rare disease or disorder and their families;

Whereas individuals with rare diseases or disorders can experience difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses and finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their rare disease or disorder;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health support innovative research on the treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and was observed in more than 106 countries in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 29, 2024, as "Rare Disease Day"; and

(2) recognizes the importance of, with respect to rare diseases and disorders—

(A) improving awareness;

(B) encouraging accurate and early diagnosis; and

(C) supporting national and global research efforts to develop effective treatments, diagnostics, and cures.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend the following portion of paragraph 1 of Rule XXII: "the motions relating to adjournment, to

take a recess, to proceed to the consideration of executive business, to lay on the table, shall be decided without debate" for the purposes of allowing debate on any motion to table made in relation to the Articles of Impeachment against Alejandro Mayorkas whether or not a full trial takes place.

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend the following portion of paragraph 1 of Rule XXII: "to lay on the table" for the purposes of preventing the disposition of the Articles of Impeachment against Alejandro Mayorkas without a complete and full trial.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

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, April 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 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, April 10, 2024, at 10 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, April 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following legislative fellows in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress: Nancy Connolly, Nico Fairbairn, Will Poff-Webster, and Ashley Nagel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns from my office be granted floor privileges until April 11, 2024: Reese Clarke, Nathan Muilenburg, and Jack Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, as a reminder, Senators will gather tomorrow at 10:20 a.m. to proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for an address by His Excellency Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan.

RECESS UNTIL 12:30 P.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I move to recess until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., recessed until Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 10, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

ANN MARIE MCIFF ALLEN, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MAYER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Anne Mayer, who is retiring after serving the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) for the past 18 years. Anne has been a true leader in Riverside County for decades and served as an effective advocate over the years to improve our region. She will be sorely missed.

After earning a civil engineering degree from Michigan State University, Anne began her career as a Professional Engineer. After nearly 15 years working at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) implementing transportation projects across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Anne joined RCTC as Deputy Executive Director in May 2005. Just two years later, Anne was appointed Executive Director. In a region where transportation infrastructure provides vital connectivity for residents and our economy, Anne's leadership and vision enabled the Commission to get some of the biggest and most transformative projects ever constructed in the Inland Empire region across the finish line.

Anne oversaw the construction of the 91 Freeway expansion project that provides the western gateway into Riverside County. I was proud to work alongside her and RCTC to combine federal financing with local investments to provide Corona and surrounding residents with desperately needed upgrades to one of the most congested corridors in the nation. Anne also oversaw the successful completion of numerous interchange improvements along the I-10 and I-15 corridors and an expansion of the region's Metrolink system. With such an accomplished record of achievement, it is no surprise that Anne has been recognized on many occasions, including being presented with the California Transportation Foundation's Person of the Year award; the Inland Empire WTS Woman of the Year award; and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Athena Award given to individuals that demonstrate professional achievement, community service, and mentorship.

Anne clearly possesses a passionate belief in public service and a dedication to the community she has served so faithfully. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Anne's significant contributions to Riverside County. Personally, I will always value her friendship and collaboration on so many important infrastructure projects that will benefit our region long into the future. I wish Anne the very best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional App Challenge, Congressman TED LIEU and I would like to include in the RECORD the winning students and their apps from the 2023 Congressional App Challenge.

The 2023 Congressional App Challenge saw 11,334 students from all 50 states and territories submit applications this year. Collectively, these students created 3,645 fully functioning apps. The Congressional App Challenge in its nine years has seen over 58,262 students create 16,589 applications. With 374 Members of Congress, nearly 84 percent of the House of Representatives hosting an App Challenge in their district, this year marks tremendous success and growth of the program. We look forward to continue to celebrate the success of these students here in Washington, D.C. at #HouseOfCode on April 10th and 11th.

The 2024 Congressional App Challenge launches on May 1, 2024, and concludes on October 24, 2024. The 2024 Congressional App Challenge marks the 10th consecutive App Challenge since its start in 2015. As Co-Chair of the Congressional App Challenge, I am excited to continue to support the program and its students at this milestone moment. Please join us in celebrating the program, and all our student alumni on September 17th for National App Challenge Day.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND EMMETT SCOTT ANITON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer my heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to an exceptional mentor, devoted leader, Vietnam War veteran, faithful servant of God, and cherished longtime friend, Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr., as he concludes his 45 years of service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A special celebration marking his 45th Anniversary and retirement from preaching the Gospel took place on April 7, 2024 at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Born on March 8, 1940, in Oneonta, Alabama to Mr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Sr. and Mrs. Estella Aniton Woods, Rev. Aniton graduated from Southside High School in Etowah County, Alabama before earning his Bachelor of Theology from Selma University in 1964. Following his service in Vietnam, he furthered his education at Alabama A&M University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

Having answered the call to preach, Rev. Aniton began his ministry at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Alabama, where he served his congregation faithfully. In November 1978, he accepted the call to pastor at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he has led with passion and dedication since April 1979. Under his guidance, the church has flourished spiritually, numerically, and in its physical facilities.

Rev. Aniton's impact extends beyond the church walls, with his involvement in various community organizations and leadership roles. He has been recognized with awards such as the NAACP Religious Affairs Award and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. His commitment to service and leadership exemplifies the quote by George Washington Carver when he said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Rev. Aniton has used his ministry to reach people from all walks of life. Spurred by the example of Jesus, he has used his life's work to help the "Least of These."

In reflecting on his achievements, Rev. Aniton acknowledges the unwavering support of his late wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rigby Aniton, his children, grandchildren, and extended family. Personally, I have been blessed to benefit from Rev. Aniton's wisdom and friendship for over four decades. He never told me what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. Rev. Aniton has inspired and mentored many with his sterling example of what a man of God should look like. He is truly a man after God's own heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me, my wife Vivian, and the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in expressing our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement after 45 years of devoted service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. May God continue to bless him and his loved ones as he enters this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING DUMACK ENGINEERING'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dumack Engineering, an exceptional and longstanding member of Bucks County's business community. Dumack Engineering was founded in 1964 by Mr. Ralph Dumack, emerging from Ralph's vision to provide superior structural design services

• 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.

throughout Bucks County. Dumack Engineering has since served as a pillar of innovation in our community, and is now in its 60th year of operation. Currently in its second generation of family ownership, Ralph's son Heath Dumack has expanded the company's services into fields including architectural planning, structural engineering, site planning, code compliance reviews, and inspection services.

In addition to providing excellent civil engineering and land surveying services, Dumack Engineering is committed to community engagement and public assistance. The company's involvement in various local nonprofit boards and committees, including Habitat for Humanity, St. Mary's Hospital & Foundation, and the Washington Crossing Council BSA, underscores its unwavering dedication to improving the lives of Bucks County residents. Their contributions to local nonprofits have been invaluable to our community.

I am confident that Dumack Engineering's legacy of professional excellence and community service will forever serve as a shining example for businesses within our community and beyond. As we recognize their 60 years of outstanding contributions to Bucks County, let us celebrate Dumack Engineering's unwavering commitment to innovation, integrity, and service. May their continued success serve as an inspiration to other businesses to strive for professional excellence and civic responsibility.

ACKNOWLEDGING APRIL 17, 2024,
AS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DISCOVERY OF NEW YORK
BAY BY GIOVANNI DA
VERRAZZANO

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation acknowledging April 17, 2024, as the 500th anniversary of the discovery of New York Bay by Giovanni da Verrazzano:

Whereas Giovanni da Verrazzano was born in 1485 in Val di Greve, Republic of Florence, which is now a part of the Italian Republic;

Whereas King Francis I of France commissioned Verrazzano to lead an expedition aimed at finding a western passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean;

Whereas Verrazzano's discovery of New York Bay expanded maritime knowledge of what became the East Coast of the United States and laid the foundation for future commerce and settlements in North America;

Whereas Verrazzano's voyage sparked future explorations of the New World, including, 85 years later, Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage to New York Bay to establish New Amsterdam;

Whereas New Amsterdam became New York on September 8, 1664;

Whereas New York City has the highest economic impact of any city in the United States and continues to serve as a major global economic hub, and New York Bay continues to be a major hub for trade and commerce;

Whereas New York Bay, home to the Statue of Liberty, is where 12 million immigrants le-

gally passed through Ellis Island at a rate of 5,000 people per day from 1892 to 1954;

Whereas the New York City metropolitan area is home to over 2.5 million Italian Americans;

Whereas to commemorate and underscore the significant impact of Giovanni da Verrazzano's discovery of New York Bay, on March 9, 1960, Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed legislation that named the bridge connecting the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn as the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge;

Whereas the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge was inaugurated on November 21, 1964, was the world's longest suspension bridge until 1981, and spans the Narrows; and

Whereas the legacy of Giovanni da Verrazzano is further honored at Battery Park, New York City, and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, recognizing Verrazzano's impact as the first European explorer to chart what became the East Coast of the United States.

COMMENDING PRINCIPAL PERRY
UPDIKE FOR HER SERVICE TO
ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor W.S. Neal Middle School principal, Mrs. Perry Updike for her contributions to East Brewton and Alabama's First Congressional District.

Mrs. Updike has been instrumental in the success of the school by providing that teachers at W.S. Neal Middle School have the tools that they need, not only for student success, but for their own as well. Her leadership has been invaluable to the community, and her dedication to the school has created an environment for all to thrive. Children are able to get a quality education under the tireless leadership of Mrs. Updike.

As a school principal, Mrs. Updike goes above and beyond in ensuring that students' futures are brighter. I commend her for her continued dedication to the First District of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM DWYER

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and say thank you to Warren Police Commissioner William Dwyer for serving Southeast Michigan for over 60 years throughout his career in law enforcement.

His career spans the Detroit Police Department, the Farmington Hills Police Department, and the Warren Police Department.

Day after day and year after year, Commissioner Dwyer consistently went above and beyond the call of duty. He received the Presidential Medal from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Collegian Award from Wayne State University, and the Crime Stoppers of Michigan Police Executive of the Year award in 2010.

He served on the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Oakland County Chief's Association, Southeastern Michigan Chiefs of Police Association, High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Federal Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and the Michigan Homeland Security Council, just to name a few.

Even while receiving all these awards, he still found time to turn Warren, Michigan into one of the safest cities in the entire state.

Commissioner Dwyer is the exact, literal definition of what it means to be a public servant. On behalf of all of Michigan's 10th Congressional District, I thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE BUSLER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the career of Mr. Bruce Busler who is retiring after 14 years of civil service as the director of the Joint Deployment Process and Analysis Center at United States Transportation Command.

Bruce is a once-in-a-generation leader who has made a transformational impact on the Defense Transportation System and the Department of Defense at large. He shaped programs necessary for mobility capabilities such as airlift, sealift and surface transport to support the national defense strategy.

In his efforts to support the Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise, Mr. Busler spearheaded operational analysis and decision-making initiatives through harnessing the power of data for the Joint Force. These efforts through the Enterprise Data Science initiative enhanced modeling and simulation capabilities to garner effectiveness, efficiency, and synchronization globally.

Bruce is a strategic thinker who can convey complex concepts into readily understood terms for senior leaders to forge consensus for action while also leading a diverse organization across multiple commands. His executive leadership can be distilled down as a visionary data architect leveraging "big data" analysis to persuasively advance mobility capability needs in a collaborative manner to meet national requirements for global transportation with high-impact results.

Bruce's accomplishments are countless, but for the Congress, he led both the 2018 and 2020 NDAA directed mobility studies evaluating the capabilities critical to deploying and sustaining U.S. military forces at optimal levels. Throughout these efforts, he meticulously mapped out the requirements needed to deploy, and redeploy our military and requirements for a prolonged recapitalization effort to revitalize an aging sealift fleet in support of our National Defense. Additionally, he linked critical wartime patient movement operations into an end-to-end airlift cycle ensuring Critical Care Air Transport Teams were available when needed to treat our most precious assets, our military personnel and their families. Bruce also delivered a first-of-its-kind fuel assessment study focusing on the fuel distribution challenges within the Indo-Pacific region. Finally, for only the third time in its history, based on Bruce's predictive analytics and

modeling, in 2021 U.S. Transportation Command activated the Civil Reserve Air Fleet to augment the Afghan refugee evacuation, the largest non-combatant evacuation operation in U.S. history rescuing 124,000 refugees in just 14 days.

In addition to his 27 honorable years served in the Air Force as a colonel and command pilot with over 3,800 flight hours, Bruce set the standard for mastery of the Defense Transportation System. His ability to deploy data to anticipate the changing strategic environment while grappling with resource priorities has been key to identifying and resolving mobility enterprise challenges. Bruce is a true leader in transportation. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Mr. Bruce Busler for over 41 years of dedicated and faithful service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 116TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 116th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Reserve.

For over a century, generations of Americans have served their country in the reserve, leveraging a wide array of skills, educational backgrounds, and expertise to respond to crises across the country, and the globe. In cities and towns across the country, the Army Reserve has always been composed of brave, strong, purposeful men and women with great passions, talents, and abilities.

Since the creation of the Federal Reserve Force in 1908, the Reserve Corps has been ready to serve at a moment's notice, mobilizing more than one million Army Reserve servicemembers in defense of our country. Through two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror, our brave reserve soldiers have served through crises, emergencies, and natural disasters, making positive impacts on people's lives around the globe.

Year after year, the Army Reserve continues to prove critical to our nation's national security apparatus by harnessing civilian expertise across professions like artificial intelligence, medicine, and engineering, among so many others. There are more than 190,000 Army Reserve Soldiers and 11,000 civilians are currently stationed across all 50 States and 23 countries across the globe. Right here in New Jersey we are proud to have 4,000 soldiers and 68 units contributing to their forward-positioned force. Their service to our country and our great state is invaluable to the readiness and capability of our Joint Forces, and the safety of our communities.

This force begins their next 116 years of service as one of the most experienced outfits in American history, and I am grateful for the service of each and every one of them. I look forward to continuing to support Army Reserve servicemembers in achieving their mission of—ready now, shaping tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET SPALLUZZI

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Margaret Spalluzzi and her fellow Rosie the Riveters as they are awarded the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal.

Born on November 2, 1921, Margaret was raised in Plymouth, Massachusetts. After reading an ad in the newspaper calling for women to fill jobs that men left behind while fighting in World War II, Margaret dared 10 of her friends to come with her to sign up to be welders. After completing their training in Quincy, six of the women stayed on as welders at the Hingham Shipyard. One of the original Rosie the Riveters, Margaret, joined the war effort welding warships from 1942 until the war ended in 1945.

During the war, around 2,500 women worked at the Hingham Shipyard where they built hundreds of ships. Security at the shipyard was tight, and workers were told not to share any information about what they were doing. The working conditions could also be very tough. Working in a room with no heat. Margaret had to wear steel toe boots and flannel pajamas under her heavy work clothes just to stay warm during the cold New England winters. However, Margaret was proud to go into work and help her country while her brothers were serving in the military and her husband, Antone "Tony," was serving in the Navy as an electrician. Her shift at the shipyard was from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, but Margaret often worked overtime and seven days a week. With her first paycheck from welding, Margaret bought her mother a radio.

After the war, when her husband came back to Massachusetts, Margaret and Tony raised their daughter, Annette, together in the home that Tony built in Kingston. Margaret later went on to work at Plimoth Patuxet for 32 years as a costumed interpreter and then a greeter, until she retired at 80. In retirement, Margaret enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and visiting the Kingston Senior Center to take classes and meet up with friends.

On April 10, 2024, Congress will award the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal, which will then be displayed at the National Museum of American History. This medal is to recognize the contributions of all the women who served our country during World War II as Rosie the Riveters and the inspiration that they provided for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Spalluzzi, and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Margaret and her fellow Rosie the Riveters for all the critical work they did to support our country during the war.

COMMENDING JOHN KONIAR FOR HIS SERVICE TO ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Foley Mayor John Koniar and his service to Alabama's First Congressional District.

John entered active duty in the United States Air Force as 2nd lieutenant in 1965 and was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1969. He joined Vulcan, Inc. in 1971, and he retired as a vice president of sales after working there for 37 years. John Koniar served on the Foley City Council from 1980 until 2006. He was then elected mayor in 2006 and served three terms until 2020. John was incredibly influential to the City of Foley due to his strong leadership. His dedication to the city was vital for the growth of Foley. He took pride in his dedicated employees and how well they represented their community.

His presence and leadership promoted a healthy work environment in which people could succeed. We are so grateful for all he has done for Alabama's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING DR. TIMOTHY C. TENNENT

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, as the former Co-Chair of the National Prayer Breakfast, I rise to give thanks and a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Timothy C. Tennent for fifteen years of faithful and outstanding leadership as the President of Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. A true man of God with a brilliant mind for ministry and a warm heart for missions, Dr. Tennent will conclude his remarkable presidency this June, as he and his wife, Julie, follow God's next calling into global ministry and scholarship.

Under President Tennent's Spirit-inspired leadership, Asbury Theological Seminary has grown tremendously in size, spiritual stature, and scholarship, dramatically expanding its programs and impacts around the nation and world for the sake of the Gospel. Today it is generally recognized as the largest and leading Seminary in the evangelical Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition. President Tennent's vision has led to many innovative new programs focused on global ministry and church planting and to impressive growth in financial support from donors. Many pastors and spiritual leaders in my state of Michigan are grateful graduates of Asbury Seminary. In my district, Spring Arbor University has a close association with Asbury Seminary, as sister institutions affiliated with the evangelical holiness wing of Methodism. In my prior work as a minister and Christian college administrator, I came to deeply respect Asbury Seminary.

President Tennent has been a courageous and eloquent advocate for Biblical truth, faithfulness, and theological orthodoxy in his presidential leadership, public speaking and

preaching, and authorship of many books. He is widely recognized as one of the Nation's top evangelical theological leaders. The Apostle John described Christ as the "Word" who came to us "full of grace and truth," a model to which Christians aspire. Dr. Tennent has faithfully proclaimed Biblical truth with grace, warmth, and humility in his leadership and life.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Timothy Tennent as he concludes his outstanding presidency at Asbury Theological Seminary and in expressing blessings as he and his wife, Julie, enter their next phase of service. I believe the Lord's words in the book of Matthew truly apply to them: "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPION USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2024 NCAA Women's National Basketball Champions, the University of South Carolina WBB Gamecocks. In a tremendous demonstration of skill, teamwork, and depth, the Gamecocks clinched their third national title on April 7, 2024, after a perfect season.

The road to the championship was far from easy. The Gamecocks embarked on a season unlike any other, achieving 38 consecutive wins. Pre-NCAA tournament victories included a highly competitive match-up against reigning champions Louisiana State University and a nail-biter against the University of Tennessee. During the NCAA tournament, the Gamecocks beat No. 15 seed in-state neighbor Presbyterian College; No. 8 seed University of North Carolina; No. 4 seed Indiana University; No. 3 seed Oregon State University; No. 3 seed NC State University; and No. 1 seed University of Iowa.

The championship game was the first time the Gamecocks and Hawkeyes met since Iowa, led by their star point guard Caitlin Clark, defeated South Carolina in the 2023 NCAA Final Four. This time, teamwork defeated individual performance. The Gamecocks had four players in double figures, led by Tessa Johnson with 19 points; Kamilla Cardoso with 15 points and 17 rebounds; Te-Hina Paopao with 14 points; and Chloe Kitts with 11 points and 10 rebounds. South Carolina guards Raven Johnson and Bree Hall's defensive contributions slowed down Clark, who was fresh off a 41-point victory, two days earlier.

South Carolina's success can be attributed to the contributions of the Gamecock bench, which outscored Iowa's bench 37–0. Their 37 of South Carolina's 87 points in the championship game gave the sports world an appropriate understanding of our Nation's motto, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one).

This victory is a testament to Coach Dawn Staley's leadership skills. Her dedication to developing young talent and ability to create a culture of excellence were rewarded handsomely. After last year's Final Four defeat, all five South Carolina starters—one of which

was an All-American and another the future No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft—departed the team. All for various and good reasons.

Despite receiving an Associated Press Top 25 preseason ranking of No. 6, the 8-time SEC Champions quickly rose to No. 1. Their unwavering dedication, offensive prowess, and defensive tenacity left opponents at a loss. From each opening tip to the final buzzer, this South Carolina team were models of resilience and determination, with their relentless spirit propelling them to this ultimate triumph.

Coach Staley, who I am proud to call a friend, led a team that lost all five of last year's starters. She recruited and assembled some remarkable and talented young women and built them into an outstanding team. Their starting line-up consisted of No. 10 Kamilla Cardoso, senior and starting center from Montes Claros, Brazil; No. 0 Te-Hina Paopao, senior and starting guard from Oceanside, California; No. 21 Chloe Kitts, sophomore and starting forward from Oviedo, Florida; No. 23 Bree Hall, junior and starting guard from Dayton, Ohio; and No. 25 Raven Johnson, sophomore and starting guard from Atlanta, Georgia.

Their supporting cast consisted of No. 12 MiLaysia Fulwiley, freshman guard and No. 2 Ashlyn Watkins, sophomore forward both from Columbia, South Carolina; No. 5 Tessa Johnson, freshman guard from Albertville, Minnesota; No. 20 Sania Feagin, junior forward from Ellenwood, Georgia; No. 35 Sakima Walker, senior center from Columbus, Ohio; and No. 15 Adhel Tac, freshman center from Grand Prairie, Texas.

This national championship win is a collective achievement, but special mention is appropriate for their only player currently scheduled to depart, Kamilla Cardoso. She was named Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament after averaging a double-double during post-season play. Cardoso also drew All-America honors from the U.S. Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) (First Team), the AP (Second Team), and the Wooden Award. Additionally, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and the Southeastern Conference (SEC) named her Defensive Player of the Year, and she was named to the All-SEC First Team.

Some individual achievements of her teammates should be celebrated as well. Guards Raven Johnson and Te-Hina Paopao, along with forward Ashlyn Watkins, earned spots on the All-SEC Second Team and MiLaysia Fulwiley made the SEC All-Freshman Team. Paopao also picked up All-America recognition from the USBWA (Second Team) and the AP (honorable mention).

Coach Staley, a legend in her own right, has transformed South Carolina WBB into an absolute basketball powerhouse. The Gamecocks have won 8 regular season championships, 8 SEC tournament championships, and 3 national championships. This year, Coach Staley was named the Naismith Women's College Coach of the Year, AP Women's Coach of the Year, WBCA Coach of the Year, and SEC Coach of the Year. She also became the first Black coach, male or female, to win three Division 1 basketball titles and the fifth coach to win at least three titles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating this remarkable University of South Carolina Women's Basketball team. As the confetti settles and the celebrations continue, one thing is certain: the future

of South Carolina women's basketball is bright. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM DELAHUNT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Representative William Delahunt who recently passed peacefully at his home in Quincy, Massachusetts. Representative Delahunt, born in that very same town, spent his life dedicated to its people.

Representative Delahunt was a lifelong public servant. He began his career as a Radioman for the Coast Guard, an honor he brought all the way to the House as co-chair of the Coast Guard Caucus. Representative Delahunt progressed through a life of Public Service. He served as a Quincy Town Councilor, State Representative, District Attorney, and finally House Representative, before his retirement in 2011.

Representative Delahunt always put the needs of his constituents first. When low-income residents in his home state struggled to pay their heating bills during the winter of 2006, he got little assistance from the Bush administration. Instead of doing nothing, he famously brokered an international fuel sale for approximately 50,000 Massachusetts residents in dire need. His direct negotiation of this sale ensured even his most vulnerable constituents could keep the heat on that winter.

Well-respected for his lasting commitment to human rights, Representative Delahunt served as the chair of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight in the 110th Congress. I had the distinct pleasure of serving with Representative Delahunt, and I still carry a deep respect for Representative Delahunt's strong principles and consistent defense of human rights.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his fiancé, Julia Pagana, daughters Kirsten and Kara, and two grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of a great man of this chamber.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT WILLIAM DOUGLASS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Douglass of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Bill is a distinguished American who has faithfully served our community and country.

A native of Pennsylvania, Bill graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1958 as a Dean's List Scholar. He later joined the United States Marine Corps and Army, serving as a First Lieutenant specializing in Combat Intelligence. Afterwards, Bill began his career in the oil industry as part of ExxonMobil's Sales team and

quickly worked his way up to become one of their Senior Advisors. It was during this time that his entrepreneurial spirit pushed him to pursue his very own path in the oil distribution business. In the early 1980s, Bill left Exxon and purchased a petroleum distribution company in Sherman, now known as Douglass Distributing. Douglass Distributing employs over 400 individuals across North Texas whose establishments include gas stations, Lone Star convenience stores, and fast-food franchises. If you drive through North Texas, you'll likely stop at one of the many stores owned by Bill.

For his exemplary work, Bill's signature Lone Star brand won Convenience Store of the Year twice. He was also recognized as an Employer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Workforce Commission. In 2008, Bill was inducted into the Convenience Store Hall of Fame. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Texoma Medical Center's Board of Trustees and is a board member at Austin College, where he received an honorary Ph.D. for his contributions to the Sherman community. I am proud of the work Bill has accomplished to innovate the next generation of convenience stores and improve the world around us.

It is an honor to bestow Bill with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 10, 2024, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on April 10 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific-Asian Theater to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude that can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

Robert M. Adame, James W. Andrulewicz, John L. Ashford, James M. Barr, Jr., Mary Ann E. Bell, James E. Blaney, Ralph H. Boase, Robert L. Booker, Thomas P. Cantwell, Edward J. Chuchla, Alan L. Clutter, Robert J. Colbert, John A. Conley, Donna Rae Cooley, Robert J. Crimmins, Thomas F. Dailey, Henry Davis, Jr., Joseph N. Degand, Michael Di Benedetto, Balentin Diaz, Manuel Diesman,

Raymond A. Dubiel, James W. Edmonds, Jr., Raymond P. Eenigenburg, Darrell E. Ellett, Robert J. Feliszak, Ramon J. Flores, David Flowers, Francis A. Gagnon, Ronald F. Galvin, Albert P. Gangolf, Ronald E. Garner, Edward N. Garvey, Harold C. Goebbert, Richard D. Goode, Kenneth R. Goodwin, Craig S. Greenhill, Leland A. Groharing, Robert Gutierrez, Rufus G. Hall, Leon F. Hamm, Lynwood A. Harris, William F. Hayes, Chris L. Holden, Clarence R. Izydorski, William G. Jarchow, Leon Jeffries, Joseph D. Johnston, Michael O. Jones, Maurice E. Kaufman, Sr., Daryl B. Keene, Lawrence J. Killmer, Bruce O. Knudson, Andrew C. Koning, Sr., Andrew R. Koning, Walter L. Kubicki, Jr., Cornelius A. Kuiper, Chester R. Lacey, Robert A. Laude, James T. Laughhead, Thomas A. Legg, Ralph Leyba, Charles H. Lucas, Donald L. Lyon, Charles W. Martin, Reginald C. Mattingly, Craig R. McCloud, Robert T. McDonald, James T. McElroy, Robert J. Mietus, Manuel S. Millman, Miguel R. Mireles, Daniel H. Mitchell, Herbert M. Moll, Kenneth J. Molnaire, William W. Morgan, Charles J. Murach, Wallace A. Nelson, John Tyrone Newman, Lawrence Niemczyk, Jr., Donald D. Niestrom, Timothy S. Olson, Anthony J. Parrino, Lawrence R. Pillsbury, Russell Plugge, Edward J. Pruijm, Ronald Pyter, Dwayne A. Robinson, Donald G. Rollensen, Ronald M. Ruzicki, Michael J. Ryan, Walter V. Sanders, Jr., Samuel J. Scardino, Harold Schmidt, Carole A. Schoeck, Frederick R. Schrum, Brian R. Seehausen, Dean R. Seehausen, Paul L. Simsic, Bernard P. Siwek, Richard C. Skocz, Raymond P. Spencer, Thomas E. Stasiak, Charles A. Stratton, Jr., James D. Sullivan, Richard Sykora, Dennis J. Trina, Edward J. Trznadel, John P. Vath, Andrew J. Vlietstra, Wade W. Walder, Michael F. Warren, Clifford N. Westphal, William F. White, John O. Wilkerson, Richard R. Zaborski, and Leonard J. Zimka.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be present for votes on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 105, and YEA on Roll Call No. 106.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. TOM DAUTERMAN

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and career of Tom Dauterman of Chico, California who passed away peacefully after a three-year battle with cancer on February 26, 2024.

Tom was born on July 19, 1942, in Los Angeles, California. His family moved to Durham, California in 1948, where he attended school, and he graduated as a member of the class of 1960. He worked as a carpenter with his father building houses after high school.

On November 30, 1963, Tom married the love of his life, Sue Mathews, and they began their life together, making their home in Chico.

Tom left his job with PG&E and established Thomas Welding in his garage in Chico in 1972. Thomas Hydraulics followed in 1974 as well as Thomas Manufacturing in 1996. What was once Tom's small business idea now stands as one of the largest machine shops north of Sacramento.

Tom served the Chico community with excellence, teaching and mentoring many and never hesitated to share his time and knowledge with those he encountered. His encouragement and support of welding and agriculture programs in local high schools has impacted countless students in our local community.

He was a true engineer as well as a builder; taking on many projects, which included innovating and developing agricultural equipment.

Throughout the years Tom enjoyed vacations with friends, and attending classic car, boat, and air shows. Most recently he looked forward to his weekly visits to Hotel Diamond for coffee, lunch bunch, and tea at three. Tom also enjoyed spending time at Lake Almanor and hosted an annual 4th of July celebration for 19 years.

His love for the community of Chico drove Tom to be a faithful supporter of the Boys and Girls Club as well as the Salvation Army and additionally many other community organizations. Tom was also a 35-year member of Chico Rotary, as well as a Chico Elks Lodge member for 53 years.

Tom will be missed not only by his family and friends but also by the greater Chico community who benefitted from his benevolence. Many projects and endeavors were accomplished with Tom's silent participation both financially and with hours of hard work. He was a true public servant. We forever will be grateful for the legacy he has left.

RECOGNIZING THE 488TH INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 488th Intelligence Squadron at RAF Mildenhall.

Through 50 years of peace and conflict, the "Bats" of the 488th have delivered time-sensitive intelligence to warfighters and decision-makers through their superb execution of RC-135 intelligence operations, and in recent years have participated in such Operations as Atlantic Resolve, Inherent Resolve, and more. The Bats represent the cutting-edge of U.S. intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance efforts in the EUCOM theater of operations, driving allied interoperability with the United Kingdom's RC-135 program, leading analytic integration efforts with new NATO countries, and ultimately rising to the occasion following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, providing critical intelligence and overwatch for senior United States diplomatic and defense leaders.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the "Bats" for their dedication and selfless service to keep our country safe, and to congratulate them on this monumental anniversary.

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, April 11, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Navy and Marine Corps.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine challenges in preserving the U.S. housing stock.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1651, to encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and the countries in the Western Balkans, S. 138, to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act, S. 1829, to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, S. 3874, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations in Gaza

and the West Bank, S. 2626, to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, S. 2336, to address the threat from the development of Iran's ballistic missile program and the transfer or deployment of Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, S. 3854, to combat transnational repression abroad, to strengthen tools to combat authoritarianism, corruption, and kleptocracy, to invest in democracy research and development, S. 3235, to require a strategy to counter the role of the People's Republic of China in evasion of sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran, S. 618, to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, S. 1881, to reauthorize and amend the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2018 and the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021, S. Res. 505, condemning the use of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war by the terrorist group Hamas against the people of Israel, S. Res. 357, recognizing the formation of the Alliance for Development in Democracy and urging the United States to pursue deeper ties with its member countries, S. Res. 385, calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023, S. Con. Res. 18, calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022, and the nominations of Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Pamela M. Tremont, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, Elizabeth Rood, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Richard H. Riley IV, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Kamala Shirin Lakhdir, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Stephan A. Lang, of Virginia, to be U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, with the rank of Ambassador, Jennifer M. Adams, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the

United Nations, Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Arthur W. Brown, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, Richard Mills, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Mark Toner, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, all of the Department of State, Andrew William Plitt, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Elizabeth Shortino, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business.

S-116

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine eliminating the abuse of solitary confinement, focusing on a legacy of harm.

SD-G50

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the long-term care workforce, focusing on addressing shortages and improving the profession.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Internal Revenue Service and the Internal Revenue Service 2024 filing season.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law

To hold an oversight hearing to examine AI, focusing on election deepfakes.

SD-226

APRIL 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration atomic energy defense activities 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.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2024 trade policy agenda.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine modernizing United States alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

SD-419

<p>Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Colleen Duffy Kiko, of North Dakota, and Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics.</p>	<p>Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security To hold hearings to examine feeding a healthier America, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities for Food is Medicine.</p>	<p>4 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program.</p>
<p>Committee on the Judiciary To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.</p>	<p>Committee on Indian Affairs To hold hearings to examine S. 465, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and S. 2695, to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities.</p>	<p>4:45 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program.</p>
<p>2 p.m. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations To hold hearings to examine Boeing's broken safety culture, focusing on firsthand accounts.</p>	<p>SD-342 SD-226 SD-342 3 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense's efforts to ensure servicemembers' access to safe, high-quality pharmaceuticals.</p>	<p>SR-232A SR-222</p>
<p>2:30 p.m. Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Justice.</p>	<p>SD-342 SD-G50 3:30 p.m. Committee on Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine pending legislation.</p>	<p>APRIL 18 10 a.m. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on resources and authorities requested to protect and secure the homeland.</p>
<p>SD-192</p>	<p>SR-418</p>	<p>SD-342</p>

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2255–S2713

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4093–4106, and S. Res. 631–636. **Pages S2706–07**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany 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. (S. Rept. No. 118–168) **Page S2706**

Measures Passed:

National Performance Management Measures: By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 121), Senate passed S.J. Res. 61, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure”. **Pages S2684–95**

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 85, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other material to win the war and who were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations. **Page S2695**

Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status: By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 122), Senate passed H.J. Res. 98, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”. **Pages S2695–S2703**

Youth America Grand Prix: Senate agreed to S. Res. 634, recognizing the cultural and educational

contributions of the Youth America Grand Prix throughout its 25 years of service as the national youth dance competition of the United States.

Page S2703

National Asbestos Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 635, designating the first week of April 2024 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”.

Page S2703

Rare Disease Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 636, designating February 29, 2024, as “Rare Disease Day”.

Page S2703

Measures Considered:

Certain Rules of the Environmental Protection Agency: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4072, to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Page S2703

Senate agreed to the motion to recess until 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Page S2713

Appointments:

National Commission on the Future of the Navy: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–263, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the National Commission on the Future of the Navy: Harlan Kenneth Ullman of the District of Columbia.

Page S2703

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 120), Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Pages S2677–83

Messages from the House:

Page S2704

Measures Referred:

Page S2704

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Page S2704

Executive Communications:

Pages S2704–06

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S2707–08

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S2708–12****Additional Statements:****Page S2704****Notices of Intent:****Pages S2712–13****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Page S2713****Privileges of the Floor:****Page S2713**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—122)

Pages S2683, S2695, S2703

Recess: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 6:43 p.m., until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2713.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the U.S. Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Randy Moore, Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

DEFENSE BUDGET AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Christopher P. Maier, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, General Bryan P. Fenton, USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and General Timothy D. Haugh, Commander, United States Cyber Command, all of the Department of Defense.

STUDENT LOAN SERVICER MOHELA

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine MOHELA's performance as a student

loan servicer, including S. 1331, to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, after receiving testimony from Mayor Quinton Lucas, Kansas City, Missouri; Persis SiChung Yu, Student Borrower Protection Center, and Jason Delisle, Urban Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; C. Tapscott Buchanan, Student Loan Servicing Alliance, Alexandria, Virginia; and Kathleen White, San Francisco, California.

OFFSHORE TAX EVASION

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine offshore tax evasion by the wealthy and corporations, after receiving testimony from Zorka Milin, Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency, and Daniel Bunn, Taxation Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Stephen L. Curtis, Cross Border Analytics, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Patrick John Fuchs, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CYBER THREATS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine the federal and non-federal role of assessing cyber threats to and vulnerabilities of critical water infrastructure in our energy sector, after receiving testimony from Terry Turpin, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Virginia Wright, Program Manager, Cyber-Informed Engineering, Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy; and Scott I. Aaronson, Edison Electric Institute, Washington, D.C.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of air quality monitoring technology, after receiving testimony from Omar M. Hammad, Analyst in Environmental Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Anne Austin, former Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; and Bill Obermann, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment Air Program Supervisor, Denver, Colorado.

USAID BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Samantha Power, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4042, to amend title 44, United States Code, to reform the management of Federal records, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2871, to advance Federal Government innovation through the implementation and use of multi-cloud computing software technology, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4036, to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4062, to establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3698, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities;

S. 4055, to provide for a pilot program to improve contracting outcomes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2278, to establish Image Adjudicator and Supervisory Image Adjudicator positions in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4024, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1897, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 5473, to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3851, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the "Sojourner Truth Post Office";

H.R. 2754, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building";

H.R. 3865, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 8th Street in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, as the "Lieutenant William D. Lebo Post Office Building"; and

H.R. 3947, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 859 North State Road 21 in Melrose, Florida, as the "Pamela Jane Rock Post Office Building".

EXPORT CONTROLS AND ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine improving export controls and enforcement, including S. 4085, to establish the Export Enforcement Coordination Center in the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Eun Young Choi, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice; Kevin J. Kurland, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement; and James R. Mancuso, Assistant Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

COPS GRANT PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program, after receiving testimony from Hugh T. Clements, Jr., Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Department of Justice.

CHILD CARE SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of child care small businesses in supporting parents and the American workforce, including S.673, to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, S.1867, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out an initiative to develop, expand, and improve rural childcare, and S.3787, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance, after receiving testimony

from Cindy Cisneros, The Conference Board Committee for Economic Development, New York, New York; Rachel Greszler, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Amy Brooks, Early Care and Education Association, Lebanon, New Hampshire; and Laurie Todd-Smith, America First Policy Institute, Madison, Mississippi.

WOMEN VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring equity for women veterans at the VA, after receiving testimony from Erica M. Scavella, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, Sally Haskell, Acting Chief Officer, and Amanda Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Officer, both of the Office of Women's Health, Kenesha Britton, Assist-

ant Deputy Under Secretary, National Contact Operations, Office of Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration, and Jennifer Baptiste, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for the Office of Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Julie Howell, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Kirsten Laha-Walsh, Wounded Warrior Project, and Naomi Mathis, Disabled American Veterans, all of Washington, D.C.; and Alissa Engel, Lincoln's Hope Counseling and Consulting, Great Falls, Montana.

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: 20 public bills, H.R. 7917–7936; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 1126–1132, were introduced. **Pages H2289–90**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2291**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1125, providing for the consideration of the bill (R.R. 7888) to reform the foreign intelligence surveillance act of 1978; providing for consideration of the bill (R.R. 529) to extend the customs waters of the United States, consistent with presidential proclamation 7219; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1112) denouncing the Biden's administration's immigration policies; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1117) opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza (H. Rept. 118–450);

H.R. 7626, 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 (H. Rept. 118–451);

H.R. 7637, 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 (H. Rept. 118–452);

H.R. 7645, 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 (H. Rept. 118–453);

H.R. 7673, 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 (H. Rept. 118–454); and

H.R. 7700, 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 (H. Rept. 118–455). **Pages H2288–89**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bost to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2255**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H2262**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H2272**

Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, Extending Limits of U.S. Customs Waters Act, Denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies, and Opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza—Rule for Consideration: The House failed to agree to H. Res. 1125, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 7888) to reform the foreign intelligence surveillance act of 1978; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 529) to extend the customs waters of the United States, consistent with

presidential proclamation 7219; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1112) denouncing the Biden's administration's immigration policies; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1117) opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza, by a recorded vote of 193 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 108, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 107.

Pages H2265–74

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, April 9th.

National Museum of Play Recognition Act: H.R. 3250, to recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas to 31 nays, Roll No. 109.

Page H2274

Authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 1126, authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes.

Pages H2274–75

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 11th.

Page H2275

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2273, H2273–74 and H2274.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Government Accountability Office, the Government Publishing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office; Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director, Government Publishing Office; and Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Testimony was heard from Carlos Del Toro, Secretary, Department of the Navy; Admiral Lisa

Franchetti, Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy; and General Eric M. Smith, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Department of the Navy.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Department of Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from Miguel Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled "Member Day". Testimony was heard from Representatives Ciscomani, Costa, Garamendi, Moylan, Mullin, Stanton, and Titus.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the U.S. Capitol Police. Testimony was heard from J. Thomas Manger, Chief, U.S. Capitol Police.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the U.S. Army. Testimony was heard from Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary, Department of the Army; and General Randy A. George, Chief of Staff of the Army, Department of the Army.

U.S. MILITARY POSTURE AND NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN EUROPE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in Europe". Testimony was heard from General Christopher Cavoli, Commander, U.S. European Command, Department of Defense; and Celeste Wallander, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense.

CYBER IN AN ERA OF PERSISTENT ENGAGEMENT: THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET REQUEST FOR U.S. CYBER COMMAND AND CYBER OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Cyber in an Era of Persistent Engagement: The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request for U.S. Cyber Command and Cyber Operations”. Testimony was heard from Ashley Manning, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy, Department of Defense; and General Timothy Haugh, U.S. Air Force, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service, Department of Defense.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID FAIL: EXAMINING THE IMPACT ON STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND SCHOOLS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “FAFSA Fail: Examining the Impact on Students, Families, and Schools”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT PATIENT ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH SERVICES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Support Patient Access to Telehealth Services”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPANSION: SPENT FUEL POLICY AND INNOVATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “American Nuclear Energy Expansion: Spent Fuel Policy and Innovation”. Testimony was heard from John C. Wagner, Laboratory Director, Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

BEYOND SCOPE: HOW THE SEC’S CLIMATE RULE THREATENS AMERICAN MARKETS

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Beyond Scope: How the SEC’s Climate Rule Threatens American Markets”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY’S MALIGN INFLUENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS—IT’S GETTING WORSE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The Chinese Communist Party’s Malign Influence at the United Nations—It’s Getting Worse”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

USAID’S FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN THE ERA OF GREAT POWER COMPETITION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “USAID’s Foreign Policy and International Development Priorities in the Era of Great Power Competition”. Testimony was heard from Samantha Power, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5302, the “Michel O. Maceda Memorial Act”; H.R. 7404, the “Subterranean Border Defense Act”; H.R. 7433, the “Law Enforcement Support and Transnational Repression Hotline Act”; H.R. 7443, the “Combating Transnational Repression Act of 2024”; H.R. 7439, the “Strengthening State and Local Efforts to Combat Transnational Repression Act”; and H.R. 7832, the “Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act”. H.R. 5302, H.R. 7404, and H.R. 7832 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 7433, H.R. 7439, and H.R. 7443 were ordered reported, as amended.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: PART III—IP PROTECTION FOR AI-ASSISTED INVENTIONS AND CREATIVE WORKS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property: Part III—IP Protection for AI-Assisted Inventions and Creative Works”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIDEN’S BORDER CRISIS: EXAMINING THE IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL CARTELS TARGETING INDIAN COUNTRY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Biden’s Border Crisis: Examining the Impacts of International Cartels Targeting Indian Country”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM AT RISK: IMPACTS OF THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S PROPOSED BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY, DIVERSITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RULE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing entitled “The National Wildlife Refuge System at Risk: Impacts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Proposed BIDEH Rule”. Testimony was heard from Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7109, the “Equal Representation Act”; H.R. 7868, the “FEHB Protection Act”; H.R. 7524, the “GSA Technology Accountability Act”; H.R. 7867, the “Renewing Efficiency in Government by Budgeting Act”; H.R. 272, the “Astronaut Safe Temporary Ride Options Act”; H.R. 7869, the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Retirement Technical Corrections Act”; H.R. 7887, the “Allowing Contractors to Choose Employees for Select Skills Act”; H.R. 3019, the “Federal Prison Oversight Act”; 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. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial 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 Building”; H.R. 6633, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”; 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. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building”; and H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 and 19, Northeast Corner of U.S. Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”. H.R. 7109, H.R. 7868, H.R. 7524, H.R. 7867, H.R. 272, H.R. 7869, H.R. 7887, and H.R. 3019 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1555, H.R. 1823, H.R. 3354, H.R. 5867, H.R. 6633, H.R. 7180, H.R. 7199, H.R. 7385, H.R. 7417, H.R. 7423, H.R. 7606, and H.R. 7607 were ordered reported, without amendment.

TAX DAY: EXPLORING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF HIGH TAXES AND A COMPLEX TAX CODE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Tax Day: Exploring the Adverse Effects of High Taxes and a Complex Tax Code”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FROM HEADQUARTERS BUILDING TO FIELD OFFICES: EXAMINING THE FBI’S REAL ESTATE NEEDS AND STRATEGY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled “From Headquarters Building to Field Offices: Examining the FBI’s Real Estate Needs and Strategy”. Testimony was heard from Elliot Doomes, Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; and Nicholas Dimos, Assistant Director, Finance and Facilities Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 1083, the “Caring for Survivors Act of 2023”; H.R. 2911, the “Fairness for Servicemembers and Their Families Act of 2023”; H.R. 3651, the “Love Lives On Act of 2023”; H.R. 7100, the “Prioritizing Veterans’ Survivors Act”; H.R. 7150, the “Survivor Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2024”; H.R. 7777, the “Veterans’ Compensation

Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2024”; H.R. 7793, the “Veterans Appeals Options Expansion Act of 2024”; H.R. 7816, the “Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the duty of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a veteran with a medical examination in connection with certain claims for disability compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve matters relating to medical examinations for veterans disability compensation, and for other purposes; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of adjudications and appeals of claims for benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain revisions to the manual of the Veterans Benefits Administration and to improve the quality of the adjudication of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Self, Duarte, and Hayes; Daniel T. Shedd, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Jaime Areizaga-Soto, Chairman Board of Veterans’ Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine investing in early childhood education, after receiving testimony from New Mexico House Speaker Javier Martinez, Albuquerque; and Melissa Boteach, National Women’s Law Center, Lindsey M. Burke, The Heritage Foundation Center for Education Policy, and Colleen Hroncich, Cato Institute Center for Educational Freedom, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold open and closed hearings to examine the posture of United States European Command and United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be followed by a closed session at 12 noon in SVC-217, 8 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine bolstering chronic care through Medicare Physician Payment, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues, to hold hearings to examine countering transnational criminal networks and corruption in the Western Hemisphere, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Dena M. Coggins, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Eric C. Schulte, and Camela C. Theeler, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Georgia N. Alexakis, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Krissa M. Lanham, and Angela M. Martinez, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Sparkle L. Sooknanan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Claria Horn Boom, of Kentucky, and John Gleeson, of New York, both to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission, and David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico, Clinton J. Fuchs, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maryland, Matthew L. Gannon, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, David C. Waterman, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, and Gary D. Grimes, Sr., to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas, all of the Department of Justice, 9:45 a.m., SD-G50.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, budget hearing on the United States Agency for International Development, 1:30 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 2 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Navy and Marine Corps Military Construction and Family Housing, 2 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness, joint hearing entitled “Posture and Readiness of the Mobility Enterprise—TRANSCOM and MARAD”, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled “A Review of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise’s Posture and Capabilities in Strategic Competition and in Synchronizing Intelligence Efforts to Counter the People’s Republic of China”, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Unlocking Opportunity: Allowing Independent Contractors to Access Benefits”, 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Where Are We Now: Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996”, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Modernization, markup on H.R. 7593, the “Modernizing the Congressional Research Service’s Access to Data Act”; and H.R. 7592, a bill to replace the requirement for the Library of Congress to prepare hardbound versions of the Constitution Annotated and supplements with a requirement to instead prepare and publish digital versions online, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled “Fighting for a Free Press: Protecting Journalists and Their Sources”, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Energizing the Territories: Promoting Affordable and Reliable Energy Sources for the U.S. Insular Areas”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026”, 9 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Expanding on the Success of the 2017 Tax Relief to Help Hardworking Americans”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: At 11 a.m., His Excellency Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, will address a Joint Meeting of Congress in the Hall of the House of Representatives. Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber at 10:20 a.m. and will proceed as a body to the House Chamber at 10:30 a.m.

Senators should expect roll call votes during Thursday's session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, April 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan.

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