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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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, 2023, 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 JULIE ZERWIC

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's very own Julie Zerwic, recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Advocate of the Year award.

Julie Zerwic is a committed advocate for nursing education, currently serving as a professor and dean at the University of Iowa's College of Nursing.

Passionately supporting both students and faculty, Dean Zerwic emphasizes the importance of strong leadership within the nursing profession.

She ardently believes in nurses advocating for their patients, communities, and the profession itself. As a former nurse, I can testify to the importance of the dean conducting herself in these endeavors.

Under Dean Zerwic's guidance, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Iowa has consistently ranked among the top 10 in the Nation by U.S. News and World Report for three consecutive years: 2022, 2023, and achieving an impressive number four ranking in 2024.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing appreciation for Dean Zerwic's unwavering advocacy and in congratulating her on receiving the Advocate of the Year award.

ROCKET CHALLENGE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate the exceptional achievement of Maharishi School students moving on to the finals in the American Rocketry Challenge.

Among 5,500 talented students competing, Maharishi's team has risen to the top, showcasing unparalleled dedication and skill.

Their mission is no small feat, carting a large egg to 820 feet, maintaining flight for 43 to 46 seconds, and safely returning, but I am confident in their design and precision.

The Maharishi students' rocket journey has been marked by hours of hard work, creative problem-solving, and an unwavering dedication to STEM excellence. Iowa's aerospace partners stand behind you, cheering you on.

For those that are interested, there will be some demonstrations tomorrow in the Rayburn foyer. Madam Speaker, they are not just competing for prizes. They are shaping aerospace innovation.

Once again, congratulations to the bright minds of the Maharishi School.

Their achievements inspire us all. Best of luck to them in the national finals.

CELEBRATING POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today and this week has been Police Week here in Washington, D.C. We saw how hundreds of police officers came to the Nation's Capital to be recognized and to be honored for their service across neighborhoods and cities and States of this great Nation.

Police officers respond to crises, to a violent situation, to a family conflict, and to someone brandishing a weapon.

It is not often that a police officer responds to a friendly situation. They respond to conflict, so they put their lives in harm's way for all of us in America.

Neighborhoods across the country expect police officers to show up when they call upon them to protect them.

This week is the week where we stand up here in the Nation's Capitol and recognize the men and women in uniform that protect our families, our neighborhoods, our cities, and our States.

For us here in the House of Representatives, and for me in particular, I am forever grateful to the heroic officers who protected the Capitol.

I will forever remember the 140 officers who were injured and the five who lost their lives as a result of the attack on January 6 right in this Chamber.

They didn't determine whether the Member was a Republican Member or whether the Member was a Democrat Member.

They came to protect our lives, and in many ways, they also showed up here confronting a violent, racist mob to protect democracy, to protect the House of Representatives, and on the other side, to protect the Senate.

□ 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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I take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to recognize the officers that lost their lives: Brian Sicknick, a Capitol Police officer who died from causes the day after the attack; Howard Liebengood from the Capitol Police as well; Jeffrey Smith from the Metropolitan Police Department; Gunther Hashida from the Metropolitan Police Department; and Kyle DeFreytag from the Metropolitan Police Department.

I am grateful for the brave officers also that testified in front of the January 6 committee: Officer Michael Fanone; Officer Harry Dunn; a New Yorker, Brooklynite, Police Sergeant Aquilino Gonell; and Officer Daniel Hodges.

It has been more than a year since Congress agreed to install a plaque to honor the officers who defended this very Capitol during the January 6 attack. I brought a poster of that plaque that has not yet been installed.

We can talk all the fanfare we want about how great the police department is here in the metropolitan D.C. area and across the country, but we have failed for over a year to properly recognize the Capitol Police officers and the local police departments that protected our very own lives.

We have failed to install the plaque, and that is why I bring this poster of it to show the American people that we want to honor not just all the police officers across the country but also the ones that defended this Capitol and protected us from an angry, violent mob whose intent was to kill NANCY PELOSI and whose clear intent was to assassinate Vice President Pence.

They made no distinction on our political affiliation here in this Chamber. They weren't going to ask us for our pin or our voting card and whether we are a Republican or a Democrat. They will have made no distinction.

Yet, the police officers were here, and we have failed to properly honor them.

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, today I rise with grave concerns over another border record shattered by this administration.

We know that the border crisis has national security consequences and also humanitarian consequences. Just recently, the Washington Examiner reported that under the Biden administration, nearly half a million migrant children arrived in the United States without a parent.

The administration's open-border policies are incentivizing parents to send their children on the dangerous journey to the United States, often-times putting them in the hands of ruthless drug cartels and human smugglers.

Sadly, due to the lack of oversight and protection by the Department of

Health and Human Services, many of these innocent children end up in sickening situations where they are trafficked, forced to work in unsafe conditions, or even worse.

As an immigrant myself who moved to the United States as a young boy and now a father of six, this breaks my heart.

We must protect these vulnerable children and treat them with the care they deserve. There is nothing fair, humane, or compassionate about this.

These children are sent to the U.S. in search of opportunity and a better life but instead end up in harm's way.

This is yet another terrible consequence of the historic crisis at our border. The administration's failure to enforce the laws puts migrant children in danger while enriching cartels and criminal organizations that profit from their suffering.

This is a tragedy, and it is completely unacceptable. We have a responsibility to protect these vulnerable children while enforcing the law to stop this behavior.

I will continue working to secure our southern border and strengthen protections for unaccompanied migrant children.

CONGRATULATING MANDY RHODES

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mandy Rhodes on a well-deserved retirement after 18 years of service to the students and community at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

During her time, Mandy taught students in fourth and eighth grade and served as the grammar school principal for 7 years, an outstanding career as an educator.

As a teacher and principal, Mandy is known best for how she cared for everyone around her. Her incredible smile and positive attitude created a warm environment, sense of community, and a culture of excellence at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

She empowered her students to be the leaders and innovators of tomorrow, and I know this firsthand because my own kids experienced it.

She has been a force for good for our students and our community and our family. Mandy has truly embodied the mission of Pusch Ridge in her sacrificial service to others.

I strongly believe that no profession means more to our future generation than our educators. Education is the pillar of the American Dream, and our teachers are its architects.

I thank Principal Rhodes for all she has done and all she has given to the community of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. May God continue to bless her in her new journey.

CONGRATULATING THE SALPOINTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salpointe High School girls' softball team for winning the 4A State championship.

On Saturday, May 11, they faced off against the CDO High School Dorados

in Hillenbrand Stadium. In an exciting game, they shut out their opponents with a score of 11-0 with the Lancers securing four home runs.

This marks the Lancers' sixth State championship in a row since 2018. Their hard work and perseverance over the past six seasons has been truly commendable. With this State championship under their belt, the Lancers end the season with 31 wins and only 4 losses.

I am proud to represent such dedicated athletes, determined coaches, and supportive parents. We congratulate Coach Tricia Sztan and her talented team for this well-deserved win and this amazing title.

CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, May 18 marks 15 years since the end of Sri Lanka's almost 30-year armed conflict, a war that tragically ended hundreds of thousands of lives. This conflict shattered families and communities, leaving deep scars that are still felt to this day.

This week, I am introducing a resolution that commemorates those lost and aims to protect the Tamil community from future violence and discrimination.

My resolution recognizes the genocide in Sri Lanka and affirms of right of Tamils to self-determination through a democratic process.

The Tamil people have a long history of distinct cultural and political identity on the island now known as Sri Lanka.

□ 1015

Historically, they lived in sovereign Tamil kingdoms that were forcibly merged under a single administration in 1833 by the British. This erasure of autonomy set the stage for decades of strife, conflict, and suppression, culminating in war.

My resolution emphasizes the need for a peaceful and democratic solution to ongoing tensions in Sri Lanka. It advocates for an independence referendum, a process that has been used successfully to resolve similar conflicts in other parts of the world. This approach echoes our commitment to democratic principles and underscores our support for human rights globally.

Additionally, my resolution calls on the United States to strengthen diplomatic ties and support the Tamil people's pursuit of justice and self-determination. It highlights the ongoing challenges in the region, including the militarization of Tamil areas, the appropriation of land, and the destruction of cultural heritage, which continue to exacerbate the grievances of the Tamil community.

Today, as we remember the end of a dark chapter in Sri Lanka's history, we

should also look to the future, a future in which the rights and dignity of all people are upheld and respected. Let's stand together in advocating for a peaceful, democratic solution that respects the Tamil people's right to decide their own future.

This resolution is not just symbolic. It is a crucial step toward healing, justice, and a lasting peace.

We are seeing recognition and support grow slowly but surely for this issue. Thanks to the Tamil community's continued advocacy and partnership, Members of Congress are now discussing this issue.

We have a caucus called the Ethnic and Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka Caucus, specifically to address the Federal Government's role in righting this wrong. We are making real progress, and I am proud to co-chair this caucus.

We started with advocacy and legislation when I was a State senator in North Carolina, and now we are continuing the fight in the United States Congress by introducing a resolution that affirms the right of Tamils to pursue an independence referendum.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation. It is an opportunity for us to lead by example, to champion the values of democracy and human rights, and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the Tamil people.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMBERS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women serving as first responders in our communities across southwest Michigan.

These brave individuals put on their uniforms every morning with no guarantee that they will make it back home. We must remember there is no such thing as a routine traffic stop these days. The tragic reality is that our police and law enforcement officers are being targeted and killed at an alarming rate.

Yesterday, here at the Capitol and in Michigan, we honored those who have fallen in the line of duty while serving our communities, including Berrien County Deputy Sheriff Elton C. Stover, Officer Scot A. Beyerstedt with the Mattawan Police Department, and, more recently, Ryan Joseph Proxmire with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.

Over the last several years, increased support for the defund the police movement and antipolice legislation has led to a complete lack of appreciation for the work officers do every day.

I support these men and women serving our communities, as do the vast majority of us here in Congress, and I thank them for their efforts to make

southwest Michigan a safer place and an even better place to call home.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES WREAKING HAVOC

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, President Biden's immigration policies continue to wreak havoc on our borders.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, over 9 million individuals have illegally entered the United States over the last 3 years.

That alone is unacceptable, but just this week, it was revealed that there have been more individuals who have evaded Border Patrol and illegally crossed into the United States since President Biden took office than in the previous decade combined under Presidents Obama and Trump.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that President Biden's open-border policies are the problem. The Biden administration must implement the border reforms that I voted for and the House passed, which include restarting construction on the border wall, ending catch and release, and making sure our men and women serving on the border have the manpower and resources they need to secure our border.

Border security is national security, and I will continue to fight for border security and make west Michigan a safer place.

ABUSES DOCUMENTED AT FDIC

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, yesterday, in our House Financial Services Committee, we had a big day. It was, frankly, a sad and tragic day because it was a day to explore what had happened at the FDIC, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

There was an independent report, the Cleary Gottlieb report, as it is known, which had heard from 541 individual whistleblowers who were outlining the hostile work environment that exists at the FDIC. Sexual harassment, racial discrimination, general temper tantrums, and bad behavior abound.

Some say that this has been happening for a long time. That is true, but there is one person, one man, who has been in charge of the FDIC for 10 of the last 13 years. He is now on his third tour of becoming the Chair, and these complaints stretch back to each time that he has been chairman.

In fact, the other two intervening chairs, Sheila Bair from President Obama and Jelena McWilliams from President Trump, have spent their time cleaning up the mess that Martin Gruenberg has created at the FDIC.

The bottom line is, Madam Speaker, if you created the environment, you can't fix the environment, and you are not the right person for the job. If you say everyone will be held to a higher standard from now on, yet will not hold yourself to that same standard, you are not the right person for the job.

Madam Speaker, the time has arrived for the FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg to resign or be fired.

HONORING MARLA BRAMBLE

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month, I rise today to honor my constituent, a longtime defendant of our multicultural, multiracial democracy, Marla Bramble.

Marla has dedicated her entire life to organizing multicultural, interfaith coalitions for economic and racial justice. For the last 10 years, Marla has been a passionate voice for our Jewish neighbors, leading the community-organizing team at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

Through these efforts, she has helped achieve significant victories for our community, city, and State, ending cash bail in Illinois, protecting affordable housing units across the city of Chicago, expanding Medicaid coverage for undocumented immigrants, and making sure that our communities understand the importance of affordable housing.

Marla has lived in the beautiful Humboldt Park community for over 20 years. I have had an opportunity to see her work, how she organizes from a place of love, from a place of justice, and from a place of peace.

Marla has devoted herself to mentoring young Jewish leaders and people of all backgrounds, like me, demonstrating how, through solidarity, we can unite across faith communities in our fight for justice and peace.

On behalf of the Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is the greatest honor of my life to commend Marla Bramble for being a guiding light for the Jewish community and for all of us in Illinois-03.

Madam Speaker, I thank and congratulate Marla.

COMMENDING HANA CENTER AND AFIRE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I rise today to commend two essential Asian-American organizations serving families in Illinois-03.

Albany Park in Illinois-03 is home to the HANA Center and the Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment, or, as we call it, AFIRE.

Both organizations are central to serving families of Korean, Filipino, and Asian heritage through social services, education, culture, and community organizing.

By hosting citizenship workshops, health fairs, and other events to engage the community in culturally competent ways, HANA Center and AFIRE demonstrate the strength and cultural richness of the Asian diaspora and the immigrant community overall.

I am grateful for their presence in Illinois-03 and for their work building the power of Asian-American and immigrant communities to organize around their needs.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I am honored to commend the HANA Center and AFIRE for their unwavering work to uplift our Asian-American, Native American, and Pacific Islander families.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate AFIRE and the HANA Center.

HONORING DR. TOM JOBE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Dr. Tom Jobe, a trailblazer in the field of mental health.

As we observe Mental Health Awareness Month, it is fitting to honor the contributions of a man who expanded our understanding of psychiatry.

Dr. Jobe's multidisciplinary approach challenged established norms. His innovative research shed light on alternative treatment approaches that brought hope, humanity, and possibilities to patients across Illinois and across the Nation. He provided care for people, constituents, on the West Side and South Side of Chicago when very few others were doing it.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Jobe's warmth, empathy, and generosity touched all who knew him. His passing was deeply mourned.

He was a brilliant man with interests that ranged from medicine to philosophy that enriched not only his work but the lives of all people who ever met him and surrounded him. His commitment to mental health care for everyone touched many lives.

He is deeply, deeply missed by his partner, Anna Weaver, his loved ones, and the entire community of the State of Illinois. We know that his legacy lives on.

Today, let us remember Tom Jobe's many contributions as we continue the vital work of advocating for mental health awareness, support, and resources.

In his memory, we honor Tom Jobe today.

PREVENTING YOUTH POISONINGS

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

Mr. CAREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge Senate action on a bill that will prevent deadly chemicals from falling into the hands of our children.

Our Youth Poisoning Protection Act passed the House last night with overwhelmingly bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans working together on what we need to be doing. This must become law.

It is a parent's worst nightmare, this faceless stranger over the internet teaching your children how to take their own lives, and your child, in a moment of vulnerability, listens to them.

That is exactly what happened to Kristine Jonsson, a very vibrant 16-year-old from Hilliard, Ohio, in my district. She was very open with her parents as it related to her mental health

struggles, but it was behind closed doors on some ridiculous internet forum that she found sodium nitrate.

With the coaching of these online predators, Kristine was able to purchase sodium nitrate through an online service and actually have it shipped to her front door without the knowledge of her parents.

Sodium nitrate is a chemical that is used in the preservation of meat and fish, but it is, in fact, a chemical, when it is highly concentrated, that can be over 100 times more powerful—one spoonful—more powerful and deadly than any chemical.

Thanks to these online forums like the one that Kristine saw, the number of suicide deaths using sodium nitrate is steadily increasing. In recent years, the share of sodium nitrite usage as a method of self-poisoning has grown nine times over.

By passing this bill, what we did bipartisanly with the Democrats and the Republicans in the House, we need to have it passed in the Senate. The Youth Poisoning Prevention Act would prevent commercial sales of highly concentrated sodium nitrite so it can never fall into the hands of these vulnerable youth.

□ 1030

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative TRAHAN of Massachusetts, as well as my Senator from Ohio, J.D. VANCE, and TAMMY DUCKWORTH from Illinois for partnering in this important effort.

Again, this is the stuff that we as Members of Congress need to be doing. With their support and all of yours we are one step closer to preventing these senseless tragedies.

HONORING TOMMY COWAN

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, a dear friend of the western New York community, the city of Buffalo, and my family, Tommy Cowan.

Tommy passed away unexpectedly last Monday, May 6, at the age of 44, leaving an irreplaceable hole in our hearts. Tommy was a one-of-a-kind soul, friendly, charitable, hardworking, caring, with a vivacious personality and a beaming smile.

His love for life and his community was constantly on display through his generosity to others. He always looked out for the little guy and would lift up anyone who needed a helping hand.

Buffalo is known as the City of Good Neighbors, and Tommy served as a shining example of that.

In 2022, Buffalo was struck by one of the worst blizzards in our history, paralyzing the city and costing the lives of dozens of Buffalonians.

During this terrible storm, Tommy strapped on his skis, made his way to one of his restaurants, and got cooking

for the first responders. Food was delivered to firehouses, police stations, and hospitals, keeping those heroes fed as they fought desperately to save lives in the middle of an emergency. He didn't have to do that. He put his own safety at risk for the betterment of others. For Tommy, that was just something that you do for the community.

His service to the community and dedication to others earned him recognition from the Buffalo Police in 2019 when they presented him with the William Rieman Citizen of the Year Award.

Tommy was a leader in the western New York community with countless friends, but to me, he was my neighbor and part of my family. Growing up with my younger brother Patrick, he was like a little brother to me. We watched each other grow up and our careers take off, supporting each other and cheering one another on along the way.

He thrived in the hospitality industry, opening restaurants across Buffalo: Forty Thieves in Elmwood Village, Patrick's Rooftop in downtown Buffalo, and in our beloved neighborhood of south Buffalo, the legendary Doc Sullivan's, home of the famous Smitty wings.

He personified south Buffalo, and he proudly invested in our community, creating jobs and developing spaces that brought neighbors together over a pint and a few wings.

It didn't matter if you were from south Buffalo, when you walked into Doc's, Tommy made you feel like you were from the neighborhood. He knew how to create more than a restaurant. He created an experience. Each place had its own signature feel, but Tommy's character was woven throughout it.

Last Friday, there was a standing-room-only crowd that turned out for Tommy's funeral at our Lady of Victory Basilica, a true testament to a man who made an impact on countless people.

My sincere condolences and sympathies go out to his parents, Tom and Libby Cowan; his siblings, Erin and Brian McElroy and Kristen and Pat Lalley; and his nieces, nephews, and extended family. We are all better for knowing Tommy Cowan. May he rest in peace.

POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, it is Police Week, the week when law enforcement officers who keep us safe all over the country come to Washington to remind us how important they are and when Members of Congress introduce resolutions and bills and give speeches in this Chamber letting them know how grateful we are for their service.

I rise today partly to share in that gratitude. It is my privilege to represent the 19th Ward in Chicago where neighborhoods like Mount Greenwood and Beverly have long been home to huge chunks of the Chicago police force from rank-and-file beat cops to the Cook County Sheriff himself. I am also proud last March that I was able to bring home \$372,000 in Federal funding for police equipment in the village of Alsip.

I am grateful for all of the service from our law enforcement officers but for a bigger reason.

We are a nation of laws, and we only survive as a nation of laws if those laws are consistently and predictably enforced, and it is our brothers and sisters in law enforcement who make sure that they are.

I do find myself wondering how all these floor speeches this week look to them. How do all these pretty speeches sound to the local police chiefs who were pleading with us in 2020 to provide them with funding to shore up lost State and property tax revenue during the COVID downturn, who knew that they couldn't stay open without it, and they also know every single Republican voted against the American Rescue Plan that kept their officers paid?

How do all these pretty speeches look to the Capitol Police officers who are defending us right now? How do they feel when these speeches come from the same lips of Members who still refer to people who assaulted the Capitol Police as "political prisoners" or in one case as a "martyr"?

How do all these pretty speeches sound to the FBI officers or local police who depend on the FBI to coordinate when crimes cross State lines when they come from the lips of Members of Congress who are regularly and consistently calling to defund the FBI?

How do they sound to ATF officers who are forced—thanks to dumb laws led by my Republican colleagues—to spend hours every day tediously stripping personal identifying information from gun sales databases, making a mockery of the claim that it is people not guns that kill people?

How do all these pretty speeches sound to the victims of financial fraud who depend on the NLRB to protect them from wage theft or the CFPB to protect them from junk fees or the SEC to protect them from financial crimes when the Republican Party is consistently trying to defund all three? After all, if somebody steals \$1,000 from you, you are out \$1,000. That is just as true if the crook is wearing a burglar's black mask or a huckster's white collar.

On that subject, how do all these speeches sound to our Nation's criminals? You know who they are; they are the ones who every April misrepresent their income and assets and commit tax fraud because they trust that the Republicans are going to consistently block funding and resources for the law enforcement professionals at the Internal Revenue Service.

Finally, how do you think all these speeches sound to E. Jean Carroll's rapist, the guy who was subsequently convicted in court of lying about that rape and still hasn't paid the \$83 million fine imposed by law enforcement professionals for that lie, much less the \$355 million fine imposed on him for unrelated financial fraud? He is the guy who most of you wouldn't trust with your retirement savings. He is the guy who none of you would trust for an evening alone with your teenage daughter, but who all of my Republican colleagues think should be the next President of the United States.

Oscar Benavides, the former president of Peru, famously said: "For my friends everything, for my enemies the law." That is not how a country of laws works but it is how fascism is built. It is not the way that you ensure that everybody has equal protection under the law, nor is it the way to honor the men and women who dedicate their life to that principle. I hope that next year on Police Week that isn't such a partisan idea.

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

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, my office is bringing home over \$17.1 million in Federal funding for 15 community projects throughout the 12th Congressional District this year.

I am so proud to have partnered up with civic and community leaders throughout the district to prioritize the needs of our residents with transformative projects, Madam Speaker, from home repairs to affordable housing, to removing lead out of our water, to helping our seniors with flood recovery resources, to workforce development, to neighborhood revitalization, and also to help decrease pollution in our neighborhoods because our residents deserve to breathe clean air.

We got \$4 million for Wayne County, our largest county in the district, and \$3 million to the city of Detroit to facilitate lead service line replacement. We all know that our children cannot learn if they are being poisoned with lead-contaminated water.

We received over \$1.9 million for our Lathrup Village and the village of Beverly Hills for water main replacement and reliability, which is so critically important for their water infrastructure.

We also got \$1 million for our incredible, beautiful neighborhood in Cody Rouge, as well as Detroit's Aviation Sub and Far West neighborhoods. The Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance is prepared to help hundreds of seniors and those in need of home repairs.

We also helped secure \$1.1 million, Madam Speaker, to Alternatives For Girls to construct the Dr. Maya Angelou Village to create 45 housing units that are affordable and permanent support housing for at-risk families, mothers with children.

We also were able to secure \$1 million for After the Storm for the Metro Detroit Flood Recovery Project, again, helping many of our residents struggling with flooding.

We also were able to obtain \$1.5 million for the city of Inkster and the city of Dearborn Heights for their fire station, as well as firefighting resources.

We were able to secure half a million dollars for the city of Dearborn for their Dearborn Industrial Green Beltway to fight pollution. Again, this is one of our neighborhoods that is facing some of the worst air pollution throughout the district.

We secured over \$1.2 million for the city of Livonia for their new Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. Again, that is an incredibly important project.

The \$17.1 million builds on the tireless work we all have done in each of these previous two budget cycles to invest in our communities with the hard work and the incredible partnership and dedication of my team, but especially our 12th Congressional District chief of staff because she is not just my chief of staff, she is my district's chief of staff. Larissa Richardson helped over the last 3 years in partnership with me to get \$52.1 million for community projects throughout our district.

We are just getting started, Madam Speaker.

To our families and our communities throughout the 12th Congressional District, you deserve your fair share of resources. You deserve not just to be able to survive but also thrive.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP WELLNESS CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to announce that Redford Township is getting a new recreation and wellness center. I would like to congratulate our incredible Mayor McRae and the township's administration and trustees on the groundbreaking ceremony for this new community space in our district. Our team was able to provide \$2 million in Federal funding for the community project there.

The event marks a significant milestone for our community, as it will be the first new building focused on recreation and wellness in the township in over 50 years.

The center provides space for residents to engage in health and wellness activities, strengthening our community bonds, promoting healthy lifestyles, and many, many more different programs, again, to create a space for our families and our community.

I congratulate Redford Township. They deserve this space, and I am so excited to have been a part of this positive impact and again look forward to seeing the completion.

NAKBA

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as the only Palestinian American serving in Congress, I am a reminder to many of my colleagues in this Chamber that Palestinians do indeed exist, we are human beings, that we deserve to live, that we have dreams of freedom and human dignity.

I read this quote: "When you tell a people to forget its past, you are not proposing peace, you are proposing extinction." This is from Peter Beinart.

As we mark 76 years of the Nakba, we honor the thousands of Palestinians who were ethnically cleansed in 1948 and nearly 800,000 Palestinians who were violently and forcibly displaced, many, Madam Speaker, still carrying their keys in hopes of one day returning to their homes, to their villages.

We honor their trauma and the painful loss of their connections to their families, land, olive groves, and villages they grew up in.

We honor all those around the world who have suffered from the impacts of settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid. Madam Speaker, the Nakba did not end in 1948.

□ 1045

CELEBRATING LIRA ELECTRIC DURING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Lira Electric, a small business from my district which was recently honored as an SBA Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year during Small Business Week.

Lira Electric started with just two employees in 2017, Robert Lira and his wife, and they have since grown to a team of 34, serving clients like the Department of Defense, MGM Resorts, and NV Energy.

Their journey shows the important role that small businesses play in our economic growth. The success that they have achieved highlights the importance of initiatives like the Small Business Administration's funding programs which empower minority-owned businesses to thrive and contribute significantly to our economy.

I congratulate Robert Lira and the entire team at Lira Electric for this well-deserved recognition. Their hard work inspires us all. I am proud to represent communities with businesses like theirs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAOMI DELORES JACKSON GOYNES

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Naomi Delores Jackson Goynes, who recently passed away after a life as a beloved educator in North Las Vegas.

She was born in Memphis in 1933 and pursued her passion for education at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Northern Arizona University, and UNLV. In 1964, she and her husband,

Theron, moved to Las Vegas, where she worked for 36 years in the Clark County School District before retiring as an assistant principal.

For their collective contributions to our local educational landscape, they were honored as the namesakes of the Theron H. and Naomi D. Goynes STEM Academy in North Las Vegas.

Mrs. Jackson Goynes' strength, perseverance, and commitment to education will be remembered by her loved ones and everyone who knew her. I extend my condolences to her husband, Theron Goynes; her daughter, North Las Vegas Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown; and all of her loved ones during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING JOE LOUIS, GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the greatest heavyweight boxers in history, Joe Louis. Tomorrow he is being recognized in Nevada in a tribute to celebrate both his professional and personal contributions to our communities.

Louis was one of the first Black men to be elevated to national hero status after he broke many racial barriers and advocated for civil rights. Known as the Brown Bomber, he held the heavyweight title for almost 12 years, defending it a record 25 times, and despite a 4-year hiatus from boxing to serve during World War II.

In addition to his boxing career, Louis was instrumental in breaking the color barrier in the PGA and paved the way for the first generation of Black professional golfers.

His legacy left an enduring impact on sports and civil rights, helping inspire future generations to fight for justice. I am proud to honor his memory and celebrate his lasting influence.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week. I am proud of the work we are doing here in Congress to make sure we give law enforcement the tools they need through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and through the appropriations process.

Through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, we are making our communities safer, reducing crime, saving lives, and breaking the cycle of violence.

This law has already made improvements in our school safety and mental health resources, and it has reduced the number of guns on the streets and cracked down on illegal gun trafficking.

Improvements include historic investments in students' mental health for States and school districts, including \$1 billion to hire and train more than 14,000 school mental health professionals. More than 750 prohibited individuals were denied firearms under BSCA's enhanced background checks for gun purchasers under 21 years old. More than 430 gun traffickers have been charged under BSCA's expanded Federal enforcement efforts to crack down on gun trafficking.

Through community funding projects, Democrats putting people over politics have delivered more direct funding to our local law enforcement than our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Third Way just released a report this week highlighting that House and Senate Democrats, through our community project funding, have secured nearly \$400 million this year to fund public safety projects in our districts and States. This is compared to Republicans who secured around \$272 million.

I am proud to have delivered \$4.4 million to law enforcement programs in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, including to North Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's emergency command vehicle, the Judicial District Court's special advocate program, and \$1.6 million to North Las Vegas Public Safety enhancement. These are true investments to public safety that save lives.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF NEW MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous law enforcement officers of New Mexico who have made the ultimate sacrifices for their communities.

Our law enforcement officers are brave public servants who put their lives on the line every day to serve the people of New Mexico. Through their bravery, they make our communities safer and serve as models of justice, strength, and integrity.

This National Police Week, I want to recognize and honor the New Mexico officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty just this year: Curry County Sheriff Michael Reeves, Alamogordo Police Department Officer Anthony Ferguson, Alamogordo Police Department Patrolman James Sides, New Mexico State Patrolman Justin Hare, and Las Cruces Police Department Patrol Officer Jonah Hernandez.

As we reflect on the bravery and service of these officers, I would like to recognize the loved ones they left behind: their families, friends, and colleagues. Just as we won't forget the sacrifices made by these officers, we will not forget the loss that so many feel in their absence.

To their families who grieve their loss today: We owe you our immense support and gratitude.

Choosing a career in law enforcement is not an easy choice. In fact, it comes with unimaginable risks and challenges that the majority of the American public will never have to face. They are our peacekeepers, our first responders, and the protectors of civil society.

There is still more that we can do to support our police officers, their mental health, their physical health, and

their well-being, as well as that of their families. I will continue to support measures in Congress to ensure every officer has the tools and stability that they need to serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I thank our fallen officers, again, for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE RULE OF LAW

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, part of the reason why folks look to the United States as a beacon of democracy and justice is because we honor, respect, and follow the rule of law.

Assault in this Nation is never acceptable, no matter the perpetrator or the cause, never. When it comes to our police officers and first responders, that is especially important.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have introduced a bill meant to address this issue and specifically target immigrants in this country, and, unfortunately, they could not help themselves but to introduce inflammatory and anti-immigrant language that distorts what we could accomplish if we were actually willing to work together to find real solutions to our Nation's broken immigration system. That is why I introduced amendments to ensure what we can all agree on: due process, justice, and the rule of law to which we are all entitled to in this country.

Let me be clear: If anyone is convicted of an offense involving assault of a law enforcement officer, then they should be held accountable. However, that is not the case in the bill that Republicans have proposed.

I remain committed to finding solutions based in truth and justice that address public safety concerns with legislators on both sides of the aisle that also support law enforcement and their families.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Fe International Literary Festival. Humans have painted stories on cavern walls, etched them into clay tablets, and recounted them around the dinner table. Puebloans in New Mexico celebrate their storytellers in beautiful sculptures.

The invention of the printing press in 1440 allowed readers across the world to access literature and begin to understand cultures and lives different from their own.

Sadly, some fearful politicians want to limit our curiosity and knowledge. They are now banning books.

In contrast, the Santa Fe International Literary Festival brings to-

gether the best literary minds from across the world to move us forward. Every participating author is exceptional and has included powerful authors whose award-winning books have been banned, like N. Scott Momaday, Margaret Atwood, and Julia Alvarez.

At the festival, writers will take us around the world and back through history, like Doug Preston, Hampton Sides, and Diana Gabaldon, who will share their vision and their craft.

Memorialists like Javier Zamora will take us on a 9-year-old's perilous journey of migration to the United States, hopefully increasing our empathy along the way.

I congratulate to the festival on another year of spreading the joy of stories. Felicidades to the authors.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this National Police Week, I rise to give thanks to the officers who keep us safe every day everywhere. Police have families who love them and miss them when long hours keep them on the road and on duty. My gratitude extends to their families, as well.

My gratitude must include getting them the Federal resources to do their job to solve crimes and to keep us safe. My community projects have funded mobile command units in rural counties, virtual training gear so they are prepared before they face the worst, and squad cars to get them to where they need to go.

In my district, we have many small rural police forces who are grateful for the FBI help with forensics and Federal COPS and Byrne JAG grants, which help their police officers do their jobs.

Federal law enforcement investigates and prevents crime in Indian Country.

Sadly, Republican bills and proposals seek to cut these important Federal funds and defund the FBI. This year alone, Democrats have sent almost double the amount of funding than Republicans to local law enforcement.

I will fight to keep these Federal funds flowing so my rural and Tribal police forces have access to these important Federal grants and to an FBI that can be their partner when the worst happens.

RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM TRUJILLO

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of one of New Mexico's most accomplished and best-loved public servants, former New Mexico State Representative Jim Trujillo. He demonstrated what it means to answer the call to public service and that public service is an act of love.

I am grateful for the love Representative Trujillo gave to the people of his district and our State.

His legacy now lives on in countless lives he touched in our beautiful State through both his important career as a financial professional and his broad public service in the New Mexico Human Services Department, 6 years in the New Mexico National Guard, and

his outstanding 17 years in the New Mexico legislature.

I met with Representative Trujillo numerous times when I was working on voting rights and Tribal intergovernmental matters. He always listened with deep attention and gave clear direction and support.

He was a man of his word. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mexico proved how much we can accomplish when we work together for our beloved communities.

I carry his inspiration with me as I continue my own service in the beautifully diverse Third District of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Virginia, their children, and the entire extended Trujillo family.

□ 1100

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate public schools.

Despite this landmark case and the integration that followed, segregation in schools has increased by more than 60 percent over the last few decades, driven by so-called school choice and Federal courts rolling back desegregation commitments.

Every student should have the opportunity to get a quality education. Federal, State, and local leaders must work hand-in-hand to reverse the harmful policies, including the housing costs that have contributed to this new wave of segregation.

In Orange County, which I represent, students challenged school segregation in one of the first cases of its kind, Mendez v. Westminster, which integrated California schools and laid much of the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, I hope my colleagues will join me in recommitting to fighting segregation.

THANKING MILITARY SPOUSES

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincere gratitude to our Nation's military spouses.

We recently celebrated National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, a reminder to reflect on how military families support our servicemembers and our country through their selfless dedication.

The Biden administration recently came to an agreement with the Department of Defense and State Department to strengthen the Federal Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas program for military spouses working for

the Federal Government. This agreement will help military spouses keep their jobs and advance their careers while their partners are stationed overseas.

Yesterday, I joined my Oversight Committee colleagues to build on this success and advance a bill that would codify these protections into law.

Our military is stronger and more capable when military spouses can build their careers because families choose to reenlist. I applaud their service and selfless dedication to our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY JACKSON

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of the past president of the Orange County Realtors, Jeffrey Jackson.

Jeff's presidency came at a tumultuous time for real estate, with changes to commission structures, historically low inventory, and high interest rates. Those challenges didn't inhibit his willingness to serve. As his association stated, he willingly embraced the opportunity.

Jeff was a passionate advocate, and the struggles of his clients to find housing drove him to fight for housing for all. He fulfilled all of his roles, including at the State and national associations, until the final weeks of his battle with cancer.

Jeff had four loves: his Hoosiers; his dog, Niles; jazz; and housing. He moved to California in 2010 and, in 2014, began his 10-year real estate career.

Jeff was loved by many, including me, and he will be dearly missed.

PAUSING EXPANSION OF LNG EXPORT CAPACITY

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Big Oil has long exploited and profited from our dependence on fossil fuels.

I rise today proud that our President is finally standing up to Big Oil and putting people over polluters. I applaud President Biden's decision to pause the expansion of America's liquid natural gas export capacity.

For too long, the United States has rapidly approved LNG terminals without verifying economic benefits and making sure that Big Oil companies are accountable to clean up their messes.

The United States is already the top exporter of LNG, and future projects are not expected to go online for several years, handcuffing future generations with the harms of pollution.

We need rigorous oversight of LNG exports to protect families, communities, the environment, and our national security.

The Biden administration's announcement is an incredible first step to making sure the American people, not just Big Oil companies, actually benefit from changes to our energy policies.

TALLMADGE BLUE DEVILS
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Tallmadge Blue Devils coed wheelchair basketball team as Ohio's 13th District Champions of the Week.

The Wheelchair Blue Devils recently won the Ohio Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball State Championship title, defeating the previously unbeaten and top-ranked Austintown Falcons.

During this championship game, freshman Ta'Shaun Meyers scored 16 points to help lead the Wheelchair Blue Devils to a well-deserved victory. The win capped off an impressive 15-2 season for the Wheelchair Blue Devils.

In addition to the hard work and determination of these outstanding student athletes, I also recognize Head Coach Monica Currey and Assistant Coach Greg Michalec for guiding and supporting the team throughout this impressive season.

In all, the success of the Blue Devils wheelchair basketball team, both on and off the court, has made our community very proud, and I am confident that the team will continue their dominance next season.

Once again, I congratulate the Blue Devils wheelchair basketball team for their incredible season and for being named Champions of the Week.

CONGRATULATING LULU EMANUELE

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Lulu Emanuele as last week's 13th Congressional District of Ohio Champion of the Week.

Lulu is a sophomore from Firestone Community Learning Center in Akron, and she is my district's first-place winner for this year's Congressional Art Competition.

I had the opportunity to view Lulu's winning piece at the community art show hosted at the Summit Artspace in Akron, and I can truly say that her piece titled "Neon Dreams" is captivating. As you can see, Lulu uses bold, dramatic neon colors that immediately catch your eye and show off her impressive technical expertise.

As the winner of our district's Congressional Art Competition, her work will proudly be displayed on the walls of the United States Capitol, where visitors from across the country and the world can see our community's artistic talent and creative abilities.

I personally can't wait to see her piece each time we walk past the Congressional Art Competition on our way to the House floor.

In addition to recognizing Lulu's exceptional artistic talent, I also thank her teachers and her family for supporting her in her endeavors.

I also recognize all the students who participated in the Congressional Art Competition because they all made this year's art challenge especially fantastic, and we are very proud of them, as well.

Again, I congratulate Lulu on being the winner of Ohio's 13th District Art Competition and the Champion of the Week.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and I rise to recognize the courage and dedication of police officers in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and honor those who have lost their lives while serving our communities.

Being a police officer is already a tough and dangerous job. However, in recent years, staff shortages have made this job even more difficult. As I have talked to law enforcement agencies across Ohio's 13th District, the number one thing I continue to hear is that they are having a hard time keeping and retaining officers.

Our police officers are constantly overworked, overburdened, and tired, and this constant strain on law enforcement agencies simply does not create an environment where police officers can perform to the best of their abilities to keep our communities safe.

That is why I joined several members of the Ohio delegation to introduce the Enhancing COPS Hiring Program Grants for Local Law Enforcement Act. This bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation would expand the current COPS Hiring Program to allow local law enforcement agencies to utilize these grants for recruitment and retention bonuses and also modify the program to reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with the annual applications.

Giving law enforcement agencies the resources they need to provide recruitment and retention bonuses will ensure these departments can hire the best and most qualified and responsible officers to protect our communities.

In all, this bipartisan legislation will simultaneously improve our safety and the safety of our communities and increase the trust between police officers and the people they have sworn to protect and serve.

When I came to Congress, I promised I would put the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District first, and that is exactly what I have continued to do. I will keep working with anyone from anywhere on real solutions, just like my enhancing COPS grant legislation that will provide our law enforcement with the resources they need to keep our communities safe.

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 9 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. LAMALFA) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Gird us up, O God, for whatever lies ahead of us this day. Equip us for the work You would have us do in the situations we will face.

Do not let us take this preparation lightly, for the battles we fight are more than policies and politics. We do not wrestle just against contrary human opinions and opposing ambitions, but ours is a fight to preserve mutual understanding and respect in a world shrouded in the darkness of prejudice and gripped with hatred.

On each one here, You have placed a mantle of leadership for the living of these days, leadership which calls us to recover our moral bearings and uphold Your righteousness. May we each live up to the responsibilities with which You have entrusted us, responsibilities that compel us to choose what is faithful over what is expedient.

Then open our eyes to see the heavenly host that defends all that we aim to accomplish when we do so in accordance with Your will.

In the strength 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 Utah (Mr. CURTIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CURTIS 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 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week.

For me, Police Week started solemnly. On Monday, I attended the funeral of Santaquin Police Officer Bill Hooser. Sergeant Hooser is a hero, killed in the line of duty by a felon with a 20-year criminal history who had no right to be on Utah's roads.

At the funeral service, the Santaquin police chief said Hooser was the best field training officer he had ever seen. His work and dedication to other officers on the force undoubtedly have kept many safe.

This Police Week, I also remember Master Officer Joseph Shinnars of the Provo Police Department, who I worked alongside during my time as mayor. He was tragically killed in the line of duty in 2019.

I would like the family to know I still keep his picture on my desk in Provo in remembrance of his sacrifice and contribution. The Provo police chief described Shinnars as one of his all-star officers.

These men, and all of our officers killed in the line of duty, are heroes who gave their ultimate sacrifice to keep our communities and our families safe.

We owe our deepest gratitude to police officers and their families who wonder every morning if that will be the last time they see them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY JOHNSON

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor the life of Jimmy Johnson, one of the greatest cornerbacks in NFL history.

A product of Kingsburg High School in my California district, Jimmy was a gifted athlete and rose quickly through the ranks. He was also a good student and graduated from UCLA. He played 16 seasons with the San Francisco 49ers and was a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team in the 1970s.

He was known as the "Lonesome Cornerback" because his opponents rarely threw to his side of the field. Ask Bart Starr or Johnny Unitas. He was clearly a class act, a leader, and always respected by his teammates, yet he still intercepted those 47 passes and returned them for 615 yards.

In 1994, he was enshrined in the National Pro Football Hall of Fame with his brother as his presenter, the decathlon champion Rafer Johnson.

What a class act. What a team. For the 49er family and its fans, we mourn the loss of Jimmy Johnson, but his legacy will continue for the next generation of athletes and fans.

Jimmy Johnson was a class act.

HEAD START GIVES CHILDREN A CHANCE TO SUCCEED

(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. Madam Speaker, since its inception 56 years ago, Head Start has improved the lives of more than 32 million children and their families.

Proudly, we continue to raise awareness about Head Start and the benefits it brings to America's children. Head Start gives every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, a chance to succeed in school and in life.

The Head Start model, developed over the decades, has been built on evidence-based practices and is constantly evolving, using the best available science and teaching techniques to meet the needs of local communities.

Head Start focuses on the whole child and the whole family. Head Start and Early Start programs are in small towns and big cities alike. It brings together parents, teachers, volunteers, and community leaders to create a quality program that truly gives lower income children a head start in life.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Head Start programs in the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania and throughout the Nation for helping so many Americans from all walks of life have a fair start in life.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor National Police Week and recognize our dedicated law enforcement officers in San Joaquin County. On behalf of all our families, I thank them.

I also want to take this opportunity to bring attention to and honor a vital part of our law enforcement departments: our canine officers and their dogs. Canine teams go into some of the most dangerous situations, and their work quite simply saves lives. My community has seen this bravery firsthand.

On February 19, 2023, after 6 years of service, we sadly lost Duke, a police canine for the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department. While apprehending an armed and dangerous suspect, Duke was killed in the line of duty. Duke's actions likely saved the life of one of our sheriff's deputies.

This past weekend, Duke was remembered alongside 25 other police canines that gave their lives in the line of duty last year, a worthy ceremony for a brave pup.

I thank all of our canine trainers and officers for the hard work they do. Families in San Joaquin County and across the country are safer because of their dedication. We are eternally grateful.

CALIFORNIA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, California's agricultural sector is a powerhouse, contributing over \$50 billion to our economy and all these amazing food products for U.S. consumers.

Since we produce so many of these fruits and vegetables at 90-plus percent, it is a key element. Our Nation's consumer base really depends on a

strong farm bill for the products that come from California and all over the country.

In a week, the House Agriculture Committee will hold a vote on this year's farm bill. I can say from personal experience that the committee has spent countless hours going around the country listening to people and taking into account all the things it takes to make our domestic food supply strong.

It aligns our farm safety net with the needs of producers as well as folks in need, and an incentive for conservation and market access are all elements of that.

I also have the privilege of chairing the Subcommittee on Forestry. We are focused on making our forests safer from devastating fire, which we have experienced in northern California with the loss of many lives, as has my dear friend, Representative TOKUDA, with Lahaina in Hawaii.

We have to do much better on making our communities and our lands fire safe to prevent unnecessary loss of life and unnecessary damage. The farm bill is going to be a big element in going forward and improving upon that situation. I look forward to a positive vote and success next week.

CELEBRATING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome the leadership of the East Bay Park District to this Chamber and to celebrate its 90th anniversary.

The park district has grown to encompass 73 regional parks, spanning 126,000 acres of parklands and over 1,300 miles of trails across the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Even in its creation during the Great Depression, residents recognized the importance of what the park district would provide. A ballot measure to establish the park district and subsequent tax for land preservation received an overwhelming 71 percent of the vote in 1934. The park district's commitment to providing positive experiences in nature is truly inspiring.

I am very proud and grateful that the constituents that I represent can benefit from the largest regional park district in the United States.

Please join me in congratulating and celebrating the East Bay Park District for nine decades of commitment to preserving open space, providing safe and welcoming parks, and enhancing the quality of life across the San Francisco Bay Area and the East Bay, in particular.

CELEBRATING MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, this is Police Week, when we celebrate and honor the men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities and families safe.

I am reminded of the bravery of Sergeant Adrian Alejandro. While serving in south Texas, Sergeant Alejandro, a 6-year veteran of the Mission Police Department, encountered an individual on foot. While conducting an interview, the individual pulled out a gun and shot him once in the torso. Sergeant Alejandro was able to return fire, striking the suspect twice.

By the grace of God and his training, Sergeant Alejandro survived this incident, and I pray for his continued recovery.

I am proud to stand with our police officers across the Rio Grande Valley and the entire district, who come out day after day to protect our communities.

□ 1215

WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, every May is Wildfire Awareness Month in Hawaii and across the United States, but this year in the wake of last August's wildfires, fire prevention and preparedness are very personal and urgent for my constituents.

The National Interagency Fire Center predicts above average, significant potential for wildfires across Hawaii, especially in leeward communities. We must prepare for a drier and hotter summer ahead, and in just a few weeks, the Pacific hurricane season will begin, increasing the potential for gusty winds and dangerous climate conditions.

While we cannot predict every situation, we know a vast majority of wildfires are human caused, which means we each play a critical role in preventing fires from starting in the first place.

Local, State, and Federal agencies must also work closely with our communities to implement prevention and mitigation measures, prepare and enhance emergency preparedness and evacuation plans, and establish better methods to monitor and respond to fires.

This is essential work and planning that must be done now. Sadly, as Representative LAMALFA and I know all too well, the Maui and Paradise fires have shown us just how deadly and destructive these fires can be. Now it is up to all of us to make sure it doesn't happen again.

POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute America's peace officers during Police Week.

Every day, the men and women in blue keep our communities safe. Even as respect for police has waned in some quarters, I am proud to report that Nebraska has doubled down on our support for law enforcement.

In fact, Nebraska is the best place in the Nation to serve as a peace officer, and we are making it even better.

Before I came to Congress, I was the proud cosponsor of the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act in the Nebraska legislature 2 years ago. This bill provided a variety of cash incentives for officers to help agencies retain and recruit their workforce.

Last year, the legislature passed, and we became the first State in the Nation to provide free college tuition to police officers and firefighters and their immediate families.

Working in Nebraska just makes sense if you are a law enforcement officer. These are just two examples of how we are leading the Nation in recruiting and retaining the best peace officers in the Nation.

NATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight my resolution recognizing today, May 16, as the National Day of Light.

Madam Speaker, 64 years ago Theodore Maiman, an American physicist, invented the first light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, or LASER.

Since then, light-based technologies have grown to play a critical role in innovation. My community of Rochester, New York, is the proud home of one of the largest optics and photonics clusters in the Nation, companies employing thousands of individuals.

As co-chair of the Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus, I am working to make certain that America capitalizes on the potential of light-based technologies, from photonic integrated circuits to quantum computing and communications which strengthens our economy and our national security.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these important efforts.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to shed some light on this under-illuminated celebration.

RECOGNIZING JOEL KRETZ

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a newly retired public servant and good friend of

mine from the State of Washington, representative Joel Kretz.

Since 2005, Joel has been dutifully serving the people of Washington's 7th legislative district. As the largest and most rural district in the State, his dedication may be exemplified in just how long his commute is, over 600 miles round trip between Olympia and his ranch in central Washington.

He has been a champion of responsible land management, a crucial advocate in the fight for wildfire management, and a true defender of the western way of life.

His legislative accomplishments, though many, are not the most interesting thing about Joel. He is a true cowboy, world-class horse breeder, and the embodiment of what it means to be from rural America. Did I say that he is also a great friend of mine.

Now it is time for Joel to hang up his coat and tie, put on his cowboy hat and kerchief, and focus on the long honey-do list of his wife, Luska, that she has waiting for him.

I am delighted about Joel's retirement. He has more than earned it.

ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT ACT

Mr. McCAUL, Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1227, I call up the bill (H.R. 8369) to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HINSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8369

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 "Israel Security Assistance Support Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel, killing over 1,200 innocent people and taking over 240 hostages, including American citizens.

(2) Since October 7, Israel has faced attacks by Iran and its proxies including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, which have required significant military responses.

(3) Under the terms of a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding, the United States provides Israel with \$3.8 billion per year in security assistance and missile defense funding from fiscal years 2019 through 2028, which is subject to the approval of Congress.

(4) Thus far in fiscal year 2024, Congress has enacted regular and supplemental legislation appropriating \$12.5 billion in security assistance and missile defense for Israel without any additional conditions.

(5) Congress plays a vital role in oversight and approval of direct commercial sales and foreign military sales to security partners around the world, including Israel.

(6) In May 2024, it was reported that President Biden ordered a pause on certain defense articles ready for imminent delivery to

Israel, without having consulted with Congress.

(7) On May 8, 2024, President Biden stated regarding Israel, "We're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells".

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the Biden Administration's decision to pause certain arms transfers to Israel as Israel faces unprecedented threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis;

(2) calls on the Biden Administration to allow all previously approved arms transfers to Israel to proceed quickly to ensure that Israel can defend itself and defeat threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis;

(3) calls on the Biden Administration to utilize all congressionally appropriated funds for security assistance for Israel as Congress intended;

(4) stands with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists; and

(5) reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any Act appropriating funds for the Department of Defense or the Department of State for fiscal year 2024 or any prior years may be made available—

(1) to withhold, halt, reverse, or cancel the delivery of defense articles or defense services from the United States to Israel; or

(2) to pay the salary or expenses of any officer or employee of the Department of Defense or the Department of State who takes any action to support or further the withholding, halting, reversal, or cancellation of the delivery of such defense articles or services.

SEC. 5. PROMPT DELIVERY.

(a) PROMPT DELIVERY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall ensure prompt delivery of all defense articles and services for Israel which are expected to be delivered in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including—

(1) those contracted through the Foreign Military Sales system;

(2) those supported by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of Defense; and

(3) those provided pursuant to a declaration in section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(b) PROMPT DELIVERY OF DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure prompt approval and delivery of all direct commercial sales of defense articles and services for Israel which are expected to be delivered in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including those for the Ministry of Public Security.

(c) PROMPT DELIVERY OF WITHHELD ITEMS.—Any defense article and defense service described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section that were withheld from delivery as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall be delivered to Israel not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.

(a) WITHHOLDING OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" for the immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Sen-

ate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

(b) WITHHOLDING OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs under the heading "Diplomatic Programs" for the Office of the Secretary that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

(c) WITHHOLDING OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government under the heading "Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated To the President—National Security Council and Homeland Security Council" that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the President certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

SEC. 7. OBLIGATION REQUIREMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall obligate any remaining unobligated balances of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for assistance for Israel not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. REPORTS.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense and the Department of State shall jointly submit to Congress a report on any actions taken by executive branch officials before the date of the enactment of this Act to withhold, halt, reverse, or cancel the delivery of defense articles and defense services to Israel.

(b) MONTHLY SECURITY ASSISTANCE REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Israel since October 7, 2023, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Israel and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

(c) REPORT ON PRIORITY DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing urgent and high priority defense articles and defense services for Israel and steps taken or planned to expedite the delivery of such articles and services.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally

divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, Hamas' October 7 massacre was as cruel, barbaric, and bloody as anything I have ever seen. Hamas unleashed pure evil on Israel that day. The Hamas terrorists filmed themselves committing brutal atrocities because they were so proud of their barbaric acts.

In fact, in just hours they murdered 1,200 innocent people and took over 250 hostages, including Americans. I say this to remind my colleagues of the moral clarity that we as a body felt in the aftermath of these brutal attacks.

It was obvious to us then that Hamas was ruthless. It was obvious to us that Hamas needed to be eradicated to ensure Israel's security. It was obvious to us that Hamas would fight dirty and use innocent civilians as human shields. It was obvious to us that Israel had no choice but to win this war and end the perpetual terrorist threat.

We all, Republicans and Democrats, spent those weeks talking about our steadfast support for Israel, our ironclad commitment. In fact, Mr. MEEKS and I introduced a bipartisan resolution condemning Hamas in support of Israel which had more cosponsors than any other resolution in the history of the Congress.

However, today, I am deeply disappointed that for some in this country and for the administration that that moral clarity has faded, that their ironclad commitment apparently is not, in fact, ironclad.

In an about-face, the Biden administration is now withholding critical arms necessary for Israel to win this war. This administration wants to dictate how Israel executes the war that they were thrust into.

They did not ask for this war. They did not start this war. Hamas started this war.

Just recently, though, President Biden said that if they go into Rafah, I am not supplying the weapons, period. That would be similar for us, Madam Speaker, to say during World War II, my father's war, that you can invade all the way up to Berlin, but you can't

go into Berlin to finish the job. Imagine if we had done that with our Allies back then.

Israel is in a fight for its very existence, and this administration's public break with Israel has only made negotiations and victory more difficult.

Rafah is a final key military objective to complete the mission against Hamas.

Israel has effectively eradicated 19 battalions throughout Gaza, yet 4 remain in Rafah. This is the last stage of the military operation, and it keeps getting delayed and delayed and delayed.

We know that Hamas is exploiting this cease-fire and using the negotiation process just to buy more time.

Hamas has established a network of tunnels that total over 300 miles in Gaza. These tunnels of terror are where they are holed up ready to strike Israel at the first opportunity.

Their use of tunnels is why Israel must use these larger bombs, to destroy their command and control centers and eliminate the terrorists that find refuge in them.

By the way, contrary to what has been said publicly, these bombs when applied with JDAM kits can become precision-guided weapons. Precision means just that, precise. It goes straight to the target without collateral damage, and it does, indeed, protect innocent civilians.

We know that Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas, is somewhere around these tunnels. Taking him out is critical to defeating Hamas.

Madam Speaker, as the saying goes: War is hell. War is horrific. War is messy. Nobody wants war. Israel did not start this war; Hamas did. Sadly, civilian casualties are part of urban warfare. Israel has limited this number greatly and is opening all routes for humanitarian assistance.

This is despite the fact that Hamas are the ones who use human shields, hide behind hospitals and schools, and put civilians in harm's way.

It was Hamas that destroyed the Erez checkpoint on October 7, significantly impeding aid from getting into Gaza. Since then, they have repeatedly attacked another checkpoint that serves as a major artery of aid into Gaza. Egypt also is currently delaying aid through the Rafah checkpoint.

Just the other day, I saw a video of Hamas killing their own people, Palestinian children simply trying to get food out of the trucks, as they gunned down their own people.

Until Israel finishes the last major operation to remove Hamas from power, to defeat the remaining battalions that are in Rafah, we will never have the peaceful resolution that everybody wants. For until Rafah is destroyed and Hamas is destroyed, we will not be able to get to the peace talks with the Saudis and Israel and the other Arab nations that everyone is so optimistic about.

I can only think of one purpose to withhold these weapons. This adminis-

tration is more concerned about a small vocal wing of activists than the ironclad commitment that they talked about to stand by Israel.

Under this administration, I have noticed a disturbing trend, a trend where we turn our backs on our allies and fall short of the promises we make.

That is why this legislation is so important. It will ensure the weapons are delivered to Israel, and it will reassure our allies that when America makes a commitment, we keep it.

Think about this, Madam Speaker: What kind of a message is this sending both to our allies and friends and our adversaries and enemies? To our allies, it sends a message that we cannot be trusted. To our adversaries, it sends a message that they no longer fear us. It does not send a message of deterrence. It sends a message of weakness. It invites conflict, aggression, and now, yes, war.

Imagine if Iran cut off its weapons to Hezbollah and cut off its weapons to the Houthi rebels, what would be said of Iran? What would be our impression?

They believe they have achieved victory, Madam Speaker, without a shot fired, a victory handed to them by this administration tying the hands of Israel, one hand behind its back, as it moves into the final stage of this war to complete its final mission.

□ 1230

Prime Minister Netanyahu says: I will do this alone if I have to.

He should not have to do this alone. We need to stand with our ally, Israel, stand with her and stand with her to defeat this terrorist organization, Hamas, and bring a final closure and a peaceful resolution to the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 8369, which is a cynical, political exercise by my GOP colleagues to attempt to sow division and use the United States-Israel relationship and American security assistance to advance their own political agenda.

Despite what you have heard and will hear from the other side of the aisle today, Madam Speaker, there is no bigger champion for Israel's long-term security as a Jewish state than President Joe Biden. As I am, the President is committed to eliminating Hamas, and that is clear by what took place recently when he defended, along with other allies, Israel from an Iranian attack.

He visited Israel during wartime, and he has delivered unprecedented aid. To suggest that he is abandoning or harming Israel is absurd. He has been with Israel as a Senator, as a Vice President, and as a President. To insinuate that now, all of a sudden, he is not with Israel is not true at all.

Now, I hear my Republican colleagues argue that leveraging 2,000-pound bombs should not have been

done publicly. That approach has not worked. For months, the Biden administration publicly and privately urged Israel not to launch a major offensive in Rafah without credible plans to avoid mass casualties and to try to evacuate Palestinians to a safe space.

The United States has also repeatedly pressed Israel to cease using large warhead ordnance that results in excessive civilian casualties in densely populated civilian areas. Our humanitarian values are to try to save innocent lives, not saving Hamas, but trying to save innocent men, women, and children while we pursue Hamas—not cutting off all weapons, cutting off these huge bombs that kill innocent individuals—by utilizing munitions that are more appropriate for urban warfare to get Hamas.

To date, Israel has presented no plan to mitigate civilian harm or commitment to not using the 2,000-pound bombs in Rafah. To the contrary, what we heard from Prime Minister Netanyahu last week was that he repeatedly affirmed Israel's plans for an all-out assault on Rafah. That is when the Biden administration confirmed it would temporarily withhold a small number of large warhead bombs so that they would not be used in Rafah.

My Republican friends also seem to think that President Biden's actions are unprecedented, but there is a history of the United States withholding certain security assistance to Israel. Many of my GOP colleagues call themselves Reagan Republicans. Recall that President Reagan did the exact same thing based on concerns with Israel's military actions on two occasions in 1981 and 1982.

These 2,000-pound bombs in question can create a crater up to 50 feet wide and 36 feet deep when dropped. They have a lethal fragmentation to a radius the size of multiple football fields. Such bombs have no place in urban combat, not in Gaza and not in Rafah, one of the most densely populated areas on the planet. The United States has a duty and obligation under law to make sure our weapons are not disproportionately killing civilians.

This bill, H.R. 8369, prohibits the Biden administration from exercising its executive branch prerogative in holding or suspending U.S. arms transfers to Israel, including these large warhead munitions and any other defense article.

It also forces the administration to deliver any such item to Israel within 15 days of enactment and, if the administration is unable to comply, it freezes significant parts of the Defense Department, the State Department, and the National Security Council budgets. According to the Defense Department itself: Withholding defense-wide operations and maintenance funds would jeopardize DOD's ability to fulfill its constitutional obligation to defend the United States which could cause significant harm to United States national security.

Further, these budgetary freezes would undermine U.S. defense leadership when we are simultaneously competing in the Indo-Pacific, supporting Ukraine in its fight against the Russian war of aggression, and working with our partners in sub-Saharan Africa on security challenges. Again, this is all tremendously dangerous for our own national security.

The bill also includes a blatantly political attack on military officers, hardworking civil servants, and U.S. Government employees by mandating Inspector General investigations into individuals, not agencies or departments, and orders the withholding of their salaries in a brazen and politicized witch hunt.

All of these concerns would have been made clear had my Republican colleagues not rushed this bill through without any kind of regular order. Had it been marked up in the Foreign Affairs Committee, we would have been able to highlight that this legislation undercuts a number of crucial existing United States laws that are in the Foreign Affairs Committee's jurisdiction, including the Arms Export Control Act, the Leahy Law, and executive branch policies including the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy and National Security Memorandum 20.

Let me repeat: President Biden paused one arms shipment. One. The President continues to focus on freeing the hostages, to put the onus on Hamas to reach a deal, and supports Israel's right to eradicate Hamas.

That is the position of President Joseph R. Biden. Let's be clear about it.

In conclusion, consider the facts and the context. We should oppose this bill moving forward because it is not good for Israel, and it is not good for the United States of America.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, first, with respect to the first President I had the honor to vote for, Ronald Reagan, in 1982, it was concluded that Israel was violating U.S. and international laws by their use of cluster munitions.

In this case, the Biden administration actually concluded in a national security memo that Israel was not violating U.S. and international laws. Yet, the President still announced his plan to withhold all defensive weapons to Israel. That is a very different situation, and I wanted to rectify and clarify the RECORD on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), who is the author of this bill and the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Israel Security Assistance Support Act. This bill reverses President Biden's misguided attempts to withhold vital security assistance to Israel as they fight to defend their citizens from terrorists.

Just last week, we observed Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemo-

rating the 6 million Jews who were murdered by Nazi Germany. The memory of those lives horrifically taken endures 80 years since the end of the Holocaust. A plaque at Auschwitz states: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Mr. Speaker, we can never forget.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel, killing 1,200 innocent people and taking 240 hostages, including American citizens. It was the worst attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

The Israeli people are still reeling from the barbaric attacks on that day. They are unable to begin healing while still separated from their loved ones taken hostage, and they are determined to ensure no further innocent Israeli lives are taken by radical terrorists.

Over the past 6 months, Israel has been repeatedly attacked by Iran and its terrorist proxy groups: Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis. Each one of these groups has vowed repeatedly to destroy the State of Israel.

The only reason these attacks have been unsuccessful is because of Israel's robust military and because of their missile defense capability, honed by years of defending itself from attacks.

Hamas and others who seek the end of the Jewish state have not run out of weapons, resources, or willpower. In this unprovoked conflict they started, they are using none of these things to defend innocent civilians, preferring to use them instead as human shields.

Hamas has made a choice to continue the conflict by tormenting their hostages and hiding behind civilians. It is time to stop appeasing terrorists and provide Israel with the weapons and support necessary to end this war.

The United States affirmed our resolve to stand with Israel less than a month ago when we passed supplemental appropriations for Israel with strong bipartisan support. This message could not have been clearer.

Astoundingly, last week, The Washington Post reported that President Biden ordered a pause on weapons ready for delivery to Israel—literally on the truck ready to be sent to the airport and flown out to Israel immediately. These are weapons that were previously approved by Congress and the administration. These include 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs that are intended to strike Hamas' extensive tunnel network.

It was also reported that the administration was reviewing planned transfers of 6,500 joint direct attack munition kits which would bring precision to the fight and help minimize civilian casualties.

The Biden administration is ignoring the fact that the State of Israel is surrounded by people who want to destroy them. Iran does not recognize Israel and has called for its elimination. Hamas is committed to the destruction of Israel, and Hezbollah's primary goal

is the elimination of Israel. Iran and its proxies are only deterred through strength, which is why the U.S. must continue to provide weapons to Israel.

Unable to deter Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, or any other nefarious actor seeking to attack the Jewish state, the Biden administration instead is suppressing a close ally.

Members on both sides of the aisle have called for President Biden to reverse his decision. The administration should not ignore the will of Congress as evident through overwhelming bipartisan legislative action.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's decision made it necessary for me, along with Appropriations Committee Chairman TOM COLE, State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee Chairman DAVID JOYCE to introduce the Israel Security Assistance Support Act.

This bill prevents the Defense and State Departments from withholding the delivery of weapons to Israel; requires the administration to ensure prompt delivery of weapons to Israel; mandates that anything withheld from delivery to Israel be delivered within 15 days and withholds funds until they are delivered; requires all assistance to Israel be obligated within 30 days; requires the Inspectors General to report on actions taken by executive branch officials to withhold security assistance to Israel. It also includes comprehensive reporting on weapons deliveries to Israel to ensure congressional intent is met.

□ 1245

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, it is appalling that this legislation is necessary. The reaction of the Biden administration proves that it is. A veto threat and a \$1 billion unrelated aid package were announced almost simultaneously once it became clear that the House intended to take action on that this week.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, to correct the record, President Biden never said, as I hear my colleagues saying, that he is suspending all weapons to Israel. He said specifically the 2,000-pound bombs that cause death to innocent Palestinians are the only things that were paused here, not all weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my pro-Israel efforts began long before my 28 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I believe that my pro-Israel record is as long and as strong as any Member of this House.

I rise to oppose this pseudo pro-Israel bill. It purports to deal with this issue of 2,000-pound bombs. As the ranking member has pointed out, suspensions occurred also under Reagan and Ford. More significantly, this is just a communicative act. It has no strategic significance.

Israel already has such a large stockpile of 2,000-pound bombs and similar weapons that the administration is going to be providing many thousands of JDAM kits to turn those dumb bombs into smart bombs.

The chair is working with several of us on a much better response to this suspension, and I look forward to that working its way through the committee. No one should be tempted to vote for this bill. There will be a better bill.

This bill does nothing to help Israel strategically, but it attacks Israel at its two weakest points. The first is bipartisan support. Israel has one friend in the world. It cannot afford to have only one-half of one friend.

We saw that bipartisan support when 85 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of Republicans voted to provide Israel with \$14 billion of extraordinary aid, but this resolution has poison pills, including condemning Biden by name, in a clear effort to get as little Democratic support as possible.

Second, this bill attacks Israel's international image. Israel, in fact, meets American international standards for minimizing civilian casualties, but what this bill does is it exempts Israel from the Leahy and similar laws, in effect declaring from this Congress to the world that Israel can't meet the standard.

Israel is doing at least as good a job as any military in the history of urban warfare. The report from the Biden administration wasn't as clear as it should be on that but reached the right conclusion.

Congress should not step forward and exempt Israel from a test that Israel clearly meets. That is poison on the international stage.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), an original cosponsor of this bill and chairman of the Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Israel Security Assistance Support Act.

The reason we are here is because the Biden administration, despite all the rhetoric, has broken its so-called iron-clad commitment to Israel by halting shipments of weapons at a time when Israel needs them the most. These are weapons not only that Israel has asked for but that President Biden himself asked Congress to provide. This administration's argument is that the bill undermines the President's ability to "execute an effective foreign policy."

Does anyone really believe that this administration has an effective foreign policy? Do I need to remind my colleagues of what the former Secretary of Defense, Mr. Gates, said of Mr. Biden, that "he has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades"?

What the administration doesn't understand, Mr. Speaker, is what an effective foreign policy requires. It requires having the ability to distinguish allies from enemies, those fighting for their lives in self-defense versus terrorists seeking to kill, harm, and destroy them.

Israel must do what is necessary to eradicate that depraved terrorist group, Hamas, a proxy of terrorist state Iran, the same Iran which also, for the first time ever, under the weakness of this administration, directly attacked Israel.

Israel needs these weapons to eradicate the terrorists who have vowed the destruction of Israel, and Israel needs it to protect itself and its people. Withholding vital resources jeopardizes not only Israel's ability to defend itself but also our national security by harming and weakening our strongest ally.

In the Biden administration's veto threat, Mr. Speaker, it says that the rationale was to prevent unintended consequences, with no other explanation, by the way. What about the likely consequences of failure to fully support Israel now when they need it? Does the administration doubt that Hamas will seize any opening, any opportunity, to further maim, torture, and kill?

Congress approved the supplemental in a bipartisan way, and we expect the administration to follow the law and to deliver. We cannot stand by while the Biden administration tries to force Israel to fight for its very own existence with one hand tied behind its back.

I thank my colleagues, Chairman CALVERT, Chairman COLE, Chairman JOYCE, the Speaker, and Leader SCALISE, for bringing this very important bill to the floor. It is time to tell the administration: Keep your word. Support Israel. Follow the law. Send the weapons that you, Mr. President, and Israel requested.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this political bill. This is not about policy. It is about politics. What a shame.

This is not in Israel's best interests. It is not in this Congress' best interests. The gentleman who just spoke, spoke with passion, immediacy, and urgency. Unfortunately, House Republican leadership has sought to turn it into a partisan issue on multiple occasions. This legislation is their latest attempt.

They claim President Biden is delaying some portion of aid. Where was

that outrage, I ask my colleagues, when, on November 2, you brought a bill to this floor with a poison pill that you knew would not pass and would not be signed by the President of the United States?

If it had been a clean bill, as I told you then, it would have passed with over or approximately 400 votes, but you waited 7 months—not 20 days—7 months. Where was the outrage when we waited 7 months to give Israel aid?

Also, by the way, we delayed on Ukraine, as well. Where was the outrage? I was told over and over again: Well, the Speaker is going to bring it to the floor sometime. He says he is going to bring it to the floor. Seven months—one, two, three—time went by. Where was the outrage then?

This is a political bill that does not help Israel, does not help America, and should be defeated.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, as a special operator in the United States Army, our commitment to each other was to leave no man behind. Our Commander in Chief does not hold to that doctrine.

President Biden has not only turned his back on our ally Israel, but he has also abandoned the Americans still being held hostage by Hamas.

My fellow Americans, this used to mean something. U.S. citizens have been held by terrorists for over 220 days, very reminiscent of the waning days of the Democratic Carter administration when American hostages were left in Iran for 444 days. They were released just minutes after President Reagan took the oath of office.

I pray the hostages in Gaza will not suffer at the hands of Hamas for another 224 days. We don’t even hear the Biden administration mentioning American hostages.

Make no mistake, President Biden is aiding and abetting Hamas terrorists instead of supporting Israel.

I can just imagine the terrorists playing an endless loop of Democrat sound bites to the hostages, saying your President is on our side, with headlines like: “Biden Just Betrayed Israel—and Rewarded Hamas,” “U.S. withholding ‘sensitive intelligence’ on Hamas from Israel,” “Biden Admin Wants Israeli Forces To ‘Get Out Of Gaza,’” and “Pentagon chief confirms U.S. pause on weapons shipment to Israel.”

While our Commander in Chief signals weakness to the world and support to terrorists, I am here to send a message to those being held hostage: You are not forgotten. Congress must fight to get you out in spite of obstacles put in place by Democrats and terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, we must support Israel’s right to eradicate Hamas, and

we must bring our hostages home immediately.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, today is the 223rd day since Hamas slaughtered more than 1,200 people, including 45 Americans. More than 250 people were taken hostage, and 132 are still held, including 8 Americans.

After October 7, President Biden immediately stepped in to help the Jewish state. He traveled to Israel 11 days after the attacks, the first President to do so in wartime. He dispatched two carrier strike groups and has sent hundreds of shipments of weapons to Israel.

When Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel, the U.S. worked with our allies to defeat that attack. President Biden and Secretaries Blinken and Austin have repeatedly clarified that U.S. support for Israel is ironclad, and they continue to match those words with action, this week approving another \$100 billion in arms sales to Israel.

While the administration is doing everything in its power to support our allies, Republicans in Congress play politics.

In the early weeks of the Gaza war, the majority tried to condition aid to Israel on Republican cuts to IRS funding. It took fully 6 months after October 7 for Republicans to finally put the emergency security funding on the floor. It passed overwhelmingly with 366 votes. The delay was clearly partisan.

Let me be clear: It is wrong to withhold even just one shipment of weapons to Israel in its fight as it fights an existential, multifront war. It is okay for friends to disagree, but we must not send mixed signals to Israel’s enemy about U.S. support for the mission to end Hamas’ reign of terror over Gaza, to eliminate the threat to Israel, and to bring the hostages home.

Sadly, Speaker JOHNSON’s approach is different. He drafted a partisan bill with no path forward. It didn’t even go through the Foreign Affairs Committee, where we could have fixed it.

I can’t imagine anyone in this body believes that automatically zeroing out the budget for the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council in the case of delayed arms is a good idea. It is a terrible, dangerous idea, and it is the reason I must vote against this bill.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, and an original cosponsor of this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt stood in this very Hall and asked for a declaration of war against the government that had attacked our fleet the day before at Pearl Harbor, and he solemnly pledged to win through to absolute victory.

On October 7, Hamas targeted and butchered innocent and unarmed women and children. Israel not only has a right to defeat Hamas, it has a moral duty to do so. The killing on both sides can only end with the unconditional surrender of Hamas. The sooner that day comes, the better for all humanity.

Now to hasten that day, the President requested, and the Congress provided, the precision bombs and other munitions that Israel needs to quickly bring this war to an end while minimizing civilian casualties. Now that same President is withholding that aid while sending billions of dollars of supplies into Gaza before Hamas has surrendered.

This act is treacherous, and it must not stand. This measure says so.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this really quickly. One of the speakers before him said Democrats and terrorists are against Israel. That just shows how political this is.

Democrats and Republicans have always been with Israel. To try and distort it and say Democrats are against Israel shows that it is just a partisan argument and not for the benefit of Israel. It is for trying to play politics with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8369 because Joe Biden did the right thing. He made the right decision.

The United States is a friend to the people of Israel. The United States is not a rubberstamp to an extremist Prime Minister who has not prioritized the release of hostages, who has allowed for indiscriminate killings in Gaza, and who has put his own political survival above all else.

Chairman MCCAUL said something I think that was very important. After October 7, the world stood with Israel, expressed support for Israel. I believe all of us did in a bipartisan way.

What has happened since then? Prime Minister Netanyahu has ruined the world’s support. He has done so by not focusing on the hostages, but by allowing his military to bomb hospitals, ambulance convoys, people’s homes, to take out journalists, aid workers, including Americans. The moral compass does not bend in favor of one nation regardless of what it does. That is why the President has done what he has done, and the President’s leverage matters.

When President Biden has taken steps to exercise his leverage, we have

seen immediate results. Last month, President Biden told Israel to open the Erez Crossing in northern Gaza, and 3 days ago, dozens of WFP flour trucks entered through the western Erez Crossing, bringing desperately needed food to starving families.

After the President paused a 2,000-pound bomb shipment, less than 1 percent of the total weapons shipments to Israel, the Israeli Defense Minister raised concerns for the first time that Netanyahu has no plan to rescue the hostages or establish a functioning Palestinian Government in Gaza.

This, in many ways, is our last chance. We must do the right thing ourselves.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8369, the Israel Security Assistance Support Act.

This critical bill ensures defense articles and services are delivered quickly to our steadfast ally, Israel, as they face unprecedented threats from Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iran.

On October 7, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israel, murdering, raping, and torturing more than 1,200 innocent civilians, and abducting over 240 others to Gaza as hostages, including American citizens.

In the following months since this unprovoked terrorist attack, Israel has continued to be under constant assault by Iran and its proxies. We must support our ally, Israel, and ensure that they have the weapons they need to defend themselves, including the small arms, the 50,000 rifles that the Israeli Government has on order that is being held up by our State Department, and the precision-guided munitions.

It is doublespeak. It is unconscionable that the Biden administration complains about civilian collateral damage when they are withholding the exact munitions that minimize civilian collateral damage.

H.R. 8369 would ensure that all previously approved arms transfers to Israel can move forward without interruption, as well as prohibit funds from being used to stop or cancel the shipment of defense items to Israel. In addition, it would require the timely shipment of any items that have been stopped or delayed by President Biden and the Biden administration to be sent within 15 days after enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this critical legislation.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, which, despite what the authors claim, threatens to defund our national security and torch the indispensable U.S.-Israel relationship, and

it is all being done to score cheap political points.

By now we are accustomed to Republicans bringing up nonsensical messaging bills to distract from the fact that they blocked vital aid to Israel for 6 months.

Last week, I spoke out against the delayed weapons shipment and urged the U.S. and Israel to resolve disagreements privately to maintain the united front against Hamas.

The White House and Israel are now clear that those weapons are not needed for the Rafah operation. Just this week, the Biden administration finalized more than a billion dollars in assistance to Israel. Instead of coming together to show bipartisan support for Israel's defense, Republicans return to their political playbook, cynically exploiting Israel as a political wedge issue. However, this isn't another non-binding resolution.

This dangerous, cynical bill is not pro-America or pro-Israel. The bill before us threatens to block funds to our military, the same Armed Forces which defended Israel against an Iranian missile onslaught.

This bill also imperils our diplomats who work nonstop to get hostages released. Undercutting American security undercuts Israel's security.

A plan to defund U.S. national security agencies that send assistance, share intelligence, and help defeat Hamas is exactly how you cut off your nose to spite your face.

October 7 made clear that Israel's needs can evolve overnight. I won't abide by Republicans holding our national security hostage so they can micromanage our Commander in Chief and feign how pro-Israel and pro-military they are.

If you don't like the President holding up one limited shipment for a week, and I don't, you should be livid about Speaker JOHNSON holding up all military aid for 6 months.

I won't allow shortsighted, partisan stunts to masquerade as bipartisan support for Israel. Republicans need to stop the games. Israel needs real, consistent support, not Republican users who have repeatedly made it clear that Israel cannot count on them.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Israel Security Assistance Support Act.

President Biden's threat to withhold aid from Israel is reckless, unjustifiable, and indecent. It flies in the face of the bipartisan support this House recently showed for continuing support of Israel. The American public understands the importance of the American-Israel relationship, how it is in the national security interests of both countries.

The American public understands that Israel is our longstanding ally, a democracy in a region that has very few of them; whereas, Hamas is a ter-

rorist organization that has committed historic atrocities and would not hesitate to do so again.

The President is catering to the most radical elements of his party, the sort of elements that have unleashed chaos on college campuses across this country. It is vitally important that reasonable people on both sides of the aisle come together to reassert our support for Israel as it struggles against this terrorist organization.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud American Jew who steadfastly supports Israel's right to exist as a democratic Jewish state and its right to defend itself after Hamas' barbaric and unprovoked attack on October 7.

The United States must continue to support Israel, to defeat Hamas, release the hostages, including Americans stuck in Gaza, and provide all funding, weapons, and intelligence necessary in order to do that, and that is President Biden's clear policy, as well.

This bill does not do any of that. It does not support Israel. It does not provide any additional funding, any additional weapons, nor any additional support for Israel. Even though Republicans delayed for 6 months, I was pleased when this body finally, in a show of bipartisanship, voted to support Israel with the supplemental aid package several weeks ago. This bill is designed to undermine that bipartisan support, which Israel desperately needs.

As a Jew, I am, frankly, sick and tired of the Republican Party using Israel as a political weapon to divide us, which aids Hamas, Iran, and Israel's enemies.

Mr. Speaker, I have one simple request of my Republican colleagues: If you truly care about Israel, please stop using it as a divisive political pawn. Just stop.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, last month, Congress passed the Israel security supplemental with overwhelmingly bipartisan support, but now the President is holding security assistance to our ally, Israel, hostage.

Let's not forget that Hamas is responsible for this massacre on October 7, with over 1,400 people being murdered and all the horrific actions that have taken place. President Biden's decision to withhold weapons from Israel is a disgrace that will harm Israel's capacity to defend itself. It is yet another foreign policy failure that will prolong the conflict and make things worse in the Middle East.

House Republicans are leading and demonstrating steadfast commitment to Israel, our most important and long-standing ally in the Middle East,

but the Biden administration is choosing to betray the will of Congress. The President doesn't get to pick and choose when he follows the law and when he does not.

Congress must act quickly to reverse this decision and stand with Israel. Support for Israel's defense against the threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis is not a political decision; it is the right decision.

The United States stands with Israel, and I urge support of this.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, horrified by seeing a baby's arm blown off, the President successfully demanded the Israeli Prime Minister to halt the bombing.

President Ronald Reagan also halted deliveries of weapons, but today's Republicans don't want America to lead; they would defer the decisions about the best course for America to Netanyahu and Ben-Gvir. They would place us on a disastrous path of isolation and greater Mideast instability.

They attack President Biden now for halting delivery of 2,000-pound dumb bombs that are used in ways he rightly described as "indiscriminate bombing" that pulverizes large areas and kills and mutilates thousands of innocent women and children.

Leveling Gaza, starving, and killing a multitude offers Israel no genuine victory over Hamas, no end to the cycle of violence.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Hamas can never be a genuine partner for peace, but Netanyahu, so willing to sacrifice the hostages and protect himself, is also obstructing peace. Limiting the flow of bombs is a constructive step forward toward assuring long-term security for the families of America, Israel, and Palestine.

□ 1315

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time until the ranking member has closed.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 7¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I have said from the beginning that today this debate is a cynical, partisan exercise by my Republican colleagues to attack the Biden administration and advance their political agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I have been here for 26 years, and any time Israel came up previously, we didn't play politics with it.

We tried to sit down and work it out and come out unified, Democrats and Republicans. Especially in any foreign policies, one of the things we have done, especially on this committee, is try to work together so that the other countries of the world did not see a divided America but rather a unified America with our allies.

This is true with, for example, Ukraine. After many of my colleagues talked about the delay that took place to pass the supplemental, the whole idea even then was to negotiate together to try to come out with a bill that showed unity; not play politics with it; not try to say, as we have heard in this debate by some on their side: Oh, the Democrats are in cahoots with the terrorists.

That is not who we are. That is not who we should be. We should be the United States Congress talking and working. We are not going to always agree on everything, but to have dialogue and conversation on an issue in a matter that is so serious as this, as we did, as Mr. MCCAUL said correctly.

On October 8, we wanted to make sure that we put a resolution on this floor that over 400 Members of the House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans, could support. We didn't start out agreeing on everything in that resolution. We sat down, and we worked and debated. We went back and forth, and then we came up with a resolution that we could proudly put on the floor to say that the United States Congress is together, that we are not divided.

Mr. Speaker, that is not this bill. We didn't do that on this bill. We didn't even try. Why? Politics—politics in such a crucial time as this, with all that is going on.

We were together and made sure that we were working together. We were talking to our Arab colleagues about normalization with Israel. Why? It is because that makes for a better Middle East. It is good for Israel. It is good for our allies in the region. It is good for the United States of America.

That is not what this bill is all about. This bill is not good for Israel, and it is not good for our allies in the region. Chairman MCCAUL is correct when he said that we want to make sure that Saudi Arabia plays and has normalization with Israel as well as others in the Gulf area.

Speak to them and ask them if this bill will make the area better. Speak to them and include them in that dialogue. Because if we want a better Middle East, peace for Israel, and the Jewish state to move forward where they don't have to worry about a threat, we need to work together, not alone.

That is the dialogue and conversation we should be having. That is who we should be as leaders. That is who we should be as the indispensable nation. Those are our values.

We should value every human life. We should be concerned when we see people starving, innocent individuals.

That shows who we are. That is leadership. That brings people together. That is good for Israel, and that is good for the United States of America, not this.

People are watching all over the world. Who are we? Are we just going to continue to divide? Are we going to be a nation divided? We can't sit down to talk and work things out? I know we can. Mr. MCCAUL and I do it all the time.

We are having a markup right now, 14 bills in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. We didn't start out agreeing, but we worked it out. We have 14 bills today, all of them bipartisan. That is who we are. That is who we should be.

You heard Mr. SHERMAN say he is working now on another bill that we can work on together. That is who we are. That is who we should be.

Let's make a difference. Let's not play politics on the House floor. Let's make a difference. We can do this. We are better than this. We are better than this.

I saw today on our committee—and I am proud of this committee—Democrats and Republicans talking back and forth on their differences, trying to figure out how we can change this and move so that we can pass a bill in the committee. I was listening as we were doing certain things, and truthfully, it made me proud to see how we were working together.

I say to my colleagues on the other side: Let's not do this. We are better than this, especially on foreign affairs. I mean, we are going to have our political domestic issues, but not on foreign affairs. Let's not play politics here. There is too much at stake, just too much at stake for us, for others.

They expect more from us. Let's give them more. Let's show them we can work together. Let's show them why we are the greatest country that this planet has ever seen. We are the United States of America.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

First, let me just say in response that I also appreciate our friendship, our partnership, Mr. MEEKS and myself. We are very proud of our committee and our committee's record of working in a very bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, following the Holocaust, the world said: Never again.

Following the massacre on October 7, this body, through our bipartisan resolution, said: Never again. When we said that, I thought we meant that.

When President Biden said to Israel after the attacks, "As long as the United States stands . . . we will not let you ever be alone," I thought he meant that.

Now, in their moment of need, this administration has turned their backs on Israel, halting shipments of weapons they desperately need to win. This administration has sowed the seeds of doubt on this Nation's commitments to our allies.

We abandoned Afghanistan to the Taliban.

We slow-walked weapons to Ukraine, giving them just enough to bleed out but not to win.

President Biden's decision to withhold weapons, approved by myself, the chairman, and the ranking member, and appropriated by Congress, defied congressional intent and is tantamount to an arms embargo.

Mr. Speaker, red lines are meant for our enemies. Red lines are not meant for our allies and our friends, but that is precisely what this administration is doing to Israel.

What a terrible message to send to our allies. Even more dangerous is the message that we are sending to our adversaries.

This week marked the 76th anniversary of Israel's independence. Think about that and the timing of this. To mark this occasion, the State Department released a statement saying: "The United States was the first country to recognize Israeli statehood when Israel declared independence in 1948. Our history of shared democratic values, trade, deep cultural ties, and commitment to regional security has provided the basis for our countries' strong partnership and friendship."

A strong partnership and commitment to regional security means standing with our allies, not withholding vital weapons during an unprecedented war and not withholding vital weapons after Iran, for God's sake, for the first time in the history of the State of Israel, fired endless rockets from Iran directly into Israel.

We all want peace and stability in the region, but that cannot happen as long as Hamas remains in power.

Israel remains under attack, and as their closest ally and partner, we must give them the tools they need to finish the job. The time is now. We cannot wait any longer. It has been delayed enough.

Only until that final military objective is completed can we begin the other phase of this that Mr. MEEKS and I have been looking forward to, and that is working with the Saudis and Israelis on a security agreement, along with the other Arab nations, to finally just maybe bring peace and prosperity to a part of the world that has been at war for so many years, for way too long.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and to stand with Israel in its darkest hour. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8369, the Israel Security Assistance Support Act.

It is deeply disappointing to see the Republican majority continue to play politics with America's national security. For over a year, Republicans refused to work in good faith with Democrats on bipartisan solutions to fund the federal government, including the Department of Defense, and support our Ukrainian allies in their fight against Putin's illegal invasion of their nation. Now, Republicans are using as-

sistance to Israel to attack President Biden, and place unprecedented restrictions on the administration's ability to implement American foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that I believe the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023, were a barbaric and heinous act that cannot ever be excused. I condemned the attacks when they took place, and I continue to condemn them. I also believe that Israel has the right to self-defense, and I have always supported defensive security assistance to Israel, like Iron Dome.

But as a democracy, Israel, just like the United States, has a certain responsibility to its people and to the world to ensure the protection of civilian lives by defending itself in a proportionate manner. As a Member of Congress, I have been consistent in this belief my entire career, and I hold Israel to the same standard that I hold the United States to when we use military force. When I have felt that American administrations have failed to live up to this standard, I have said so publicly. That includes former President Trump's decision to use excessive force in Syria which resulted in the unnecessary deaths of civilians in American airstrikes. Unfortunately, the last seven months have shown that Prime Minister Netanyahu's government has pursued a grossly disproportionate use of force in Gaza as a response to the Hamas terrorist attacks.

The United Nations now believes that the death toll in Gaza has reached over 35,000 people, many of them women and children. The Israeli government has deliberately used large ordinance to destroy critical infrastructure in Gaza like hospitals and schools. Humanitarian assistance has been repeatedly stalled, and Northern Gaza faces catastrophic levels of malnutrition. Now it appears that Prime Minister Netanyahu intends to launch a broad military offensive into the city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinian civilians are sheltering. The results would be catastrophic.

The level of death and destruction that Prime Minister Netanyahu has inflicted on Gaza is shocking, has made Israel less safe, and must end immediately. That is why I have called for a regional ceasefire since October of last year. I commend President Biden and his national security team for working with partners in the region to try to secure a ceasefire. I also support President Biden's recent decision to pause shipments of certain types of offensive weaponry to Israel as a way of preventing further catastrophic loss of life in Gaza, particularly in Rafah. And let's be clear, the President's actions to withhold some security assistance are entirely consistent with U.S. law. They are also consistent with the actions of previous Republican administrations, including those led by Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Both these Republican administrations withheld and conditioned certain military assistance to Israel to affect a change in Israeli policy when it was misaligned with the foreign policy goals of the United States. This history speaks to why the legislation before us today is so dangerous.

H.R. 8369 would eliminate all control and oversight that the administration has over the flow of taxpayer funded weapons, including highly destructive offensive weapons like 2,000- and 500-pound dumb bombs, to Israel. This legislation would force the delivery of these types of weapons to Israel within 15 days of being signed into law, and it would in-

extricably tie the administration, and America's foreign policy itself, to the way Prime Minister Netanyahu chooses to prosecute Israel's military campaign in Gaza. If Republicans had their way and this bill were to be enacted, the Government of Israel would set America's foreign policy instead of our own President and his administration. The precedent this would create is dangerous. The only Nation that should decide where and how the American taxpayer's dollars are utilized is the United States of America. Full stop.

As if H.R. 8369 were not bad enough, the legislation contains provisions that would withhold funding for portions of the budgets for the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the National Security Council until all assistance to Israel had been delivered. As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I find the threat to withhold funding for national security agencies charged with defending our Nation to be an appalling and shocking abdication of the Republican majority's responsibilities to govern our Nation in a safe and responsible manner.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8369 is one of the worst pieces of legislation produced by the 118th Congress, and that is saying something. America's foreign policy decisions are ours to make, led by the administration in office at the time. Forcing taxpayer dollars to be sent to any other nation, while prohibiting the ability of the Executive Branch to provide suitable oversight and ensure that those funds are not being used in contravention of U.S. law, will make America less secure and have tremendous negative consequences.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Meeks of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8369 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1330

LEOSA REFORM ACT

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1227, I

call up the bill (H.R. 354) to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-34 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 354

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “LEOSA Reform Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY ACT AND THE GUN-FREE SCHOOL ZONES ACT OF 1990.

Section 922(q)(2)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (vi);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (vii) and inserting “; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) by an individual authorized by section 926B or 926C to carry a concealed firearm.”.

SEC. 3. MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY ACT.

(a) Each of sections 926B(a) and 926C(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or any other provision of Federal law, or any regulation prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior pertaining to a unit of the National Park System” after “thereof”.

(b) Each of sections 926B(b) and 926C(b) of such title are amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, except to the extent that the laws apply on property used by a common or contract carrier to transport people or property by land, rail, or water or on property open to the public (whether or not a fee is charged to enter the property)” before the semicolon; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, except to the extent that the laws apply on property used by a common or contract carrier to transport people or property by land, rail, or water or on property open to the public (whether or not a fee is charged to enter the property)” before the period.

(c) Each of sections 926B(e)(2) and 926C(e)(1)(B) of such title is amended by inserting “any magazine and” after “includes”.

(d) Section 926C(c)(4) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(4) has met the standards for qualification in firearms training during the most recent period of 12 months (or, at the option of the State in which the individual resides, a greater number of months, not exceeding 36 months), and for purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘standards for qualification in firearms training’ means—

“(A) the standards for active duty law enforcement officers as established by the former agency of the individual;

“(B) the standards for active duty law enforcement officers as established by the State in which the individual resides;

“(C) the standards for active duty law enforcement officers employed by any law enforcement agency in the State in which the individual resides; or

“(D) any standard for active duty law enforcement officers for firearms qualification con-

ducted by any certified firearms instructor within the State in which the individual resides;”.

(e) Section 926C(d) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “not less recently than one year before the date the individual is carrying the concealed firearm, been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the active duty standards for qualification in firearms training as established by the agency to carry” and inserting “met the standards for qualification in firearms training required by subsection (c)(4) for”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) a certification issued by the former agency of the individual, the State in which the individual resides, any law enforcement agency within the State in which the individual resides, or any certified firearms instructor within the State in which the individual resides that indicates that the individual has met the standards for qualification in firearms training required by subsection (c)(4).”.

SEC. 4. PERMITTING QUALIFIED CURRENT AND RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO CARRY FIREARMS IN CERTAIN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

Section 930 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the end;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) the possession of a firearm or ammunition in a Facility Security Level I or II civilian public access facility by a qualified law enforcement officer (as defined in section 926B(c)) or a qualified retired law enforcement officer (as defined in section 926C(c)).”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The term ‘Facility Security Level’ means a security risk assessment level assigned to a Federal facility by the security agency of the facility in accordance with the biannually issued Interagency Security Committee Standard.

“(5) The term ‘civilian public access facility’ means a facility open to the general public.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 354.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 354, the Law Enforcement Safety, or LEOSA, Reform Act allows qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in national parks, school zones, public transportation, and some Federal facilities that are open to the public.

LEOSA was initially signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2004 to exempt certain active and retired law enforcement officers from local and State prohibitions on the carrying of concealed firearms. In order to qualify under LEOSA, active law enforcement officers must meet several important requirements. For example, they must be authorized to carry a firearm by their agency.

They cannot be subject to disciplinary actions by the agency that can result in the loss of their police power.

They must meet certain firearm qualification standards. They cannot be under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances. They must not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

Retired law enforcement officers must also meet several requirements in order to qualify under LEOSA. For example, they must have separated from service in good standing and served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more. They also are required to meet certain firearm training standards and must not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

The LEOSA Reform Act will allow these officers to carry a concealed firearm in the same manner many citizens carry a firearm in their State.

For example, the LEOSA Reform Act will allow law enforcement officers qualified under LEOSA to carry concealed firearms in national parks, Federal facilities that are open to the public, on public transportation, in school zones, and in other areas.

The bill also reduces the frequency that qualified retired law enforcement officers are required to obtain certain qualification standards.

Many States allow State-licensed, concealed carry permit holders to carry concealed firearms in gun-free school zones and on public transportation in the State in which they are licensed. This bill affords certain law enforcement officers the same privilege.

The legislation improves public safety. Our officers face greater dangers, and current restrictions hinder their ability to carry firearms.

At a time when violent crimes continue to plague our Nation, we must support our active and retired law enforcement officers and ensure that they are able to protect themselves and others, no matter where they are in the United States.

This legislation is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs of America, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and many others.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Before I speak on the LEOSA Reform Act, let me express my deep disappointment in the behavior of the Judiciary Committee majority.

The Judiciary Committee is now considering a resolution to hold in contempt the Attorney General of the United States for refusing to submit certain audio recordings to the committee.

I think it is a deeply wrong request. I have expressed my opinion in committee. I am not going to go through it again here.

The point is, we have a series of Judiciary Committee bills now, and the Judiciary Committee is meeting on that resolution now. Members of the Judiciary Committee who may want to speak on this series of bills we are going to be considering now cannot because they are trapped in the Judiciary Committee considering the contempt resolution. I cannot vote against the contempt resolution because I am stuck here.

It is normally the practice that when you have committee business on the floor, you suspend the committee meeting so that people can do their work.

I very much protest that the committee is still meeting while we have committee bills on the floor so that I must choose between dealing with these bills or voting on the contempt citation, and other members of the committee cannot be here to debate these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the LEOSA Reform Act. This bill threatens the safety of all Americans by advancing the Republican agenda of more guns for more people in more public places.

In 2004, Congress enacted the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, or LEOSA, which forced States to allow off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons even when doing so conflicted with that State's concealed carry laws.

It garnered bipartisan opposition, including from the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee at the time, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, because it supplanted the judgment of the States about the appropriate use of firearms.

It was also opposed by organizations such as the International Chiefs of Police, which was concerned that it could endanger law enforcement by causing confusion among local police who might not be able to distinguish between a criminal and the retired officer using a firearm.

Other organizations opposed it because it could put police agencies at risk for liability for an officer who misuses a weapon in another State and because the requirements for retired officers were insufficient.

Despite these objections, LEOSA became law, but importantly, it included exceptions for places like government buildings, gun-free school zones, and private property where States have a special interest in retaining control of their gun safety laws.

These exceptions have been in place for 20 years and have served as important protections, but this legislation tosses those exceptions out the window.

It forces States to allow off-duty and retired officers to carry firearms on playgrounds, in government buildings, and on buses, trains, subways, and boats.

It undermines State laws limiting magazine capacity. It reduces the rights of private property owners who may not want concealed weapons on their property or in their businesses.

It relaxes training standards so that some people will be able to carry a concealed firearm, even though it has been 3 years since their last firearms training certification.

In addition, this legislation unravels Federal laws that have kept firearms out of Federal facilities. It does this for Federal facilities that are "open to the public" that are classified as "Facility Security Level I or II," definitions that will create significant confusion for those trying to abide by it and for those tasked with enforcing it.

For example, if a Federal facility is only partially open to the public or only open to the public during certain hours, does it fall within the bill's definition? We don't know.

What about a facility that is open to the public so long as they are not carrying firearms? The bill does not say.

As the bill itself states, the Facility Security Level is determined on a facility-by-facility basis and may not be publicly posted, so it is virtually impossible to know what Federal facilities are included in this definition.

We looked for a listing of Federal facilities that are classified at these security levels, and we could not find one.

Members may even have offices in Federal facilities that will suddenly be forced to allow concealed firearms in their doors as a result of this legislation.

Not only would this bill inject confusion into Federal law, but it also intrudes on private property rights and undermines States' careful determinations on how best to protect their citizens from gun violence.

I urge members to join me in opposing this misguided legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I actually listed four organizations. There are 21 law enforcement agencies and organizations around the country that support this legislation.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a friend of mine and one of the best shots I know.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. This LEOSA Reform Act will expand the ability of qualified officers, whether active, retired, or no longer in law enforcement, to carry concealed

firearms in any State or territory, regardless of State or local laws.

If we trust our law enforcement officers to carry guns while they are wearing a badge, why wouldn't we trust them to carry one on State and Federal property in their retirement?

There is no one better trained and equipped to safely use and carry these firearms. In fact, we encourage our officers at the State and local level to carry their firearms when they are off duty because they are never off duty.

□ 1345

They are always required to respond if an incident occurs in their presence. Officers carry off-duty anyway, but what this does is expand that protective force multiplier concept to the entire country. I don't see what is wrong with that. In fact, I think it makes good sense that we would want good men and women who are qualified to carry firearms to protect those who do not.

This bill also gives retired officers more flexibility in the timing of their firearms recertification, reducing unnecessary burdens while ensuring that they are still properly trained in firearm proficiency. They must remain proficient.

Officers would be able to carry a concealed firearm if they qualify yearly, or whatever their State may require, up to a 3-year limit.

The LEOSA Reform Act also extends concealed carry rights into, as you heard earlier, certain Federal facilities, such as post offices and Social Security Administration offices, whether or not they are there in an official capacity.

I am not sure how that would create a lot of confusion. We carry firearms into all sorts of facilities now. This simply makes it open to these Federal facilities.

This legislation very importantly will also exempt LEOSA-certified officers from State magazine capacity limits, which is very important. This will simplify concealed carry for officers as they travel across cities and States, ensuring that, in various locations, their local laws don't interfere with the operational readiness of these officers.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, as a former sheriff, I have seen how law-abiding citizens have used legally owned and carried firearms to protect their lives, their family's lives, and the lives of others who they don't even know in many situations in my own hometown of Jacksonville. These officers have dedicated their lives to protecting the public. We must leverage every bit of their training and skills to keep our communities safe even when they are out of uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill to keep our police officers ready to protect our communities wherever they may find themselves. This will be a tremendous force multiplier for all of our

State and local law enforcement agencies.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation intrudes on the States' ability to make their own judgments about public safety, concealed firearms, and the regulation of their own law enforcement and would make us all less safe.

We hear from the other side of the aisle all the time about States' rights. Then, we get legislation like this that overrules the States and says we know best about issues of public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues across the aisle very often told us that we didn't need firearms to protect ourselves, that they would send the police, and then last year and the year before, they were calling to defund the police. The very constituents that they said, don't worry, you can call the police, they want to defund.

Now, they want to disarm retired law enforcement officers, who could be Johnny-on-the-spot, in many cases, to save civilian lives.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

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

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. 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.

POLICE OUR BORDER ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8146.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8146.

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

□ 1353

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 8146) to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level, with Mr. RUTHERFORD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, on Inauguration Day of 2021, our borders were secure. The Trump remain in Mexico policy had cut phony asylum claims to a trickle. The border wall was nearing completion. The court-ordered deportations were being enforced. By the end of that day, President Biden had reversed those policies, and thus began the greatest illegal mass migration in history.

Since that day, he has allowed 6.9 million illegal migrants to enter our country and demand free food, free clothing, free legal assistance, free education, free shelter, free lodging, free phones, and free cash. Except, of course, it is not the least bit free. It all comes out of the earnings of American families and out of the services that we set aside for Americans in need.

Unlike legal immigrants who obey our laws and do everything our country asks of them, the first act of these 6.9 million aliens who have illegally entered our country is to commit a Federal crime. I have watched them personally taunt our Border Patrol at the border as they do so.

Woke cities and States have passed sanctuary laws that forbid our law enforcement officials to turn over illegal aliens who have committed other crimes to ICE for deportation as the law requires. This administration has made these policies national by refusing to enforce over a million court-ordered deportations.

It shouldn't surprise us that many who are willing to violate our immigration laws are also willing to violate the rest of our laws, as well. The number of terrorist suspects that the Border Patrol has encountered has ballooned exponentially, and law enforcement officials are warning that

among the 1.9 million got-aways—mostly single, military-aged men—is likely a dangerous fifth column, which could soon launch devastating attacks within our borders.

Fentanyl brought in through the open border is killing hundreds of Americans every day. The Democrats' sanctuary policies hamstringing attempts to deport criminal illegal aliens. Worst of all, the admission of untold thousands of the most vicious gang members on the planet is now producing a terrible butcher's bill of murders and assaults on Americans.

When the Federation for American Immigration Reform looked at the requests by States to be reimbursed for the cost of incarcerating aliens, they found that immigrants are 231 percent more likely jailed for crimes in California, 440 percent more likely in New Jersey, and 60 percent more likely in Texas, just to name a few.

Immigrants are 231 percent more likely to be jailed in California, according to their own SCAAP numbers. You won't find that anywhere else because it is illegal in California to otherwise report the immigration status of criminals and criminal suspects. By their criteria, not a single crime is committed by illegals in California, yet their jails are overflowing with them.

As of last December, there were at least 617,000 aliens on Immigration and Customs Enforcement's non-detained docket who have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. Yet, these dangerous offenders are out on American streets, free to re-offend.

This past year, Mr. Biden removed 60 percent fewer criminal illegal aliens than Trump did in 2019 despite an exponential increase of illegal aliens entering our country, and we are seeing the results every day in murders and assaults on America's streets and in empty chairs at Americans' family dinner tables.

Earlier this year, New York City Police Commissioner Edward Caban declared that "a wave of migrant crime has washed over our city." He should know because, earlier this year, a group of illegal aliens brutally assaulted two NYPD officers. New York Mayor Eric Adams described the assault as "an attack on the foundation of our symbol of safety." He then called on the city council to consider if there should be more collaboration with Federal immigration officials. I suppose it is better late than never.

The bill before us today, H.R. 8146, the Police Our Border Act, requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact of the Biden border policies on law enforcement officers. This report would document officer safety concerns that are linked to increased cross-border movement, such as fentanyl exposure and assaults on law enforcement officers. The report would also examine the overall burden of this unfolding tragedy on law enforcement capabilities and officer morale.

Our men and women in blue continue to protect our communities even when our communities don't fully support them. We owe them better as a nation. With this measure, we declare our determination to recognize and document the threats they face so that we can enact measures to make it harder for a President to ever again unleash these threats upon the American people.

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

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

Mr. Chair, this year, our Republican majority has wasted time passing three different but equally meaningless resolutions related to the Biden administration's immigration policies. This week, we debated a fourth.

We now move on to yet another meaningless and poorly written piece of immigration legislation. Just like the four resolutions, this bill is full of empty rhetoric that will do nothing to solve the situation at the border.

□ 1400

Not a single dollar will go to help our law enforcement agents at the border as a result of this bill. Not a single person will be denied entry to this country as a result of this bill. Not a single community will be made safer as a result of this bill.

It is just another stale attempt to demonize and fearmonger about immigrants wrapped in fresh packaging.

The bill itself is an oddly written and thrown together reporting bill that claims to require the Attorney General to produce a report on the impact of the Biden border crisis on Federal, State and Tribal law enforcement.

When it comes to reporting bills, I am usually supportive. It is essential for us to conduct oversight of the executive branch, and reports are an important way to do that.

Unfortunately, this bill is such a sham and is riddled with so much misinformation and blatantly partisan political rhetoric masquerading as fact that I cannot support it.

Here is just one example of how poorly written the bill is. It requires the Attorney General to report on the impact of the so-called Biden border crisis without defining that term. Without a definition, the term is meaningless, and the Attorney General would have no guidance to know what data the report should actually contain.

The obvious cheap political rhetoric exposes this legislation as an unserious messaging bill. Beyond that, in a world where my Republican colleagues consistently say that they do not trust the Attorney General to carry out their intent, the lack of definitions makes little sense.

The bill also attempts, incorrectly, to paint undocumented migrants as being the primary source of fentanyl brought into the country, when we know that this is not true. The vast majority of fentanyl is seized at ports

of entry, trafficked by U.S. citizens. Over 86 percent of those convicted for fentanyl-related drug trafficking convictions are U.S. citizens.

Furthermore, cartels are not risking their product on people who illicitly cross the border between points of entry. In fiscal year 2023, CBP seized approximately 27,000 pounds of fentanyl. Less than 10 percent of those drugs were seized by the Border Patrol.

The vast majority, or roughly 90 percent of fentanyl, was seized by the Office of Field Operations, which mans the ports of entry.

Lastly, the bill asks the Attorney General to report on the resources devoted to addressing the border and the resources that are "not available to law enforcement agencies."

However, at every turn, it has been Republicans who have voted against giving DHS the resources it needs to do its job. In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the bipartisan infrastructure deal, which provided additional funding to modernize ports of entry and allow for non-intrusive inspections to combat the smuggling of people and drugs.

Likewise, all but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for Customs and Border Protection and border security operations in the FY 2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to CBP, including \$60 million to hire an additional 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for nonintrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

When it comes to the President's supplemental request, which would provide \$14 billion for border security, we have not had a single hearing, let alone a vote on the request. The President has requested vital funds for 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims so that people could get their asylum claims adjudicated in weeks, not in years.

The Republicans are fond of talking about catch and release, but that is because it takes years for someone to get his asylum case adjudicated. The President has requested these funds, and if he got the 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers as well as the funds, you would adjudicate these cases in weeks, not years.

He has also asked for funds for additional personnel at ports of entry and technology to stop drugs from coming into the country. The Republicans have said no.

As a final indication of just how unserious this bill is, its findings state that Congress should pass and the President should sign into law "strong border security legislation."

Never mind the fact that it was House Republicans who walked away from a bill negotiated by one of the most conservative Members of the Senate, a bill that Senator MCCONNELL called the toughest border bill in 30

years, all because Donald Trump told them he wanted the issue for the election, not a solution.

Now, I know my Republican friends will say, well, there is H.R. 2, which is a better bill. Well, I don't know whether it is a better bill, but it is a bill that cannot pass. It could not get more than 32 votes in the Senate with 49 Republican Members.

You don't get strong border security legislation by passing congressional resolutions and reports. You have to do the hard work of legislating, but that appears to be far beyond the capacity of this Republican majority. Instead, they are reduced to pointless bills like this that accomplish nothing and are full of misleading talking points.

We deserve better than this waste of time.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, when my friend complains about partisan Republican rhetoric, I would advise him to listen to his own constituents who are begging their Representatives in New York and Chicago and Denver whose social services are being overwhelmed by the tidal wave of illegal immigration that this administration has unleashed and that my friend has defended every day in this House.

He complains that the term "Biden border crisis" isn't defined. He might want to open his eyes and look around him or open his ears to hear the pleas of his own constituents.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), the author of this measure.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, I am not really sure where to begin.

My friend across the aisle said that we would talk about H.R. 2, but that it didn't have the votes to pass. Well, I think we are in the same situation as the imaginary bill he talks about which never made it out of the Senate and wasn't a solution. It was a surrender.

If you need a definition of the "Biden border crisis," let's talk about the over 8 million illegal migrants that have come over this border since Joe Biden has taken office.

Let's talk about the over 1.3 million known got-aways that have come into this country that we don't know what they are doing, who they are talking to, or who they are associating with.

Let's talk about the record number of illegal narcotics that have come across the southern border.

Let's talk about the problems, the draining of resources that the migrant crisis, the Biden border crisis, is leaving on law enforcement across this country.

I am not just going to focus on police departments back in New York. Let's start farther away. Let's start with and talk about sheriffs and deputies along the southern border who have said that the Biden border crisis has affected

every single bit of industry in their State or county.

Let's talk about sheriffs that, Mr. Chair, we have visited who have said their jails are full to capacity. Why? Because of the Biden border crisis.

I am not really sure what my good friend from New York across the aisle needs more explanation about the Biden border crisis, but I will tell you this: Law enforcement throughout this country has made it explicitly clear. They have made it explicitly clear that they need help, that they need communication, and that is exactly what this bill does.

It is not a messaging bill.

It requires the Justice Department to provide to law enforcement agencies information, intelligence, and explain to them the issues that are plaguing this country that the migrants are affecting so that we, Congress, can provide the resources that these law enforcement agencies need.

Now, this isn't just Republicans talking about this. The very city that my friend across the aisle represents, the mayor of the city of New York, Eric Adams, has said: "The migrant crisis will destroy New York City."

I have to remind my friend across the aisle that the very department who provides him executive protection, the New York City Police Department, has said that they need more information and that communication between law enforcement agencies should be better. Whether it is Customs and Border Protection, whether it is local agencies, whether it is other Federal agencies, the communication should be better.

So this is a step in the right direction to make sure that law enforcement agencies throughout the country have the ability and have the information that they need to effectively protect and serve the communities they represent.

You see, H.R. 2 was a great starting point. Over a year ago, House Republicans not only put H.R. 2 across the finish line in the Homeland Security Committee but got it across the finish line on the floor of this House. It was voted against by Democrats. It was sent over to the Senate where it has collected dust on CHUCK SCHUMER's desk. It has collected dust, and in the process, the crisis at our southern border, Mr. Chair, the Biden border crisis, has gotten worse. It has affected more people. People have died because of the failed policies of Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas.

The fact that we have our colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying that this is about messaging, well, Mr. Chair, I wonder if they would deliver that same message to the family and loved ones of victims who have fallen prey to the Biden border crisis.

Mr. Chair, when we are back home in our districts, we need to assure our constituents. They need to know that we are committed and dedicated to fact-finding and well-researched policy.

Mr. Chair, the other side of the aisle can't support this simply because they

are trying to deny that there is even a crisis. The fact that we are wondering what is the definition of the Biden border crisis is actually scary. It is either they are not paying attention, they are not reading the newspapers, they are not focused on the facts, or they just don't care.

What I will tell you is there is a crisis, and the crisis has gotten worse because of Joe Biden.

We have seen migrants in some videos that have gone viral on social media. As a matter of fact, two of the victims of some of these crimes were my guests right here at the State of the Union, two members of the NYPD who were brutally attacked in Midtown Manhattan by illegal migrants.

We know for a fact that migrants smuggle narcotics into this country. We know for a fact that illegal migrants have been arrested for brutal crimes and for making communities less safe.

We know for a fact that illegal migrants have been part of burglary rings, not just in sanctuary cities, but in places that surround them, like my home on Long Island.

This is a crisis. It is the Biden border crisis. This piece of legislation is common sense. It is about making sure that we provide the necessary information, communication, and resources to law enforcement agencies throughout this country so that they can continue to do the best with what they have, they continue to do the best with the hurdles that are in front of them, that they continue to do the best because they are facing, just like all of us, the historic disaster at our southern border that is the Biden border crisis.

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

My friend from New York talks about the Biden border crisis, and he talks about the bill that failed in the Senate because the former President, former President Trump, told the Senate, told Republicans not to vote for it because he wanted an issue. He didn't want the problem solved; he wanted an issue.

□ 1415

He said it in his own words. Congressman NEHLS said it in his own words.

H.R. 2, which they claim to support, in fact, would never get more than 32 votes in a 49 Republican Member Senate. Republicans didn't support it, never mind the Democrats.

The only viable bill was the bill negotiated by MITCH MCCONNELL and Senator LANKFORD. It was the most conservative bill in a generation, and one that was supported by the union representing the Border Patrol people. However, that bill was killed because President Trump wanted no progress and said so. At least he was honest about it. He said: I don't want any progress in this area. I want an issue.

My Republican friends are talking about the issue that could have been solved by now if it weren't for President Trump's ordering them not to solve it.

We will hear a lot of rhetoric about solving a problem when they are participating in what amounts to a plot not to solve the problem by passing the strict bill that could have been passed, that was supported by and that is supported by the union representing the border patrolmen and could actually solve the problem.

They don't want to solve the problem. They just want to talk about the problem.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, my friend calls the Senate bill the only viable bill.

If it is so viable, then where is it?

The Senate bill could not be passed by the Senate.

H.R. 2 was passed out of this House and did ultimately receive, I believe, 47 votes in the Senate. The Democrats love to tout the Senate bill. That bill would not have ended Biden's open-border policies. It would have institutionalized them.

Current law gives the President full authority to secure our border. Trump proved that. It requires asylum claimants to be detained. Trump did that.

This bill that he talks about would leave future Presidents powerless to secure the border until illegal immigration reaches 4,000 a day, 1.5 million a year, and it would have required that they be released into our country. That is the Democrats' idea of border security, a guaranteed 4,000 illegal aliens being released into our country every day.

Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague, my friend from California, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I want to speak on H.R. 354, the previous bill that we just debated on. It is my legislation that I have worked on for 7 years. It is the LEOSA Reform Act.

What does this bill do?

It says that if you are a retired law enforcement officer, Mr. Chair, or if you are an off-duty law enforcement officer and you maintain your gun qualifications, then you can carry your sidearm. We used to have LEOSA that was standardized throughout all 50 States, but over time, over the last decade, it has gotten very uneven, and it has been chipped away at in various States. We want to level the table again for all of our law enforcement officers.

When I talk to our county sheriffs, and I have three of them, this is their number one priority. Their number one ask is to get LEOSA passed again. When I talk to our Federal law enforcement, it is also one of the top requests that they have.

Mr. Chair, why is it called the law enforcement safety bill?

It is because, just picture, if you will, if you are in a theater, and someone who is deranged starts shooting their weapon at people, hurting or killing innocent people, who would you want to have in there, Mr. Chair?

I would want to have an off-duty policeman or a retired policeman who has maintained their qualifications and who has been trained to respond to these kinds of killers and these kind of incidents.

This is what LEOSA allows. It improves the safety of wherever they are with these retired policemen or off-duty policemen.

I have talked to Federal agents who have arrested serious narcotics dealers, and they have a price on their head. They have a bounty, if you will. When they are retired, they want to carry, as well, to defend themselves and their family.

Mr. Chair, I hope we can have a bipartisan vote on this bill. It is one of the top requests of law enforcement officers at the local, State, county, and Federal level for us to get this done. This would be a way to say thank you to the law enforcement who serve every day, who put their lives on the line, and who still want to serve when they are retired and be there when and if needed.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chair, as it is National Police Week, I want to begin by thanking all of our law enforcement for their service and their sacrifice on behalf of our communities.

As we do so, we honor and remember those who have passed in the line of duty, including so many in New Mexico, including New Mexico State Patrolman Justin Hare and Las Cruces Police Department Patrol Officer Jonah Hernandez who died in the line of duty just this year.

I stand to oppose this bill, but I also stand deeply proud to serve New Mexico's First Congressional District, which includes the Albuquerque metro area, the seven counties, two Tribal nations, and dozens of State, county, Tribal, local law enforcement and emergency service agencies, and Federal law enforcement.

From Sandoval, Bernalillo, and Valencia Counties in the north, and Torrance, Lincoln, Chaves, Guadalupe, and De Baca in the south and east, our State, county, and local law enforcement agencies care for our communities, and keep them safe every day.

Likewise, our Federal law enforcement are working overtime in New Mexico to crack down on cartels to keep drug traffickers and dangerous drugs off our streets.

We thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

We know that public safety and the fentanyl crisis are ravishing our communities, and they are on the front lines.

That is why I have worked since day one in office to help secure millions in funding for our law enforcement for tools, technology, and equipment to support their work. I have fought for funding for recruitment and retention.

This includes millions in State funding I helped secure during my time in the legislature. It also includes millions I helped secure in the Congress for State police to detect and tackle fentanyl; \$18 million for law enforcement equipment and vehicles, new emergency fire stations for Moriarty, Sandia Pueblo, and Peralta; and more than \$17 million for behavioral and mental health services.

Nevertheless, we know that fighting the fentanyl crisis and fighting the public safety and behavioral health crisis will take more than just stopping the flow of drugs and other materials into our communities.

It requires that we also face the realities of addiction and the people who are hurting in our communities.

It requires that we listen to and support the people who are facing the realities and the relentless challenges of the opioid crisis, who are struggling with addiction and the daily tragedies that overwhelm our first responders and emergency rooms, and the thousands who have died in New Mexico alone from this problem.

That is why I have also been working to help secure millions for behavioral health to expand clinics and housing opportunities in Albuquerque, veterans' transitional housing, the First Nation's Clinic, healthcare for the homeless, and other vital programs.

Moreover, it is why I am also sponsoring legislation to stop pill presses from being used to dump dangerous drugs in our communities and to get emergency overdose medicine into public venues.

These are the realities of how we deal with the fentanyl crisis. This is what our law enforcement are asking us to do. New Mexico is a border State. New Mexico is on the front line of the fentanyl crisis.

We have to do much more. It takes resources to fight these challenges. We have to invest in technology, tools, and staffing to stop the flow of drugs into this country. It means we have to fund and support our State, local, and Tribal law enforcement so that they can actually protect our communities.

In addition, it means that we have to take seriously and make a sustained investment in our broken healthcare and behavioral health system.

Most importantly, above all else, it means stop playing politics with the lives of our people because we already know the solutions to these problems. We don't need another messaging bill here on the House floor. We need solutions.

While you are sitting here lecturing us on your messaging bill, the Speaker of the House and Members of the House majority are standing in front of a Federal courthouse in New York City in matching outfits defending a sex offender in his hush money trial.

It is a brave statement to stand on the House floor today while that is going on and lecture us about solutions for our communities when one-half of

their caucus isn't even present here in the Chamber.

Now, we already tried to pass a bipartisan solution. In fact, the Senate tried for months. In fact, it was led by a Senate GOP Member, and it was single-handedly blocked by Donald Trump because he told Members of this Chamber and others that he thought it would be bad for his campaign.

Is this the party of law and order?

Is this what the American people are asking us to do?

Our families and our communities are not a political joke. They are not a political bargaining chip. This is about real people, people like one of my closest friends who died from a fentanyl overdose with two young children at home and the thousands of others who are suffering with addiction and suffering from the challenges that our communities are facing.

Stop wasting our time. Stop offering false and empty words, and please join us for real solutions to help our communities.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LALOTA). Pursuant to House rules, the Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

The gentlewoman from Washington controls the remainder of the time, and she reserves the balance of her time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, in response to that tirade, let me just remind the gentlewoman that 6.9 million illegal immigrants have been admitted into our country in violation of our immigration laws since this administration took office.

The gentlewoman speaks of all the taxpayer money that she generously volunteers to pour into our social services. Well, I have news for her: That safety net has been shredded by their open-border policies.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform estimates that just in the last year the cost to our public schools is \$70 billion just to educate the children of the illegals whom they have admitted into this country and \$22 billion in costs to our hospitals.

Now, I submit to you, Mr. Chair, that if Republicans were to suggest we should cut \$70 billion from public education or \$22 billion from our public hospitals, there would be complete outrage on the other side of the aisle, and yet that is exactly what their open-border policies are costing us right now. That is a travesty.

There is one way to solve this, and that is to secure our borders as we had accomplished under President Trump.

That is why there are so many Members over there right now to defend a President who actually is serious about defending our borders.

Mr. Chair, I am ready to close when the gentlewoman is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Washington has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, while you may not know it from some of the language that is being used today, we are debating a poorly written “reporting bill” that will do nothing.

This bill is full of empty rhetoric, it makes no policy changes to address the outdated immigration system, and it provides no funding of any kind.

All this bill does is attempt to produce a onetime politically motivated report on the so-called Biden border crisis, just one report. That is it.

Give me a break.

Even though the entire bill is focused on reporting requirements related to the “Biden border crisis,” the bill doesn’t even define the term.

It is as if we needed more proof that this is not serious legislation and that it is more about messaging than congressional oversight of the executive branch.

Why are we continuing to waste our time marking up these meaningless messaging bills?

I have said this before, and I am going to say it again because the same resolutions keep coming up over and over again, so I feel as if I need to repeat myself.

The situation at the border is directly linked to the fact that the legal immigration system has not been modernized in 30 years. It has been left in chaos because it has not been updated to meet the needs of our country today.

□ 1430

When the legal process is so outdated that it takes decades for green card holders to get their children into the country, or when employers simply can’t get visas for the people that they need to hire because 2 million people are in processing backlogs, or when we have so few immigration judges that asylum seekers wait over 8 years to get their cases heard, then people turn to unscrupulous actors, including the cartels. The cartels promise desperate people that they can escape dangerous situations by paying cartels to get them in to seek safety by crossing the border.

If my colleagues on the other side were serious about addressing the situation, Republicans would work with us to fix the immigration system to provide people with workable ways to immigrate.

That would disempower the cartels. It would ensure the integrity of the border. It would give us what we all want, which is order at the border that is fueled and made possible by a legal immigration system that works and a legal immigration system that provides pathways for people to come to work here, to be with their families, and to contribute to our economy.

That is what we need right now, but here we are. Instead of that, we are defending a bill with no chance of becoming law or solving the problem. Republicans are showing clearly what we Democrats have been saying over and over again, that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don’t want to do anything that would help fix the broken immigration system. Instead of solving the problem, Republicans want to continue to weaponize the border as a political issue for this election year.

Rather than debating meaningless bills, we should be exploring how to meaningfully reform the broken immigration system and expand lawful immigration to the United States, given the very clear and documented benefits that that brings.

In 2021 alone, DACA recipients paid \$6.5 billion in taxes; refugees paid almost \$28 billion in taxes; and TPS holders paid \$2.2 billion in taxes. Likewise, in 2021, undocumented immigrants paid approximately \$18.6 million in Federal income taxes and \$12.2 billion in State and local taxes.

Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services released a study demonstrating that refugees and asylees generated \$124 billion in fiscal benefits over 15 years, and the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan entity, recently released a report finding that recent immigrants who joined the workforce will actually add \$1 trillion of revenue to our country’s GDP between 2023 and 2034.

It is also estimated that putting undocumented immigrants on a roadmap to citizenship would not only increase U.S. GDP by \$1.7 trillion over the next decade, but that action would also raise wages for all Americans and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Unfortunately, Republicans talk a big game when it comes to immigration and border security, but instead of trying to pass thoughtful, bipartisan legislation to address problems in our immigration system, my colleagues waste our time on bills like the ones before us today.

Members don’t have to just take it from me. The fact is that the second most conservative Republican Senator in the United States Senate crafted a bill with some Democratic support to put forward before us on immigration reform, and Republicans decided that the majority didn’t even want to consider that bill or vote on that bill. Do my colleagues know why? Because Donald Trump told them not to because it would take away what Republicans see as an election issue.

I believe the American people are smarter than that.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this meaningless bill and to see very clearly that Republicans are not interested in solutions, in governing, but are just interested in meaningless messaging bills to try to divide us when we really should be celebrating the tremendous benefits that immigrants contribute to our country every single day.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 8146, the Police Our Border Act.

On National Police Week, I am proud to join my colleagues in hosting meetings, speaking on the floor, and holding hearings, like we had today with my colleague, Mr. D’ESPOSITO, to honor the dedication and sacrifice of our law enforcement and first responders.

It is so important for us to thank our men and women who put their lives on the line every day while knowing the dangers that await them to keep our families, communities, children, and loved ones safe.

There is no denying that our law enforcement has fallen under attack in recent years as Democratic governments cave to the defund the police movement.

The crisis at our southern border now affects every State, every town, every congressional district, and it certainly affects our law enforcement heroes, as we heard during testimony this week.

Congress should be using every tool and resource available to support our officers. With enough fentanyl coming across the border each year to kill every American seven times over, criminal illegal aliens being let free to roam in our communities, community resources being handed out to individuals who have been deported multiple times, and women and children being raped and killed, the crisis has reached a breaking point.

Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement are suffering the worst consequences of President Biden’s border crisis, and they need the Police Our Border Act now. This bill provides critical solutions that hold Congress and the administration accountable and ensure we are showing up for our law enforcement, and not just showing up, but that we show them our support through our voting here in Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I hope and ask for colleagues’ support on this very important act.

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

To sum up, without law enforcement, there is no law, and without law, there is no civilization. Without immigration enforcement, there are no borders. Without borders, there is no country.

This is where the woke left is taking us, and it is time for Americans to decide how much farther we want to allow them to take us down this dismal and dangerous road.

I think the American people are entitled to ask this administration and its apologists in this Congress: How do we make our streets safer by making it all but impossible to deport criminal illegal aliens, as the law requires? How do we make our families safer by flooding our communities with deadly fentanyl?

How do we make our children safer by not vetting every person who enters our country to keep the criminals out? How do we make our neighborhoods safer by refusing to prosecute criminal illegal aliens to the fullest extent of the law? How do we make our highways safer by creating the conditions of deadly high-speed chases and drunk driving? How do we protect our country as untold numbers of terrorists enter among the 1.9 million known got-aways who have entered under Joe Biden's nose? How do we make our communities safer as criminal gangs and criminal cartels set up shop in our cities for their lethal business of child trafficking, drug trafficking, extortion, and crime?

These are the questions that have gone unanswered since this administration took office and with which our local law enforcement officials must grapple every day at the peril of their own lives in order to protect ours.

The Democrats just don't seem to care, but America cares. Americans are dealing with this entirely preventable crisis every day, and our law enforcement officers are the heroes who protect our families and our communities every day. We owe it to them to document the truth, to acknowledge it, and to act on it. That is what this bill would do, and I urge the House to adopt it.

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

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

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

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

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

H.R. 8146

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 "Police Our Border Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Our Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each day in order to protect our country and serve their communities.

(2) According to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund, 136 law enforcement officers died in the line-of-duty in 2023.

(3) Congress should do everything in its power to support law enforcement officers at every level and in every part of our nation.

(4) The southwest border crisis created by the Biden Administration has made every state a border state.

(5) The Biden border crisis has placed a burden on law enforcement agencies across the nation and has placed a significant strain on the resources that are critical to keeping communities safe.

(6) Law enforcement officers in every state are put in life-threatening scenarios as a direct result of the open borders.

(7) Law enforcement has been forced to deal with the influx of fentanyl and many officers are exposed to the drug while on duty.

(8) It is in the best interest of law enforcement officers and the communities they serve for Congress to pass, and the President to sign into law, strong border security legislation.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the impact the Biden border crisis is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level, including—

(1) the estimated dollar amount of all resources devoted to addressing the Biden border crisis, and the extent to which such resources are not available to law enforcement agencies;

(2) the exposure of law enforcement officers to fentanyl resulting from encounters with illegal aliens at the border and in the United States;

(3) injuries to law enforcement officers based on a connection to the Biden border crisis or exposure to fentanyl; and

(4) the morale of law enforcement officers.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-511. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, 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.

The Chair understands amendment Nos. 1 and 2 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. D'ESPOSITO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 3, strike "and".

Page 5, line 4, strike the period and insert ";; and".

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(5) the recruiting impact on hiring law enforcement as a result of the Biden border crisis.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, offered by my good friend and fellow New Yorker, Mr. MOLINARO, would add an important provision to my legislation. If adopted, it would ensure that my bill, in addition to measuring things like exposure to fentanyl, injuries, and morale, would also measure the Biden border crisis' effects on recruitment.

Mr. Chairman, in my capacity as a member of the House Homeland Security

Committee, we have taken time to interview countless law enforcement professionals from all across this Nation and at every rank. Mr. Chairman, we have heard time and time again that today's political climate, both in terms of the demands made of law enforcement but also the flagrant lack of respect and appreciation for law enforcement by many on the other side of the aisle, has made it difficult to recruit and retain law enforcement officers.

It is for that reason that I am proud to offer and support Mr. MOLINARO's amendment to my bill. It is in the interest of the American people that we learn all the effects of this tragic Biden border crisis on law enforcement, including and especially this crisis' effect on recruitment.

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, this amendment furthers the major drafting problems in this legislation by asking the Attorney General to report on how the so-called Biden border crisis impacted law enforcement recruiting.

As I said earlier, there is no definition for the "Biden border crisis," and this amendment highlights just how unserious this legislation is.

How on Earth is the Attorney General supposed to determine how the border impacts law enforcement recruitment? Are local law enforcement agencies going to have to go to all the candidates who turned down job offers and ask them if their decision was influenced by the border?

This bill is a huge waste of time, and this amendment serves only to make this poorly drafted bill even more incomprehensible. I, therefore, oppose its adoption, and I encourage my colleagues to oppose it, as well.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 3, strike "and".

Page 5, line 4, strike the period and insert ";; and".

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(5) estimated dollar amount States expended on local law enforcement efforts to investigate, intercept, and process, which includes the entire evidence lifecycle, from collection and analysis to storage and final destruction, fentanyl trafficked from the United States border.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, the administration's failure to secure our southern border has turned all of our States into border States.

The administration's open-border policies have allowed an influx of over 8 million illegal migrants and more than 27,000 pounds of deadly fentanyl, and that is just what we know of, to enter our country.

Earlier this year, fentanyl hurt so many of our families, so I invited folks from my district. Deric and Kathy Kidd joined me to hear what our country could do during the State of the Union to help fight the fentanyl crisis, the synthetic drug made in China that enters our country illegally, primarily through our southern border, which has so far been left completely unprotected. We honor the loss of their son.

□ 1445

At 17, he lost his life and became one of 150 Americans every day dying from the fentanyl crisis.

We looked for answers from the administration to close the border that they could do on day one, to be able to stand up and make sure that catch and release is ended, and to reinstate remain in Mexico.

The administration chose to do none of those things, and they have put our law enforcement on the front lines of defending our communities not just from local policing but from the threat posed by this deadly drug.

Mr. Chair, no family should experience what the Kidd family did. This, in their own words, could and should have been prevented but, unfortunately, it remains.

Most recently, Interstate 35 that extends from Mexico north right into my district in Iowa was the site of the largest seizure of fentanyl near Des Moines. A 35-year-old male traveling from the southern border was intercepted not by Border Patrol or Federal law enforcement but by local police. They seized 30,000 fentanyl pills in his car. Let's not forget one teaspoon is more than enough to kill an entire community.

Luckily, our law enforcement officers were able to intercept these drugs and made sure they did not make it to our State and were not on our streets. There is no doubt that we must secure our border to prevent drugs from flowing into our country, but we also need to address the strain that this places on families and our local first responders.

In conversations with sheriffs at the police departments in my district, I have talked with too many officers who shared their work and how it is being consumed in the fight against fentanyl.

The bottom line is that local law enforcement officers should not be over-

loaded with these issues when we have a Federal responsibility to assist them.

To better understand how big of an impact fentanyl is on our communities, my amendment would require the Department of Justice to detail how much States have spent on local law enforcement efforts to investigate, intercept, and process fentanyl that has been trafficked across U.S. borders.

By understanding the root of this challenge, we can better allocate resources and make sure our local law enforcement has the support they need.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill by Representative D'ESPOSITO, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, the Nunn amendment requires the Attorney General to report on how much each State spent on investigating fentanyl trafficked through the border.

I do not oppose this amendment because it does not repeat the same misleading talking points that Republicans often use when discussing fentanyl, and I am grateful to my colleague across the aisle for that.

I did want to make a couple of points on this because I think fentanyl is such an important issue in all of our districts. It is a scourge on all of our districts, all of our communities. We are all seeing the effects of fentanyl that is coming into this country.

We know that fentanyl is being smuggled into our country and that some of it comes through our southern border, but I do want to make clear that fentanyl is seized primarily at the ports of entry.

In fiscal year 2023, CBP seized approximately 27,000 pounds of fentanyl. Less than 10 percent of the drugs were actually seized by Border Patrol. The vast majority, roughly 90 percent of the drugs, were seized by the Office of Field Operations, which is the entity that mans the ports of entry.

I will be clear that the evidence does not show in any way that asylum seekers are bringing drugs to our shores. In fact, increasingly, drug cartels are being very smart about this. They are recruiting American citizens to bring drugs across the border through ports of entry. In 2022, over 89 percent of convicted fentanyl traffickers were American citizens.

If my Republican colleagues were serious about stopping the flow of fentanyl, the flow of drugs across the border, then I think we should be giving additional resources to the agencies that are manning those ports of entry.

Instead, all but six current House Republicans voted against the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which provided ad-

ditional funding to ports of entry to combat the smuggling of people and drugs. All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the 2023 appropriations omnibus legislation, which provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection, including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for nonintrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry. That is exactly the kind of technology that our Border Patrol agents are asking us for.

Republicans have also refused to consider President Biden's emergency supplemental funding request for additional border resources, which included \$239 million to hire 1,000 additional CBP officers to stop fentanyl and other contraband from entering the United States. It included \$100 million for ICE/Homeland Security Investigations to investigate and disrupt transnational criminal organizations and drug traffickers, and it included \$849 million for cutting-edge detection technologies at ports of entry.

This is the work the Democrats have been doing to try to address the scourge of fentanyl that is coming across our southern border and coming into our country by supporting law enforcement and stopping that fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a huge problem in our communities. It is important that we support our law enforcement in fighting against it. This amendment would simply inform Congress about how much States are spending to combat fentanyl and, therefore, I see no reason to oppose it.

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my good friend from Iowa's amendment and the underlying bill by Mr. D'ESPOSITO, H.R. 8146.

The Nunn amendments will provide policymakers with the information we need to better support our local and State law enforcement officers. This is especially important given the strain the crisis at our southern border has placed on our local communities like the ones we are privileged to represent in Iowa, Indiana, and New York.

Biden's border crisis has made all districts across the country battlegrounds where police are fighting the scourge of fentanyl every day. It is an epidemic, funded by China, driven by the drug cartels, and assisted by Biden's disastrous border policies.

During National Police Week and every week, we should be doing everything in our power to support the men and women in blue. That is why I am grateful to the gentleman from Iowa for his leadership and the gentleman from New York and encourage all of our colleagues to support the Nunn

amendments and Mr. D'ESPOSITO's bill, the Police Our Border Act, H.R. 8146.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, everyone knows the reality of the crisis at the southern border. We know that narco-terrorist groups are exploiting President Biden's weakness to import record amounts of fentanyl into the United States.

Just two milligrams of fentanyl, the size of a few grains of sand, is a lethal dose. Seizures of this uniquely dangerous drug by law enforcement agencies have doubled, if not tripled in some places. We are catching only a fraction of the fentanyl entering our Nation, and more data on this issue is the first step toward stopping that.

Mr. Chair, I encourage all of my colleagues to support Mr. NUNN's amendment.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I think this can be a bipartisan solution. It impacts all of our communities, all of our cops, and all of our families.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 3, strike "and".

Page 5, line 4, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(5) how many law enforcement officers have been reassigned and local resources reallocated to investigate, intercept, and process, which includes the entire evidence lifecycle, from collection and analysis to storage and final destruction, fentanyl trafficked from the United States border.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, the influx of fentanyl at the southern border has truly impacted every American community.

Since 2021, overdose losses due to fentanyl have exceeded 200,000. We are losing over 150 neighbors, community members, and children daily due to this deadly drug.

It is truly a weapon of mass destruction, produced in China, and sent to the United States with a clear result of killing our country.

This crisis has persisted due to the open-border policies of this administration. The mass importation of fentanyl

that is being created is resulting in more and more of not only Communist China's ability to influence but Mexican-based cartels to enter and terrorize every American community.

It is a flood of illicit drugs, and it is costing every single community more. The lack of enforcement on our southern border to deal with this flow of fentanyl is being felt, most poignantly, by our frontline defenders, the brave men and women in uniform, our first responders, many of whom are already facing staffing shortages back home.

Mr. Chair, I thank the men and women who are both the front line and now the last line in the battle against fentanyl in our communities.

I do a lot of ride-alongs with my sheriffs and my local law enforcement, and I have seen firsthand how fentanyl has hollowed out communities and created great pain for so many. There is more that we can do. Our officers are left thinly spread out, our constituents are under siege, and our communities are literally dying as a result of failed policy.

We need to better understand the full scope of the fentanyl crisis, including the impacts that are occurring to our local law enforcement. My amendment to this bill would require the Department of Justice to report to Congress on how many law enforcement officers have been reassigned, how many local resources have been reallocated, how many community policing programs have been reprioritized or, in some cases, not prioritized because fentanyl has become the number one issue that so many of our local law enforcement has had to address.

Gaining visibility on where our local officers are spending their time, prioritizing the threat, and appropriately separating and addressing the issues at the State and Federal levels, respectively, is not only imperative; it is simply prudent.

I am proud to offer this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it, along with the underlying text.

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, this amendment requires the Attorney General to report on how local officers and resources have been reallocated to combat fentanyl trafficked through the border. I do not oppose the amendment because the amendment itself, like the previous amendment, does not repeat the same misleading talking points. I was ready to give my colleague across the aisle some credit again, but, unfortunately, the same misleading talking points were just repeated in talking about the amendment.

Fentanyl is not coming across the southern border because of some failed

border policy. It is coming across the southern border primarily carried by American citizens at ports of entry.

This is about providing resources to our law enforcement officers on the southern border to be able to have the technology to detect that fentanyl. It is about providing enough people so that they can actually do the kind of monitoring that they are asking for. It is about providing the resources that Democrats put forward as the answer to this question and Republicans oppose time and time again.

I will be very clear that I appreciate the data that we are getting because fentanyl is a scourge. I have gone out with my local firefighters across Seattle multiple times, and I will tell you that 99 percent of their calls are responding to fentanyl overdoses, to opioid overdoses, and it is heart-breaking to see what is happening.

In fact, in my first year, I worked with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON on a bipartisan allocation of money to provide other ways of dealing with overdoses due to opioids and fentanyl on the streets by actually providing supportive services for law enforcement so law enforcement wasn't having to deal with all of this. I don't think that this is something that the majority of our law enforcement members want to be dealing with in our cities.

I just want to be clear: We should be fighting the scourge of fentanyl. We should be doing it in a bipartisan way. We should not be doing it as part of some legislation that is meaningless, that puts the blame for what is happening with fentanyl on some "Biden border policy that has failed."

□ 1500

Combating fentanyl should be a priority for all of us regardless of what side of the aisle we are on. We should not repeat the talking points that are divisive and untrue in talking about this issue.

Fentanyl seizures shot up during the Trump administration and have continued to rise during the Biden administration. It is a bipartisan problem. Fentanyl poisoning is killing so many beloved members of our communities, and we have to do everything to stop it.

Republicans often assert, without any evidence, that asylum seekers are the ones that are bringing fentanyl onto our shores, even though the data suggests otherwise. Once again, I am going to repeat this: The vast majority of fentanyl that is seized coming into this country is seized at ports of entry, smuggled in by United States citizens.

Playing politics about such a deadly substance is extraordinarily irresponsible. Fortunately, the amendment itself is straightforward, and it aims to get more data about combating fentanyl so we can be better informed about how it is impacting our communities.

The underlying legislation, on the other hand, and some of the talking

points that are used by my colleagues across the aisle is not that. The underlying legislation is poorly written, and it is misleading. The talking points are misleading, but the amendment is clear, and so because of that, I see no reason to oppose it.

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle. I think we can all agree that fentanyl is a challenge and that it is killing Americans at an unprecedented rate. Fentanyl now kills more Americans from my daughter's age to my age, and I am getting to be an old man. We should not be in this position.

The reality is that our frontline defenders have become our local law enforcement, and collectively I think we absolutely agree that this should never have happened. This amendment moves forward with the ability to identify this and to help to prioritize these resources.

I will say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: There is a way to end this. We recognize immediately that fentanyl comes largely from China. We recognize immediately that it is coming across our southern border, and in this there is no dispute.

"Shut down the border" should be a great mantra for all of us to be able to save lives. Today, the administration can do that. It can end the catch and release program; it can reinstate a remain in Mexico policy; it can ensure that the drugs flowing across our southern border are intercepted there, so they don't end up being intercepted on our streets, in our hometowns, in the heart of the heartland in communities like mine in Iowa.

Mr. Chair, I don't want to see another child, friend, or neighbor die because we at the Federal level have failed to do our job. By prioritizing these resources, we can better identify what other services are being left behind and what other communities are endangered because their first priority has to be intercepting fentanyl.

Mr. Chair, I encourage passage of the amendment and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, here I was coming to the floor thinking that I could support an amendment that made sense to me about fighting the scourge of fentanyl, and I do support the amendment because I think data will be good for us.

I just would say to my friend across the aisle: Shutting down the border is not going to fix this problem. By saying that and by continuing to use those divisive talking points, he is moving us away from a solution to the really dire issue of fentanyl that is killing our communities.

Let's work together in a bipartisan way to actually deal with the scourge of fentanyl. Let's not put it on the border and let's not pretend that shutting

down the border is going to help because, as I said, fentanyl poisoning rose under the Trump administration, and Donald Trump did try to shut down the border until the courts prevented him from doing that.

The reality here is, we have a real problem. We have a real problem. I was willing to come to the floor and support this amendment because I think the data is important, and I hope my colleague across the aisle will recognize that sticking to the facts, as he did in his amendment, is the most important thing to actually addressing the issue of fentanyl.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, strike line 17 and all that follows through line 19, and redesignate succeeding provisions accordingly.

Strike the term "Biden" each place such term appears.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment that would remove unnecessary and partisan language from the legislation that is under consideration, the Police Our Border Act.

Let me read what my amendment says because it is only two lines.

Page 2, strike line 17 and all that follows through line 19 and redesignate succeeding provisions accordingly.

Strike the term "Biden" each place such term appears.

Let me tell you what lines 17 through 19 say. "The southwest border crisis created by the Biden administration has made every State a border State."

Before I continue on, I thank Ranking Member NADLER for his leadership on this issue on the Judiciary Committee.

The reason I read that amendment and the lines that it refers to is that it is really important that the American people know that the situation at our border requires our action. I agree. We agree. The vast majority of Congress agrees. However, if you listen to this Chamber, and many of you all have lately, you would think that this is not a bipartisan issue. Unfortunately, this is intentional.

I want to let the American people in on a poorly kept secret: Too often bills

are written to be intentionally inflammatory to divide Republicans and Democrats. My amendment seeks to bring us together, back to the middle ground that we all share because real, substantive, and durable action will need the support of both of our parties.

We know our police and law enforcement need and deserve support. We know our border needs and deserves to be addressed. We know that fentanyl is an issue requiring our attention, but bipartisan action is what is required and what is demanded by us of our bosses. Our bosses are the electorate.

We in Congress must do a better job than to just be simple partisan hacks, political reporting with no chance of ever making it to or past the President's desk. The American people, our bosses, deserve better, which is why this amendment, my amendment, plainly just asks for data on the facts and the facts alone.

A report like the one in the bill that is proposed with my proposed changes is important not only for our law enforcement but also for the American people, as well. It will allow us to take a step toward understanding things such as the estimated dollar amount of all the resources that would be devoted to addressing the situation at the border and the extent to which such resources are not available to law enforcement agencies. It would help us understand the exposure to and possible injury as a result of the fentanyl crisis on our law enforcement. With this data, we can finally address these issues.

As is demonstrated by the way that this legislation was written, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are likely to falsely claim that President Biden is boasting of an open border, but this ignores the fact that under numerous administrations, both Democrat and Republican, the situation at our border has worsened. In fact, this issue is not just about Republican or Democratic administrations, it is also about the Congresses that have not addressed this issue, either.

Record migration to our border, coupled with a woefully inadequate and overwhelming processing system here in the U.S., has caused existing challenges to get progressively worse over time. We know that our law enforcement agencies have faced many new challenges as a result.

This is a serious issue which we must address with serious legislation. I believe if my amendment passes that many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle will find it in their ability to be able to vote for the underlying bill. I would encourage those on the other side of the aisle to find it within their heart to see not everything as a partisan issue.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject the deeply cynical and deeply political option in the current text and to instead vote "yes" on my amendment that will enable the underlying bill to move forward in a bipartisan fashion.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, who does the gentlewoman think she is kidding? Who does the gentlewoman suggest we assign responsibility for this catastrophe that has overwhelmed our country and its social services, its criminal justice system, and its citizens?

On January 20, 2021, the border was secure, the Trump policies were working. On that day, our laws didn't change, the Presidency changed. On that day, the Trump policies were reversed by one person, Joseph Biden.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. What the heck, Mr. Chairman?

When he was President, President Truman had a placard on his desk: "The buck stops here." It was a sign of responsibility that the Commander in Chief, the Chief Executive of our great country, wouldn't pass off as an excuse any responsibility that he was responsible for. Yet, what my colleague proposes to do is to disassociate the border crisis from the chief proponent of it and to pass the buck to somebody else.

Not 1, not 2, not 10, not 20. Rather, the President has taken 64 different actions to undermine border security through executive orders and other administrative actions, which have opened the border wide, canceled mass parole, repositioned border agents away from the border, paroled millions into the interior, causing crises in cities like New York.

It is the President's border crisis. There should be no renaming of this. There is one individual in our great country who can today, with the stroke of a pen, start to solve this crisis, undoing the same executive orders that he issued to get us into this crisis. That is President Biden.

Mr. Chair, I am in strong opposition to this amendment. Bipartisanship does not mean blind. It doesn't mean that we need to be ignorant to the facts that the Commander in Chief, President Biden, is the sole person responsible for this border crisis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, it is rebuttals and comments like these that

I find, frankly, deeply distressful. They are nothing but finger-pointing, and really the genuine politicization of this body and this government. My colleagues are self-defeating in their efforts to try to put the words into this piece of legislation that requires us to assign one single point of blame when there clearly is quite a lot to go around, and it has gone around for a very long time.

By politicizing this issue in this way, it is self-defeating because we have no ability to actually pass this piece of legislation, and so in and of itself this becomes a self-defeating effort.

I believe if my colleagues truly wanted the information that this bill purports to want, if they truly wanted to understand what is causing the border issues and what could be done to be helpful, then they would work with us as Democrats to make that, indeed, happen. We would then be able to pass this bill in the House, and as is the custom with our Constitution and with "Schoolhouse Rock," send it to the Senate and send it to the President's desk for signature. Here we have no opportunity to have this happen.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, my colleague on the other side of the aisle said that our bosses deserve better. She is right, the American people do deserve better.

Over the tenure of Joe Biden, he has made this country less safe. Like my friend from New York mentioned, by the stroke of a pen, President Biden can begin changing the course of this country, but unfortunately he won't because he doesn't want to.

As a matter of fact, in his first days in office, he used that same pen to create this disaster that we are dealing with right now, an unprecedented historical number of migrants illegally coming into the United States of America, some involved in terrorist organizations, smuggling illegal narcotics into this country.

You are correct, our bosses do deserve better. The American people do deserve better. I encourage you to encourage your side of the aisle to please have Joe Biden use that pen and put this country back on track.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

□ 1515

Mr. Chairman, this is not a question of incompetence, and it is not a question of chance. This is a deliberate policy by this administration, and we should have the courage and candor to say so.

My Democrat colleagues should have the courage to look their constituents in the eye and admit what they have brought upon this country.

People ask me all the time: How could this be happening? The answer is

pretty simple. Elections have consequences. Sometimes elections have terrible consequences, and that is what we are facing.

This catastrophe will end when this administration ends, and that will be done by the American people at the ballot box.

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. LALOTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 23, insert ", and the nationality of each such alien" before the semicolon.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1127, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Chair, the cartels have more control over the U.S.-Mexico border in Cochise County than either the governments of Mexico or the United States.

That is what law enforcement officers from the Tucson sector of America's southern border told me on my fourth trip to the southern border recently: The cartels have more control over our border than we do.

What are the cartels doing with that control? To America's detriment, they are smuggling people and drugs across it every day.

I suppose we could blame the cartels because they are vicious and ruthless, but we should look closer to home for the blame.

We should look to the person most responsible for creating the disaster at the southern border. We should look to the very person who, when he took office, repealed 64 very effective policies, which were keeping our border safe: canceling border wall construction, instituting a mass parole system, and taking border agents away from the border to place them in migrant processing centers to process more and more migrants into the interior of the country.

Who is responsible for the disaster at the southern border? It is not climate change or migratory patterns. Rather, it is illegal immigration's best friends: President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas.

President Biden's open-border policies have allowed nearly 10,000 pounds of fentanyl to enter the United States so far this fiscal year.

This scourge has led to over 200,000 fentanyl deaths in the United States since President Biden started repealing those very effective border policies. In fact, fentanyl is the leading cause of death of Americans ages 18 to 45.

In response to President Biden's open-border policies, my good friend and fellow Long Islander, Congressman D'ESPOSITO, has proposed an effective bill that would modify the requirements for reporting by the Attorney General on the impacts of the border crisis.

Included in Congressman D'ESPOSITO's bill is language to better understand when law enforcement is exposed to fentanyl.

This legislation is critical to understanding the challenges law enforcement officers face every day while giving further insights into the crises at our southern border, those crises caused by President Biden.

I, alongside my good friend from Florida, Congressman CARLOS GIMENEZ, am proposing an amendment to Congressman D'ESPOSITO's bill that would further get to the root of the fentanyl crisis.

Our amendment requires the nationality of the migrant be included in the underlying reports when said migrant exposes a law enforcement officer to fentanyl during an encounter at the border.

It is imperative that we, as a Nation, collect more information on who and where these drugs are coming from so we can put an end to the fentanyl scourge.

We know from the DEA that most of the fentanyl consumed in the United States is produced in Mexico using precursors that come from China. Also, China is producing it on their own and sending it across the southern border, as well.

Fentanyl is not only deadly in miniscule doses, but it is also frequently unknowingly contained in other substances, which multiplies the risk and the range of its impact.

Mr. Chair, 75,000 Americans died in 2022 due to the scourge of fentanyl. Enough is enough. I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment that will help better identify where the fentanyl is coming from.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would update the report required by this bill to include the nationality of any noncitizen who exposes a law enforcement officer to fentanyl during an encounter at the border and in the United States.

Just like the underlying bill, this amendment is another attempt to incorrectly paint undocumented migrants as being the prime source of fentanyl brought into the country.

We already know that the vast majority of fentanyl is seized at ports of entry, trafficked by U.S. citizens. As I stated previously, in fiscal year 2023, CBP seized approximately 27,000 pounds of fentanyl.

Less than 10 percent of these drugs were seized by the Border Patrol. The vast majority, roughly 90 percent of the fentanyl was seized by the Office of Field Operations, which mans the ports of entry.

My Republican colleagues always respond that this is the case because ports of entry are where we have resources to interdict the drugs, but this is also wrong.

Unfortunately, because Republicans refuse to adequately fund ports of entry, only 2 percent of passenger vehicles and 16 percent of commercial vehicles are inspected.

We would likely catch even more drugs carried in by U.S. citizens if CBP had all the resources it needed. However, at every turn, it has been Republicans who have voted against giving DHS the resources it needs to do its job.

This bill is so full of misinformation and could actually use some facts, so I will not oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman, my colleague to the west of me in New York, says how most of the fentanyl is being seized at the ports of entry.

I would hope the gentleman would also simultaneously criticize the President for repositioning border agents away from those places where vehicles and people are coming to traffic the drugs across, and, instead, repositioning those same agents at migrant processing centers just to parole more and more people into the country.

If the gentleman is sincere about his concern for fentanyl coming in at ports of entry, he must call on the President to stop repositioning those agents away.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 118-511.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 10, insert before the period at the end the following: “, and for the President to utilize long standing authorities, including under section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), to secure the southern border”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, since Joe Biden took office, 10 million illegal aliens have entered our country, and untold numbers of Americans have been murdered by people who should never have been here.

To the Americans watching, Joe Biden does not care about you. He does not care about your family. For him, it is worth letting hundreds of thousands of illegals in every month and hundreds of foreigners on the FBI's terrorist watch list if it means the Democratic Party's base turns out in November.

The purpose of this amendment is that President Biden already has existing authority to secure the border, and he needs to use it, but he doesn't want to because he is afraid of his far-left base.

President Biden is choosing to keep our border open and allowing the American people to be kept in harm's way.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would update the findings section of this bill to include a provision that states that it is in the best interests of law enforcement officers and the communities they serve for President Biden to use section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to secure the southern border.

To be clear, the President does not have the authority to unilaterally shut down the border. President Biden cannot simply use Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to prevent immigrants from crossing the border. In fact, when President Trump tried to do exactly that in 2018, he was immediately shot down by the courts.

Moreover, enforcement-only solutions don't work. The best way to secure the border is to expand lawful pathways and to adequately fund the immigration system.

We have not updated our legal immigration system in over 30 years. The more broken the legal immigration system is, the more people will try to come to the border as the only means of entry.

This notion that the President has all the authority, not to mention the resources, that he needs to solve all the issues at the border with a stroke of his pen is a fantasy.

Congress must work together to provide the legal tools and the resources necessary to address the border crisis.

I know that there are Democrats willing to put in the hard work, but we have yet to find any House Republicans who are willing to do so. This amendment is as unserious as the underlying bill. I will oppose both, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentlewoman from Illinois seek unanimous consent to reclaim her time?

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. I do.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman reclaims her time and is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, President Biden does have authority to secure the border, and he did use his pen to open the border.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8146) to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

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

LEOSA REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 354) to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes, 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 passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 185, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 213]

YEAS—221

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

NAYS—185

Adams	Gomez	Pelosi
Aguilar	Gottheimer	Peters
Amo	Green, Al (TX)	Pettersen
Auchincloss	Hayes	Phillips
Balint	Himes	Pingree
Barragan	Horsford	Pocan
Beatty	Houlihan	Porter
Bera	Hoyer	Pressley
Beyer	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Bishop (GA)	Huffman	Ramirez
Blumenauer	Ivey	Raskin
Blunt Rochester	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Bonamici	Jackson (NC)	Ruiz
Bowman	Jacobs	Ruppersberger
Boyle (PA)	Jayapal	Ryan
Brown	Jeffries	Salinas
Brownley	Johnson (GA)	Sanchez
Bush	Kamlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Caraveo	Keating	Scanlon
Carbajal	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cárdenas	Kennedy	Schiff
Carson	Kildee	Schneider
Cartwright	Kilmer	Scholten
Casar	Kim (NJ)	Schrier
Case	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Casten	Kuster	Scott, David
Castor (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Castro (TX)	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cherfilus-	Lee (CA)	Sherrill
McCormick	Lee (NV)	Slotkin
Chu	Lee (PA)	Smith (WA)
Clark (MA)	Leger Fernandez	Sorensen
Clarke (NY)	Levin	Soto
Clyburn	Lieu	Stansbury
Cohen	Lofgren	Stanton
Connolly	Manning	Stevens
Correa	Matsui	Strickland
Costa	McBath	Suzuki
Courtney	McClellan	Swalwell
Crockett	McCollum	Takano
Crow	McGarvey	Thanedar
DeLauro	McGovern	Thompson (CA)
DeBene	Meeks	Thompson (MS)
Deluzio	Menendez	Titus
DeSaunier	Meng	Tlaib
Dingell	Mfume	Tokuda
Doggett	Moore (WI)	Tonko
Escobar	Morelle	Torres (CA)
Eshoo	Moskowitz	Torres (NY)
Espallat	Moulton	Trahan
Fletcher	Mrvan	Vargas
Foster	Mullin	Vasquez
Foushee	Nadler	Veasey
Frost	Napolitano	Velázquez
Galleo	Neal	Wasserman
Garamendi	Neguse	Schultz
Garcia (IL)	Nickel	Waters
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Watson Coleman
Garcia, Robert	Omar	Wild
Goldman (NY)	Pallone	Williams (GA)
	Panetta	
	Pappas	
	Pascrell	

NOT VOTING—24

Boebert	Frankel, Lois	Magaziner
Burgess	Gaetz	Masie
Carter (TX)	Gimenez	McClain
Cleaver	Grijalva	Molinaro
Davis (IL)	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Evans	Kean (NJ)	Trone
Ferguson	Khanna	Wexton
Fitzpatrick	Luna	Wilson (FL)

□ 1634

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POLICE OUR BORDER ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). Pursuant to House Resolution 1227 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8146.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1637

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8146) to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level, with Mr. OBERNOLTE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 8 printed in Part B of House Report 118-511 offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6, printed in part B of House Report 118-511, offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 197, noes 213, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 214]

AYES—197

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

McGovern	Pocan	Stansbury
Meeks	Porter	Stanton
Menendez	Pressley	Stevens
Meng	Quigley	Strickland
Mfume	Ramirez	Suozzi
Moore (WI)	Raskin	Swalwell
Morelle	Ross	Sykes
Moskowitz	Ruiz	Takano
Moulton	Ruppersberger	Thanedar
Mrvan	Ryan	Thompson (CA)
Mullin	Salinas	Thompson (MS)
Nadler	Sánchez	Titus
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Tlaib
Neal	Scanlon	Tokuda
Neguse	Schakowsky	Tonko
Nickel	Schiff	Torres (CA)
Norton	Schneider	Trahan
Ocasio-Cortez	Scholten	Underwood
Omar	Schrier	Vargas
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Vasquez
Panetta	Scott, David	Veasey
Pappas	Sewell	Velázquez
Pascarell	Sherman	Wasserman
Pelosi	Sherrill	Schultz
Peters	Slotkin	Waters
Pettersen	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman
Phillips	Sorensen	Wild
Pingree	Soto	Williams (GA)
Plaskett	Spanberger	

NOES—213

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

Wenstrup	Williams (TX)	Womack
Westerman	Wilson (SC)	Yakym
Williams (NY)	Wittman	Zinke

NOT VOTING—26

Boebert	González-Colón	Moylan
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	Norcross
Cleaver	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Davidson	Khanna	Sablan
Davis (IL)	LaMalfa	Torres (NY)
Evans	Luna	Trone
Ferguson	Magaziner	Wexton
Gaetz	McClain	Wilson (FL)
Gimenez	Molinaro	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1639

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) having assumed the chair, Mr. MEUSER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8146) to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1227, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 8146 will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of the motion to recommit H.R. 8369; and

Passage of H.R. 8369, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 254, nays 157, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

YEAS—254

Aderholt	Allred	Arrington
Alford	Amodei	Babin
Allen	Armstrong	Bacon

Baird	Graves (MO)	Moskowitz	Dingell	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz	Blunt Rochester	Hayes	Perez
Balderson	Green (TN)	Mrvan	Doggett	Lieu	Ruppersberger	Bonamici	Himes	Peters
Banks	Greene (GA)	Murphy	Escobar	Lofgren	Sánchez	Bowman	Horsford	Pettersen
Barr	Griffith	Nehls	Eshoo	Matsui	Sarbanes	Boyle (PA)	Houlihan	Phillips
Bean (FL)	Grothman	Newhouse	Españillat	McBath	Scanlon	Brown	Hoyer	Pingree
Bentz	Guest	Nickel	Fletcher	McClellan	Schakowsky	Brownley	Hoyle (OR)	Pocan
Bergman	Guthrie	Norman	Foster	McCollum	Schiff	Budzinski	Huffman	Porter
Bice	Hageman	Nunn (IA)	Foushee	McGarvey	Schneider	Bush	Ivey	Pressley
Biggs	Harder (CA)	Overnolte	Frankel, Lois	McGovern	Scott (VA)	Caraveo	Jackson (IL)	Quigley
Billirakis	Harris	Ogles	Frost	Meeks	Scott, David	Carbajal	Jackson (NC)	Ramirez
Bishop (NC)	Harshbarger	Owens	Garamendi	Menendez	Sewell	Cárdenas	Jacobs	Raskin
Bost	Hayes	Palmer	Garcia (IL)	Meng	Sherman	Carson	Jayapal	Ross
Brecheen	Hern	Pappas	Garcia (TX)	Mfume	Sherrill	Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Buchanan	Higgins (LA)	Peltola	Garcia, Robert	Moore (WI)	Smith (WA)	Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Bucshon	Hill	Pence	Goldman (NY)	Morelle	Soto	Casar	Kamlager-Dove	Ryan
Budzinski	Hinson	Gomez	Moulton	Stansbury	Case	Case	Kaptur	Salinas
Burchett	Horsford	Mullin	Green, Al (TX)	Stevens	Casten	Casten	Keating	Sánchez
Burgess	Houchin	Nadler	Himes	Strickland	Castor (FL)	Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Burlison	Hudson	Napolitano	Houlihan	Swalwell	Castro (TX)	Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Scanlon
Calvert	Huizenga	Neal	Hoyer	Neal	Takano	Cherfilus-	Kildee	Schakowsky
Cammack	Hunt	Neguse	Hoyle (OR)	Neguse	Thanedar	McCormick	Kilmer	Schiff
Caraveo	Issa	Ocasio-Cortez	Huffman	Ocasio-Cortez	Thompson (CA)	Chu	Kim (NJ)	Schneider
Carey	Jackson (NC)	Omar	Ivey	Omar	Thompson (MS)	Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scholten
Carl	Jackson (TX)	Pallone	Jackson (IL)	Pallone	Tlaib	Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Schrier
Carter (GA)	James	Panetta	Jacobs	Panetta	Tokuda	Clyburn	Landsman	Scott (VA)
Cartwright	Johnson (LA)	Pascrell	Jayapal	Pascrell	Tonko	Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (SD)	Pelosi	Jeffries	Pelosi	Torres (CA)	Connolly	Larson (CT)	Sewell
Ciscomani	Jordan	Peters	Rutherford	Peters	Torres (NY)	Correa	Lee (CA)	Sherman
Cline	Joyce (OH)	Pettersen	Ryan	Pettersen	Underwood	Costa	Lee (NV)	Sherrill
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Phillips	Salazar	Kelly (IL)	Vargas	Courtney	Lee (PA)	Slotkin
Clyde	Kaptur	Pingree	Salinas	Kennedy	Veasey	Craig	Leger Fernandez	Smith (WA)
Cole	Kean (NJ)	Pocan	Scalise	Kilmer	Crockett	Crow	Levin	Sorensen
Collins	Keating	Porter	Scholten	Kim (NJ)	Crow	Cuellar	Lieu	Soto
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Pressley	Schrier	Krishnamoorthi	Velázquez	Davids (KS)	Lynch	Spanberger
Courtney	Kelly (PA)	Quigley	Schwiebert	Kuster	Wasserman	Davis (NC)	Manning	Stansbury
Craig	Kiggrans (VA)	Ramirez	Scott, Austin	Larsen (WA)	Schultz	Dean (PA)	Matsui	Stanton
Crane	Kildee	Raskin	Self	Lee (CA)	Watson Coleman	DeGette	McBath	Stevens
Crawford	Kiley	Ross	Sessions	Lee (PA)	Williams (GA)	DeLauro	McClellan	Strickland
Crenshaw	Kim (CA)		Simpson			DelBene	McCollum	Suozi
Cuellar	Kustoff		Slotkin			Deluzio	McGarvey	Swalwell
Curtis	LaHood		Smith (MO)			DeSaulnier	McGovern	Sykes
D'Esposito	LaLota		Smith (NE)			Dingell	Meeks	Takano
Davids (KS)	LaMalfa		Smith (NJ)			Doggett	Menendez	Thanedar
Davidson	Lamborn		Smucker			Escobar	Meng	Thompson (CA)
Davis (NC)	Landsman		Sorensen			Eshoo	Mfume	Thompson (MS)
De La Cruz	Langworthy		Spanberger			Españillat	Moore (WI)	Titus
DesJarlais	Larson (CT)		Spartz			Fletcher	Morelle	Tlaib
Diaz-Balart	Latta		Stanton			Foster	Moskowitz	Tokuda
Donalds	LaTurner		Stauber			Foushee	Moulton	Tonko
Duarte	Lawler		Steel			Frankel, Lois	Mrvan	Torres (CA)
Duncan	Lee (FL)		Stefanik			Frost	Mullin	Torres (NY)
Dunn (FL)	Lee (NV)		Steil			Galleo	Nadler	Trahan
Edwards	Lesko		Steube			Garamendi	Napolitano	Underwood
Ellzey	Letlow		Strong			Garcia (IL)	Neal	Vargas
Emmer	Levin		Suozi			Garcia (TX)	Neguse	Vasquez
Estes	Loudermilk		Sykes			Garcia, Robert	Nickel	Veasey
Ezell	Lucas		Tenney			Golden (ME)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wasserman
Fallon	Luetkemeyer		Thompson (PA)			Goldman (NY)	Omar	Schultz
Feenstra	Luttrell		Tiffany			Gomez	Pallone	Pappas
Finstad	Lynch		Timmons			Gonzalez,	Panetta	Pascrell
Fischbach	Mace		Titus			Vicente	Pappas	Pelosi
Fitzgerald	Malliotakis		Turner			Gottheimer	Casten	Peltola
Fitzpatrick	Maloy		Valadao			Green, Al (TX)	Casten	
Fleischmann	Mann		Van Drew			Harder (CA)	Casten	
Flood	Manning		Van Duyn				Casten	
Foxx	Massie		Van Orden				Casten	
Franklin, Scott	Mast		Vasquez				Casten	
Fry	McCaul		Wagner				Casten	
Fulcher	McClintock		Walberg				Casten	
Galleo	McCormick		Waltz				Casten	
Garbarino	McHenry		Weber (TX)				Casten	
Garcia, Mike	Meuser		Webster (FL)				Casten	
Golden (ME)	Miller (IL)		Wenstrup				Casten	
Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)		Westerman				Casten	
Gonzalez,	Miller (WV)		Wild				Casten	
Vicente	Miller-Meeks		Williams (NY)				Casten	
Good (VA)	Mills		Williams (TX)				Casten	
Gooden (TX)	Moolenaar		Wilson (SC)				Casten	
Gosar	Mooney		Wittman				Casten	
Gottheimer	Moore (AL)		Womack				Casten	
Granger	Moore (UT)		Yakym				Casten	
Graves (LA)	Moran		Zinke				Casten	

NAYS—157

Adams	Brown	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brownley	Clarke (NY)
Amo	Bush	Clyburn
Auchincloss	Carbajal	Cohen
Balint	Cárdenas	Connolly
Barragán	Carson	Correa
Beatty	Carter (LA)	Costa
Bera	Casar	Crockett
Beyer	Case	Crow
Bishop (GA)	Casten	Dean (PA)
Blumenauer	Casten (FL)	DeGette
Blunt Rochester	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bonamici	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Bowman	McCormick	Deluzio
Boyle (PA)	Chu	DeSaulnier

NOT VOTING—19

Boebert	Gimenez	Molinaro
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	Norcross
Cleaver	Jackson Lee	Trone
Davis (IL)	Khanna	Wexton
Evans	Luna	Wilson (FL)
Ferguson	Magaziner	
Gaetz	McClain	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1648

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE
SUPPORT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 8369) to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters, offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 210, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 216]

YEAS—202

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

NAYS—210

Aderholt	Chavez-DeRemer	Flood
Alford	Ciscomani	Foxx
Allen	Cline	Franklin, Scott
Amodel	Cloud	Fry
Armstrong	Clyde	Fulcher
Arrington	Cole	Garbarino
Babin	Collins	Garcia, Mike
Bacon	Comer	Gonzales, Tony
Baird	Crane	Good (VA)
Balderson	Crawford	Gooden (TX)
Banks	Crenshaw	Gosar
Barr	Curtis	Granger
Bean (FL)	Davidson	Graves (LA)
Bentz	De La Cruz	Graves (MO)
Bergman	DesJarlais	Green (TN)
Bice	Diaz-Balart	Greene (GA)
Biggs	Donalds	Griffith
Billirakis	Duarte	Grothman
Bishop (NC)	Duncan	Guest
Bost	Dunn (FL)	Guthrie
Brecheen	Edwards	Hageman
Buchanan	Ellzey	Harris
Bucshon	Emmer	Harshbarger
Burchett	Estes	Hern
Burgess	Ezell	Higgins (LA)
Burlison	Fallon	Hill
Calvert	Feenstra	Hinson
Cammack	Finstad	Houchin
Carey	Fischbach	Hudson
Carl	Fitzgerald	Huizenga
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Hunt
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Issa

Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Speaker, I ask all present in the Chamber to please rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of Euclid, Ohio, Police Officer Jacob Derbin.

HONORING PATROLMAN ZACHARY FINK

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, the Treasure Coast lost a hero this year when Florida Highway Patrolman Zachary Fink was killed in the line of duty. He was a son of St. Lucie County, Florida.

Trooper Fink had a desire from an early age to help people, and that is what led him to a career in law enforcement.

I did know Trooper Fink. I didn't know him well, but I did know him. I recognized that he was willing to lay his life on the line to protect me and every other member of our community.

We all have people in our lives that we would sacrifice anything to protect, our siblings, our children, our spouses, but very few of us would lay down our life for somebody that we barely know. Law enforcement officers like Trooper Fink do just that every single day.

I have introduced legislation to name the U.S. Post Office building at 290 NW Peacock Boulevard in Port St. Lucie after Trooper Zachary Fink.

I would simply say this: We cannot repay his sacrifice in any measure, but we can always remember his sacrifice.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN WEST MICHIGAN

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Police Week to honor the service and contributions of law enforcement officials in west Michigan and across the country.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the privilege of meeting with so many brave public servants who put their lives on the line every single day to protect our communities.

Policing is hard work and not without significant challenges in the year 2024. For some, it might be easier to just walk away.

It is for that reason that I am constantly in awe of those that continue to serve because of their dedication, sacrifice, and willingness to place others above self in a time where serving our community has become all the more difficult.

To all the law enforcement officers in west Michigan and around the Nation, we honor them this week, and we thank them for everything they do to protect our families, neighbors, and our communities.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week as we honor and thank our law enforcement officers who courageously serve and protect our communities.

As we have seen over the last several years, antipolice rhetoric and soft-on-crime policies have led to heightened division and a surge in violent crime across the country.

While the rhetoric of many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is further emboldening these criticisms, House Republicans back the blue and have dedicated this week to considering legislation that highlights our continued support for law enforcement heroes nationwide.

I would also be remiss if I didn't take a moment to honor those that have been tragically lost in the line of duty.

The Scriptures tell us the greatest love is to offer one's life up for others. Our law enforcement put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe, and for that, we owe them a significant debt of gratitude. I am proud to stand with the brave men and women in blue.

HONORING SERGEANT IAN TAYLOR

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Ian Taylor, a beloved resident of Billerica, Massachusetts, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty earlier this month.

While I didn't have the privilege of knowing Sergeant Taylor personally, I admire him just from what I have learned.

He was a dedicated family man with an exemplary commitment to service. Not only did he risk his own safety as an officer for decades, but he was a tireless advocate for substance abuse prevention. He helped so many people, many of whom have shared their story since he died.

I am devastated for the Billerica Police Department and Sergeant Taylor's family who will feel this immense loss every day.

Rest assured his legacy will live on. He will certainly inspire others to serve with selfless dedication to duty.

HONORING CLARENCE EUGENE SASSER

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great American hero, Clarence Eugene Sasser, who passed away on May 13, 2024, in Sugar Land, Texas, at 76 years old.

While serving in the United States Army as a medic during the Vietnam war, then-Private First Class Sasser selflessly sprang into action to administer medical aid to his unit after they

came under heavy fire from three different locations.

Despite having incurred wounds and loss of a tremendous amount of blood, Private First Class Sasser dragged himself through the mud to tend to his wounded soldiers on an open rice paddy.

As a result of his extraordinary heroism displayed that day, President Nixon presented Specialist 5th Class Clarence Eugene Sasser with the Medal of Honor, which is our Nation's highest and most prestigious military decoration.

This week, we not only lost a selfless hero but a father, a public servant, and a very proud Texan. I have had the distinct honor and privilege to have represented Mr. Sasser in Congress.

Specialist 5th Class Clarence Eugene Sasser is an inspiration for all of us and embodies the very best of our great Nation.

May Specialist 5th Class Clarence Eugene Sasser rest in peace, and may his bravery continue to inspire future generations to come.

□ 1715

SUPPORTING NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICERS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise as we mark Police Week to express my thanks and support for law enforcement officers in New Hampshire and across the country who are dedicated to keeping our communities safe.

Our police answer the call each and every day, and the work they do is indispensable to fight crime, keep the peace, and provide the kind of assistance that our families and neighbors need.

Across New Hampshire, I have had the great privilege to get to know so many of our law enforcement officials. I am grateful for their professionalism, their courage, and their leadership.

Recently, I had the chance to visit the police department in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, to see the long-needed upgrades that they are making through a community project grant secured through our office.

Congress must continue to invest in public safety infrastructure, technology, training, and recruitment and retention efforts to support 21st century policing. We must commit to valuing and supporting those who swear an oath to protect and serve our communities.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we come together this National Police Week to honor the brave

men and women who answer the call to a life of service.

We owe a debt of thanks to our police and law enforcement officers who every day, from the moment they put on their badges, know that they may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice and never come home. These are officers who give their all to protect our families, our communities, our freedoms, officers who choose to protect those who ridicule them, disrespect them, and undermine them.

I thank our law enforcement officers in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District and officers all over America. I thank them for their service. We stand with them. We support them. We will always have their backs.

CARING FOR CHILDREN OF SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to advocate for the brave men and women who serve our Nation's defense selflessly, often at great personal sacrifice.

Congresswoman JENNIFER KIGGANS of Virginia and I recently introduced the bipartisan Care for Military Kids Act. Our legislation aims to ensure servicemembers can maintain critical healthcare coverage and medical services for their children and families no matter where their service assigns them.

Our servicemembers relocate frequently and uproot their families in service to our Nation wherever their orders lead them. Yet, despite their sacrifices, healthcare coverage for some of their children remains uncertain due to Medicaid and CHIP coverage being administered at the State level.

We cannot allow military families to face this added burden of healthcare insecurity. By establishing a streamlined Medicaid plan, we provide clarity and consistency to ensure no child of a servicemember goes without essential medical services.

Let's stand together in full support of our military families. Over 3 million children are involved. With the Care for Military Kids Act, we have the opportunity to fulfill our duty to those who serve and nobly protect our Nation and us.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to sign on to this bipartisan bill.

RECOGNIZING KACI HERRON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kaci Herron from Greenback, Tennessee. She was recently crowned Miss Tennessee Star.

When Kaci was born, her parents said she would probably never walk or talk,

but she has done so much more than that in her life. She is graduating from Greenback this year, where she cheered for the football and basketball teams all 4 years. She was asked to come back and be an assistant cheer coach next year, Mr. Speaker.

After that, she hopes to go to college and has dreams of opening her own bakery someday and walking the runway in New York City for Fashion Week.

Her siblings, Bryce and Amber, have been reading to her since she was born, which has helped her develop a love of books. She also loves hiking and something I love doing, which is looking for bigfoot. She loves parasailing and all kinds of music, but especially Reba McEntire.

Kaci has a real heart for her community, and she volunteers at the Second Harvest Food Bank every week.

Kaci started participating in Miss Shining Star pageants about 8 years ago. This year, she was crowned Miss Tennessee Star and will go on to compete in the nationals.

Her platform for Miss Tennessee is "Solidarity for Soldiers" in honor of her brother, Bryce, who is in the Navy, like you, Mr. Speaker. Her whole family and her whole community are very proud of her.

I am proud to call her my friend, Mr. Speaker. It was wonderful meeting Kaci, and I wish her the best of luck competing in the nationals in July.

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S TRADE MEASURES

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the President's announcement of increased tariffs on Chinese goods in key sectors.

President Biden leads once again. He took strong actions this week to give us the tools that we need as a nation to combat unfair trade practices, support cutting-edge American manufacturing, and protect our national security.

American workers and businesses can outcompete anyone on a level playing field, but China has undermined that level playing field for decades. The increased tariffs on electric vehicles, EV batteries, steel, aluminum, semiconductors, critical minerals, and other fundamental inputs will support American manufacturing and ensure the next generation of good-paying jobs are created right here in the United States of America with good union jobs.

These measures will also help secure supply chains essential to our national security. President Biden's tariff increases will build domestic capacity and insulate critical industries from undue Chinese Communist Party influence.

BIDENFLATION COSTS FAMILIES

(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, yesterday, the Labor Department released its monthly report showing that consumer prices have increased again, this time by 3.4 percent.

Under Biden, families continue to pay nearly \$12,000 more for everyday goods and services while jobs are being destroyed.

Corrupt Judge Merchan continues ensuring the reelection of President Donald Trump with his bias, incompetence, and unprofessionalism. Corrupt Judge Merchan created this week a global stage for Republican superstars to defend Donald Trump, with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Congresswoman NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS, Congressman BYRON DONALDS, and Vivek Ramaswamy. I will invite corrupt Judge Merchan, in appreciation of his reelectioning Donald Trump, to be my guest at the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have successfully protected America for 20 years since the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We don't need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens the borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

MAKE DIRECT FILE PERMANENT

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, each year, millions of Americans pay third-party software companies to file their taxes. Having to pay hundreds of dollars in fees just to pay your taxes makes no sense.

I championed a program called Direct File to change that, which was included in the Inflation Reduction Act. As a result, thousands of Americans filed their taxes directly with the government this year for free.

Despite Big Tax Prep lobbying against Direct File, 140,000 Americans, including 33,000 Californians, used the pilot program this year. People want this program. Even better, 9 out of 10 people who used Direct File had a positive experience and said it made them more confident in the IRS.

Let's take the win here, Congress. We don't have that many, to be honest. Let's make the Direct File program permanent and available nationwide.

REMEMBERING SACRIFICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Police Week, a week we set aside to thank more than 800,000 police officers who put on the badge and risk their lives to protect our communities.

We thank them for their brave service. Our police officers play an essential role in our community, working to keep us safe, upholding the rule of law, and responding to emergencies.

Illinois is home to many upstanding, honorable, courageous, and self-sacrificing police officers, including Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria and the village of Durand Police Chief Michael Reiman, who are on this poster.

Mr. Speaker, we also take the time to mourn the loss of our fallen officers whose lives were lost in the line of duty. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 61 hours. We must never forget their sacrifice.

Lastly, I thank the law enforcement support network—their families, parents, wives, husbands, and children—for the sacrifices they make when their loved ones serve as police officers.

At a time when our law enforcement is constantly under attack, Congress must continue to stand with the police and back the blue.

STANDING WITH EELAM TAMIL COMMUNITY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Tamil genocide in Sri Lanka.

We must stand with the Eelam Tamil community. Their struggle for justice and accountability continues, with survivors and their families enduring ongoing oppression and seeking recognition for their suffering from the Sri Lankan Government.

We must recognize the plight of the Tamil people and advocate for a peaceful resolution that respects the rights and dignity of all. The Tamil community's resilience in the face of adversity is a testament to their unwavering spirit for justice and self-determination.

It was a pleasure to meet with so many who traveled to our Nation's Capital from across the United States and five countries to ensure such atrocities never happen again.

THANKING OFFICERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the song goes, if there is something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? If there is something weird

and it don't look good, who you gonna call?

Mr. Speaker, don't call Ghostbusters. Call the police.

Mr. Speaker, I rise during National Police Week to salute the brave patriots who keep America safe. I want to share my appreciation to members of our law enforcement community—our officers, deputies, and troopers, and especially the families of those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

It takes courage to wear a badge. It takes even more courage to respond to an emergency, to step into harm's way, to face dangerous uncertainty. For our police, it is just part of the job.

Unfortunately, our law enforcement community doesn't get the recognition and the respect that they deserve. So on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to say two words our incredibly brave patriots don't hear enough: Thank you. I thank them for protecting our families and communities. I thank them for their service.

As Representative for Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I want our law enforcement officers to know we salute them. We will always back the blue.

RECOGNIZING FORT MORGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to recognize the historic acts of Deputy Bellew and members of the Fort Morgan Fire Department.

On April 19, Corporal Boros, Deputy Bellew, and other members of the Fort Morgan Fire Department rescued three distressed swimmers off the coast. The fire department began the operation with special equipment. Once Deputy Bellew arrived, he removed his duty belt and body armor and put on his swim vest, jumped in the water, and saved the swimmers.

That day, three people in the water were saved while swimming. That day, three people were saved from drowning. I cannot be prouder to represent District One, which is filled with brave, dedicated law enforcement officers like Deputy Bellew.

With many voices screaming to defund the police, we must emphasize how vital our officers are to us. Every day, these men and women tirelessly serve the American people, and I cannot thank them enough.

I will always back the blue.

□ 1730

COMPLEX MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Ari-

zona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to walk us through a couple simple concepts that require really complex math, so wish me luck here.

Last week, and the week before that, I came here and tried to walk through a concept of how fragile we are because of our borrowing, the amount of insatiable borrowing we go through. I made a sarcastic comment that happens to have the benefit of being almost true that the bond market is the one that pretty much will run this country. I actually can prove part of my thesis.

Last week, because we made it a couple weeks without looking like a clown show, we got some decent inflation data. The movement in the U.S. debt market on our interest rates coming down, if you annualize that, do you realize it is more than every dime of foreign aid?

I need you to think about this for a moment, just those ticks. When a single basis point—remember, 1 percent of interest is one one-hundredth of a point of interest. One tick is about \$800 million a year.

Whether this place likes it or not, when we tell the world we are not serious about leading the world, when we don't look serious that we are going to be the country that defends the reserve currency of the world, when we don't look like adults, we pay a price. Many of the folks here, you get your 5 minutes of theater, and then we add hundreds of billions of dollars of additional interest.

I am going to show you charts here where we are approaching \$1.2 trillion in interest this year. I am going to try to walk through a concept that the spending, particularly what the Democrats did with the Inflation Reduction Act, where we are basically saying over the 10 years, we are pumping out a couple trillion dollars of subsidies to corporate America, and also the fact that because of our debt and these higher interest rates we are also pumping \$1.2 trillion of interest payments out. That much cash flow is going out into the marketplace at the same time the Federal Reserve is over here trying to pull liquidity out of the market to slow down inflation.

For those of us that live in the Phoenix-Scottsdale area, you have the right to be cranky because the day Joe Biden became President, from that day until today, if you are not making a little over 26 percent more in your paycheck, you are poorer today.

For all of us who are elected here, our area happens to be probably the second highest inflation in the continental United States right now. You meet people, and they have done fairly well in life. I have one of the more prosperous districts in America. I have one of the very best-educated districts in America. We are out there knocking on doors, and people want to share with

you that they are stressed out of their mind.

Part of it is they don't completely understand why they seem to be working harder, why their kids can't afford a place, why the price of education for their kids is just crushing them, why they seem to instinctively understand their kids are going to live poorer than they did, which is now fact. That isn't rhetorical. In every data point, if you are functionally under 40, 45 years old, you will be poorer than my generation and my parents' generation. It is the debt that has done this. It is inflation.

Once again, let's do a basic economics class. Inflation is too many dollars chasing too few goods and services. It is also a tax because who is the biggest debtor in the world? It is the United States. Congratulations. We did it. Yay. We are basically kicking off about a trillion dollars every 100, 115 days of borrowing. That interest is helping kick off inflation. Inflation is that tax.

The inflation we have had the last 3 years is the biggest tax in modern history because here is what happened: there is this massive amount of U.S. debt. We are now going to pay it back with inflated dollars, and your savings just became worth less. This country made a decision with the crazy spending that, screw them, and it set off inflation. We are going to reach in and grab the value of your savings, and we are going to transfer it to the debt, and we are going to pay it back with inflated dollars.

Whether you know it or not, the reason you are poorer today is you got taxed. Thank you for your contribution to U.S. debt. Did you know you were even doing it?

The other thing is also the fragility concept. I have talked to dozens and dozens of Members here, and I get that blank stare because we don't often think this way. We are on different types of committees. I do Ways and Means and Financial Services, so maybe my whole world is trying to think about the math.

Today, the world has the highest level of debt since the Napoleonic Wars. You may not remember your history, but after that the world went into a massive depression for years.

Do you know which two countries are borrowing at extraordinary rates? The United States and China. Greece has a better credit rating than the United States. You can sell a 10-year bond in Greece cheaper than the United States. Go and read what the credit rating is. I think the United States is now number 14 in creditworthiness, and we are the reserve currency?

Does anyone care?

The hallways here are just full of people showing up at my door begging for more spending or begging us to set up rules to make sure that competition and new technology can't disrupt their business models.

If you are under 40, I am a baby boomer. I am sorry. I wish we had thought about the math. I wish we had

been more honest with ourselves, but there are ways to deal with this. There are ways to make it work.

The other thing is we have been grinding through the Social Security Medicare actuary report. I am still not done with it, and my economist and the Joint Economic Committee, we are still not done with this because we are all so busy writing the response to President Biden's economic report.

I am going to walk through a few things here where we can't figure out why the actuaries would use the numbers they did because they are completely different than OMB and CBO's numbers. There are other things going on.

Let's actually start to walk through this. Some of these boards, you will have seen before. A lot of them you have never seen. I am trying to build a theme. The theme basically is this: This place needs to get serious and start acting like adults and understanding it is not our feelings anymore. It is not our theater or the troll that is going bang on us. If you are also the Russian troll that is going to be in my comments when this goes on YouTube, screw you, because the fact of the matter is I, we, this country, the world needs us to act like adults and provide a level of stability because when we don't, the price of our debt goes up. When you are clicking off borrowing \$1 trillion every 100, 115 days, interest rates matter.

Remember, if we are going to borrow a couple trillion dollars this year—and actually right now our burden rate is 2.8, 2.6—and our refinancing is several trillion dollars because, as you have seen, Treasury has decided to stay very short on the curve. That means instead of saying we are going to sell a 10-year bond because the market, it turns out, wasn't as excited about buying a bunch of 10-year U.S. bonds because they didn't trust us, we are now offering a 1-year note, a 2-year note. Remember, there are notes, there are bonds, and the definition is on duration.

We have made ourselves very fragile to the world, to the bond market. I used to come behind this microphone and joke that this country basically is an insurance company with an army. Now it is a really in debt insurance company with an army.

Let's walk through some of our realities. Yay.

The first thing I need to walk through is the deficit over the last 12 months is 1.8. If you actually do gross, it is closer to 3 in the last 12 months. Originally, when we built this board, we thought that is what we were going to borrow publicly. Our burden rate is actually substantially higher than we expected.

What is enraging about this is the economy is fairly decent. We just weren't prepared for higher interest rates and higher other expenses. The fact of the matter is, much of the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, the most Orwellian named piece of leg-

islation in modern history, its distortion effects in the economy and also the borrowing—when we are handing out cash grants, do you think that money is coming out of tax receipts? It is borrowed.

The point I wanted to make here is when you see this blue, that is what I get to vote on as a Member of Congress. The red, that is mandatory. It is about 74, 75 percent of all spending is on autopilot. Guess what? Every dime I vote on is on borrowed money, plus a sliver of your Medicare.

Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is on borrowed money.

Then we play this game around here. When you are clicking off, we are just shy of borrowing about \$100,000 a second. We have debates here where we are debating on saving this tiny little bit, and the borrowing during the debate was greater than the savings because we are terrified to tell you the truth that the majority of borrowing, every dime of borrowing from this day for the next 30 years—and I am going to say this about a half a dozen times tonight—every dime of borrowing from today through the next 30 years is interest, Medicare, and then 9 years from now when the Social Security trust fund is gone we backfill the shortfall. Everything else is in balance.

All right. So let's continue to walk through this. To give you a sense, that blue area I was just showing you before on the chart that we get to vote on, okay, nondefense discretionary, that is everything you think of as government. That is the FBI, that is the Park Service, that is the State Department. This over here is Defense.

□ 1745

Mr. Speaker, if you come to me and say: DAVID, I want you to cut spending, then I am all for burning a bunch of this down. A bunch of the things we do I have a really weird ethical question that Members of Congress need to think about.

Is it ethical for the Federal Government to borrow money and send it to an entity that has its own taxing authority? When many of those taxing authorities, if they actually had more skin in the game, might be a little more sensible and more disciplined in how they spend it.

Mr. Speaker, you realize that is one of the greatest scams here. We borrow it, we send it, we get love, and then the groups we send it to act like: Hey, we got free money from the Federal Government.

You are paying it back. Actually, Mr. Speaker, your kids, your grandkids, and your great-great-grandkids are going to pay it back because it is borrowed.

Everything else you see is interest, Social Security, and Medicare. Now, remember, Mr. Speaker, Social Security self-finances right now. Social Security is the payroll tax and the trust fund, and every month the trust fund

gets a little smaller. We do pay interest for the cash that the Federal Government and the Treasury have borrowed out of the trust fund. We give them their principal back, and then the Treasury gives them a little bit of interest.

However, that is continuing to shrink.

Then, Mr. Speaker, you look at everything else and you start to realize that we don't run this government anymore. The mandatory programs and the bond market do.

The other thing that also should really annoy anyone who actually pays attention to the actual math instead of theatrics, national debt increased in the first 7 months of this fiscal year. In 2023 at this point we had borrowed about one-half a trillion dollars.

Yea, good job.

Now we are at \$1.45 trillion, the same time period this year. Yet, you have got to work through the problem with me.

Was 2023 economically that different from this year?

What happened?

What happened? Well, our interest rates went up so we are burning through tremendous amounts of more cash. In the last 12 months, I think we actually had 2 or 3 months where we had to borrow money to pay for our borrowing. Forgive me. I have had a stunning amount of coffee today, I haven't slept well, and I am just cranky.

Mr. Speaker, this chart is actually worse now. It is just the only one I have.

Some of these numbers I have trouble believing. We go back and double-check ourselves. We go back and double-check ourselves because the numbers read differently than the CBO report from 4 months ago or 5 months ago or the OMB report from 6 months ago.

That is because if the economy is supposed to be fairly decent, how can we be bleeding like this?

Think about this, Mr. Speaker. CBO and those who are saying: Hey, we are going to be borrowing about 4.5 percent, 4.7 percent of the economy is going to be in borrowed money. However, so far this fiscal year, our borrowing is closer to 9 percent, 9 percent, of the entire economy.

Why is that important?

Also looking at this chart, we are saying: Here are our tax receipts. We will get the Democrats, and we need to talk about this. They keep saying: Well, if we just tax rich people more.

I have come here multiple times and shown the analysis of higher taxes on those who earn \$400,000 and up. We take the left's and this President's proposal, and we say: Let's tax maximize everything. Let's tax maximize their income taxes, their estate taxes, and their capital gains taxes, everything. Then you look at the data, and you get about 1.5 percent of GDP.

Okay, so we have used the Democrats' plan. We are going to tax our

way to prosperity. You get about 1.5 of GDP. Great.

Mr. Speaker, do you remember I showed you the chart of nondefense discretionary?

You take 1 percent of that out of GDP, and it is about 40 percent of all nondefense discretionary you just wiped out. Now you have yourself 2.5 percent of GDP that we either tax or we cut.

Great job, guys.

Mr. Speaker, you are seeing a chart here where we are starting to talk about over the coming decade we are going to be at 31 percent of the economy is borrowed, but, hey, guys, everything we talk about we are going to get 1 percent of cuts and 1.5 percent of taxes?

We are borrowing close to 9 percent of GDP right now. The CBO baseline was up like 5.

Does anyone here do math?

Does anyone own a calculator?

Does anyone have a battery in the calculator?

Mr. Speaker, you can't cut yourself and you can't tax enough to make this work.

Yet, we are so vacuous intellectually around here. The ability to say that we are going to embrace the things that disrupt our cost drivers; we are going to actually adopt technology; we are going to adopt artificial intelligence to change the cost of government; we are going to adopt the things that crush the price of healthcare, not by making it more scarce and not by rationing it but by making it more moral.

We can do that. Except this place will run like hell every time you say: Do you know that we could actually have technology that would cure that disease?

Oh, no. That is our business model.

In a couple of weeks, we are going to do a major presentation from the Republican side of the Joint Economic Committee. The math is not done yet. We are trying to grind through the number one cost driver of this government. I am going to get some really, really interesting comments, and it is mathematically true.

It is obesity. We are starting to chase down some data that says that almost one-half of U.S. healthcare has a relationship to obesity. We are about to have our fifth year of prime-age males dying younger.

It is immoral. It is absolutely immoral what this place has become. The debt is immoral, and what we do in healthcare is immoral.

It is bad enough that we are destroying our kids. Mr. Speaker, I am 62, and my wife is 62. Maybe I shouldn't tell you that. I have an 8-year-old daughter we adopted, and I have a 23-month-old little boy we adopted, who is a miracle. Moreover, they are brother and sister.

Do they have the right to have the same life or even be more prosperous?

Because the American sort of societal contract says the next generation will be more prosperous, and right now that is mathematically impossible.

There is a way I can make it work, there is a way you can make it work, Mr. Speaker, and there is a way this place could make it work, but we are so busy knifing each other over petty crap because we are idiots. We are children here, because doing hard things is hard.

My father used to have a saying: If it is a complex problem, then it is a simple solution.

That is absolutely wrong. Complexity requires complexity. The reason for this portion of this tirade is that next year there will be about \$380 billion a year in tax hikes. You, as an individual, your LLC, your subchapter S, your passthrough business, congratulations, your taxes are already going up next year. It is the law as it is already.

I will argue it is one of the greatest opportunities we have had in modern times because we are going to be forced to actually act like adults and do something.

Now, here is your battle, Mr. Speaker. Will we be smart, creative, and intellectually robust saying: Hey, let's use this as an opportunity to broaden the Tax Code, fix it in a way where we maximize prosperity and economic growth. Oh, by the way, because we don't want to add to the debt, can we do things over here to actually change some of the debt drivers?

We are going to legalize technology in healthcare. We are going to adopt technology to make government smaller but more efficient. We are going to crowdsource our data in a way where it is current, accurate, and more moral.

We have bills on all of this. This isn't just rhetoric. We have done bills on this stuff for years, and they have gotten much better.

Will the vision, particularly for those who have the responsibility of being on the Ways and Means Committee, will we actually step up and say: Is it going to be binary?

Hey, we are going to raise these people's taxes and lower these so it balances out. Hey, screw everyone.

Yea, we did something.

Are we going to use the stressor that is coming with the expiration of those portions of the 2017 tax reform to actually grow the society?

Mr. Speaker, you have to ask yourself that first, because I don't know if many of my Democrat colleagues agree with me that prosperity is moral.

Having a society where every day you have the chance to live a little bit better, is that moral?

Having a society we are not poisoning ourselves with what we eat, is that moral?

Having a healthcare system that is better, faster, and cheaper, is that moral?

All those things are in front of us because chart after chart after chart basically says that when we have had very high marginal tax rates, we get about 17, 18 percent of GDP. When we have had very low marginal tax rates, we get about 17, 18 percent of GDP.

When we have done lots of extra corporate taxes, we get 17 to 18 percent of GDP.

The fact of the matter is there are lots of brilliant economic papers and people have written their Ph.D. theses on this. You all have access to the internet. Maybe go read it. You are going to get about 17, 18 percent of GDP, and a bunch of the Democrat policies are: Well, let's raise these taxes, and we will get 24 percent of GDP.

Really?

Tell me a time in U.S. history on a sustained basis that has happened. It just hasn't.

Unless the Democrats' plan is to do a value-added tax, a VAT tax, which will crush the working middle class, you ain't getting that number. You have got to stop making crap up.

Yet, we know our spending because it is demographics. Remember our point before: interest, Medicare, and back-filling Social Security.

We got old as a society. I am going to show you a couple of charts here that are really rough, and they are absolutely factual.

The only reason I grabbed this chart, and we are going to go through some of these pretty quickly, it is just to show you over the past four quarters, \$600 billion, \$288 billion, \$487 billion, \$258 billion, we are borrowing in quarters where a few years ago that was the entire year.

Here is one of the punch lines: Social Security, \$1.452 trillion. That is Social Security this year. However, Social Security is out of your payroll tax and then part of the trust fund. Interest now, there were a few of our brothers and sisters on that side who mocked me a few months ago when I said: I think we are going to close in on 1.1, \$1.2 trillion in interest this year.

Oh, Schweikert, you have got to stop making crap up.

Treasury's own number, \$1.144 trillion is the interest.

If you want this number to go down, then make us look like a stable government. Make us look like we are adults. Convince the bond markets we are actually going to take on our debt in a meaningful way instead of playing the-actrics.

This is interesting. Right now, there is actually a little bit of squish here, so you have to understand. Mr. Speaker, our most recent Treasury update, defense now is number 3 and Medicare is number 4. We actually think that is going to flip again because last month it was flipped and reversed, but they are almost identical right now. The punch line here is interest now is the second biggest expense in the government. At our current borrowing rate, and if interest rates stay where they are at or go up just a little bit, in a couple of years, interest, interest, will be the number one spend in this government.

Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, this is a hard chart to read. The point of this one is just inter-

est fragility, what happens with small movements in interest rates on U.S. sovereign debt. The basic point is where we are interest rate-wise right now in 2033. Right now, we are working on the 2025 fiscal year budget; 7, 8 budget years from now, our model at today's interest rates we are at 3, \$3.7 trillion baseline borrowing.

□ 1800

That is already our model. That is without a recession. That is without a war. That is without a pandemic. That is just where we are at.

I have some other articles talking about how fragile we have made ourselves. God forbid, this year or next year, we go into a true recession. Do you have any idea how fragile we have made this government, this country, with our ravenous borrowing?

What would happen if tax receipts started to roll over a bit on us because we went into a recession? Remember, tax receipts are up about 7 percent. Medicare spending is up around 10 percent this fiscal year. If that rolled over and wasn't 7 percent and was closer to 4 percent or 5 percent, do you want to talk about a bloodbath?

Raising interest rates could push the national debt toward 300 percent of GDP within 30 years. How many of you think the bond markets are going to let us get anywhere near 300 percent of GDP with our savings rates? If you are Japan, maybe you can do it. You would have remarkably high savings rates. They can almost finance their own debt. Actually, they do finance their own debt. Do you think the rest of the world is going to keep loaning us money, respecting the sovereignty of the reserve currency that is the dollar?

Why are we destroying ourselves? Why are we destroying your retirement? Why are we destroying your kids, my young kids? Yet, the hallways, once again, are full of people wanting more money.

Let's talk through a couple of things that are even more uncomfortable than talking about the debt. You all saw a week ago Friday the update on U.S. fertility rates. Yes, we are going to have an idiot Congressman talk about how many children we are having in society because it is important.

We sit there in our offices, and I am blessed to have some freaky smart staff, people much smarter than I ever could dream to be, a bunch of economists, and we are trying to figure out, over the next decade, two decades, how do we pay Social Security? How do we pay Medicare? How do we do these things?

The Democrats say that we will just raise more taxes, but then you show them the studies that that math doesn't work.

Are we just going to lie to our voters and survive the next election? Great job, guys, but we have a little problem. A week ago Friday, you saw the updated report on the 2023 fertility rates. I was wrong on my number. It is worse.

It is worse than the speeches I came here and gave.

We are down to 1.62, meaning we are way below replacement rates now. The United States is dying, and one of the things I am frustrated with is the Census Bureau numbers basically say that when we start to get beyond—because, remember, the Census Bureau had us at 1.64, it turns out they were wrong. It is 1.62, and they were projecting as we go through the rest of this century, which is a long time.

Think about your kids. If you have a young child right now, they are going to live, hopefully, with the Lord's blessing, 100 years. We start to collapse populationwise, and we are going to walk you through a couple of why these are such a big deal.

Deaths are projected to exceed births. This chart said 2040. It is a little sooner. If you take last week's fertility number, in about 15 years, the United States will have more deaths than births.

There is no industrialized country that has succeeded in adopting policy that changed their fertility rates in the long run, so you have Hungary and these others that say, in your future life, have a fourth kid, and pay no income taxes in the future. We will buy you a house, and you get a little pop, and then, boom, after a few years, it moves right back to mean.

You have to deal with the reality. It turns out, all over the world, as the world has gotten more prosperous, we have a collapse in fertility, yet we built a social entitlement system. It is earned benefits. You earned your Medicare. You earned your Social Security. They were based on the concept that there would be this many workers because the reality is that today's FICA taxpayer's and payroll taxpayer's paycheck went into your Social Security check today, or your Medicare. It is just the way it has always been.

What happens when that next generation gets smaller? Are we also emotionally and mentally prepared for the number of schools that will be closing? It is starting to happen all over the country because U.S. fertility started to roll over in 1990. It has just now accelerated. We had a tiny little blip during the pandemic, and now it has gone back. The trend line continues to get uglier and uglier.

It is reality. Think about it. You live in a country where, in 15 years, we will have more deaths than births. Are we prepared for that? Are you ready, are we ready, is this body intellectually ready for saying you are going to adopt policies that are child friendly, this and that? There is no other country that has come up with an example where it actually raised the number of children. Are we ready to adopt policy to embrace technology?

This is where it gets really uncomfortable. How many robots are you ready to embrace? How much AI are you ready to embrace? When you call the IRS, instead of having a person, are

you ready to be talking to ChatGPT? Probably, in that case, you might prefer the chat.

We are going to have to adopt the embracement, or whatever the word would be, of technology in ways to keep the economy growing without more people, and this is happening all over the industrialized world.

How many times behind these microphones have you heard any Member of Congress come and say: I actually care about prosperity. I care about the next generation. I care about economic growth. I care about the future. We are going to adopt things where we are going to embrace technology so we can keep having prosperity.

What? The math is the math, and the math will always win.

One of the things I am also annoyed with is, reading through the Social Security actuarial report, they are making crap up. They have fertility numbers in here. They have us growing.

CBO actually has numbers growing, yet we talk about the Census Bureau, and the Census Bureau is down here. Could our government agencies—we spend a fortune with all these actuaries—maybe have a cocktail party, preferably no alcohol? Make it a coffee. We will do a coffee because that is what we need, a bunch of well-caffinated actuaries in the same room from Social Security, from maybe OMB, CBO, a couple of these others, the Census Bureau, all in the same room. Can you give us a number because you are making it miserable around here trying to say what our future looks like because, so far, they keep being wrong.

It is a little geeky, but that is important, and that was my mocking them for the number of times I send them memos saying: Can you explain your number and why it is so different than each other?

I had some questions on this from last week, so I just brought the board back. You had the President stand right there, and he basically said that we are going to do this from Medicare, that we are going to raise this tax and this and that.

The red portion here is when you pay your payroll tax. That is the portion that goes to the Medicare trust fund. The rest, you functionally pay for. This comes out of the general fund, which we are borrowing part of it. Over here, that is actually your premiums, and a little bit of this is some other transfers. Then, we also have a little slice here, which is for dual eligibles, those who are seniors but maybe in Medicare and Medicaid, so we also get a little sliver from the State. Once again, the majority of spending in Medicare is not the trust fund.

I am elated that the current model on the trust fund extended for another few years. That is wonderful. We need to sort of study that, except if you read the actuarial report, the reason it extended is really fragile. This dark blue there, that and interest are the primary drivers of U.S. debt.

Tell the truth. Maybe it will get you unelected, but how do you make public policy in a world where you are not allowed to tell the truth? That is what Members of Congress do.

“Rising Security and Medicare Shortfalls Drive Nearly Entire 2019–2033 Deficit Rise.” That is the fact. That is CBO’s own quote.

Here is the board that I promise will be in the attack ad going at me in the next election, except it is CBO’s own numbers, except it is 2 years out of date. There is a number right here that basically says Social Security and Medicare, \$116 trillion deficit, and the rest of the budget, \$3 trillion, is functionally in balance. Except the problem is, for anyone right now, if you care enough, go grab your phone. Go use a search engine and look up CBO’s report from 6 weeks ago. The 30-year number is not \$116 trillion. It is \$143 trillion that is now our model.

That is what higher interest rates did, \$143 trillion, 100 percent of that borrowing, Medicare and the interest financing on that, backfilling of Social Security and the interest financing on that. We can revolutionize this if we would finally be willing to legalize technology, the morality of moving and pushing cures.

Why does this place seem to like to finance people’s misery instead of working with the FDA, working with biopharma, working with the people out there who are disrupting disease and misery? We seem to have a place around here that wants to build diabetic clinics instead of curing diabetes. What is wrong with the morality of this place?

Another thing we are trying to figure out in the Social Security actuary report is they play this game where, hey, when we get the out-years, things collapse. We will do that in a week or two because it is a little complex.

Another chart just trying to explain, once again, what is the part A trust fund, part B general fund. This here, part D, also is a combination of some of the fees you pay. That is your Medicare.

Back to the last couple of points I want to make here.

When I just told you we are about to have our fifth year of prime-age males dying younger, is it moral to stand here and say—remember, this chart functionally ends at 2020. It has actually gotten uglier.

The U.S. is an outlier in disease and disability trends. We are sicker than the rest of the industrialized world. Is it that we are not spending enough on healthcare? Well, that is absurd because, let’s be honest, we engage in agricultural policy and nutrition support policy where you can take your EBT card and go buy onion rings.

Is that moral? Why isn’t there a fixation in this place when we have States where over half of the population statistically is obese? They are dying on us. We have a society that finances crap in our diets. Why would we do this

to each other? Is that Republican or Democratic? I am just trying to make the arguments. It turns out, if you took it on, it is the single biggest thing you can do for U.S. debt, taking on the very things that are killing us.

I have done presentations before. They were a little geeky trying to explain that if we could make our society healthier, it is the single biggest thing I can do to reduce U.S. debt. You all remember your high school economics class, first-degree effects, second-degree effects, third-degree effects, knockoff effects. Do you remember all the weird language? You want more of our brothers and sisters to be able to marry and family formation and participate in society and be able to participate in the economy. Help us make our society healthier.

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to make the morality argument that the very thing that would be most effective for us to take on the U.S. debt is legalizing technology to crash the price of healthcare, putting technology into this government to make government smaller and more efficient. It requires thinking.

□ 1815

It also requires really annoying a whole bunch of the people in our hallways demanding more money from us. It would also be incredibly moral. It would actually give our kids a chance, in many ways, for the prosperity that we and previous generations had.

Let’s think about it: We have done this to ourselves. There is a way out. It is not easy. It requires some complexity. Are these Republican or Democrat ideas? They are neither; they are just hard. They are just hard.

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

FACING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES DOESN’T MAKE YOU WEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANE). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, tonight, my colleagues and I are here on the floor of the U.S. Congress to talk about the mental health crisis we are seeing across the country in each of our congressional districts.

I know this issue can be incredibly hard for many people to talk about. It is personal. It is complex. Many Americans don’t feel comfortable talking about it because they fear the reaction from their friends, their families, or coworkers. But seeking mental health treatment is not a sign of weakness; it means you are human.

The body does not stop at the neck and mental health care is healthcare. Period.

All of us here tonight are fighting for a future in which anyone who wants mental health care gets it when we finally end the unequal treatment of mental health.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Vermont for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see even behind her, it says, "Facing mental health challenges doesn't make you weak. It makes you human."

Even as I say this, I think about Damon in my community who took his life. He was a veteran. He served our country. He came home. He continued his service by being one of our firefighters.

When I read that every single day in our country, in our Nation, about 17 veterans die by suicide, I was shocked. That is 17 families, Mr. Speaker, whose lives will never be the same. This is just one of the heartbreaking effects of war and the reality of the mental health crisis in our Nation.

We must work harder than ever to ensure that no person, no human being, or veteran is left behind, and everyone receives the mental health support and love that they need to survive.

The forever wars of the past decades have left behind immense trauma, and far too often our government fails to provide our veterans with the support they need and deserve. If we cannot provide the necessary mental health care in support of our veterans when they return home, we should not be sending them to war.

This Mental Health Awareness Month, we must prioritize improving access to mental health services to every single American and every single family across our Nation. This is critical to creating a better quality of life for our communities and their families and everyone in our communities that continue to struggle.

I will let every veteran know in this moment, as you hear me, I hope I can save a life by telling you this, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988, which offers free confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for those experiencing a mental health crisis or contemplating suicide.

For our veterans looking for care that is designed for the unique challenges facing your community, please know that you can now access the Veterans Crisis Hotline by dialing the 988 number and pressing 1 to get connected. This is important because on that other line, you may be connected to a veteran who understands how you feel.

By shedding light on the realities of the mental health crisis in our Nation, we can create an environment where people feel seen, they feel heard, and understood. We must break the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and ensure that healthcare is a human right, not a privilege.

If you are a veteran in crisis, a person in crisis, please know that there are people that care deeply about you, and we want to support you. Please reach out for help if you need it. Again, that crisis line is 988. You only need to dial 988. Again, from the bottom of my

heart, please believe me when I tell you, you are not alone.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a nationwide mental health crisis, and it is critically important for all of us in positions of power to do the work of passing legislation and funding programs that will meet the needs of our constituents.

It is also important that we use our positions to help create opportunities for connections in our communities right now because we have a crisis of loneliness and disconnection in our Nation.

It has become such an urgent issue that our U.S. Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy, has unveiled a new framework and strategy to address this national crisis of loneliness. Murthy has said that social connections must be a top priority in terms of public health. He believes, as I do, that the epidemic of loneliness and isolation has fueled other problems in our society that are making us very sick.

His research shows that about one in every two Americans is experiencing loneliness at any given time. It is shocking. It isn't just emotionally uncomfortable to be lonely; it also has real consequences for our health. It can increase the risk of anxiety, depression, heart disease, stroke, and data indicates that the risk of a premature death due to loneliness is even comparable to the risk associated with being a daily smoker.

This rampant disconnection and loneliness also fuels anger and distrust, and it adds to the disconnection that many Americans experience.

The science is clear and compelling. Research has found that our need for connection may be as fundamental as our need for food and water. Many studies over the past decade have come to the same conclusion: Social connectedness generates a positive feedback loop of social, emotional, and actually physical well-being.

People who feel more connected to others show lower levels of anxiety and depression and greater empathy for others. They also tend to be more cooperative and trusting. Further, a lack of social connection can have a range of negative effects.

One study of 7,000 Americans of different ages, genders, and health found that people who were disconnected from others were roughly three times more likely to die over that 9-year study than people with strong social ties. Surprisingly, regardless of demographics, people who had unhealthy lifestyles, but close social ties lived longer than those with healthy living habits but poor social connections.

Not only are relationships fundamental to our health and happiness, but research shows that they may even shape how our brains work to make decisions. We must craft policy and make investments to address our national mental health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Vermont for hosting this Special Order hour on mental health.

Mr. Speaker, so long before I came to Congress when I served on the board of the Los Angeles Community College, we would hold monthly board meetings throughout the district, and it is the largest community college district in the country. We had nine campuses, and so we would visit them regularly.

These meetings were oftentimes very long, they were open to the public, and lots of people would come. Lots of people, lots of characters, and lots of mental wellness issues were often on display.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was contracted with the district, and it was the sheriff's department that would provide security for these meetings. I would watch these officers, mostly men, but I would keep my eye on them to see how they were doing. I would watch them take into account the changing surroundings based on the meeting and the topics and adapt to the circumstances of the evening.

On occasion, these men, these good men, would have to manage a mental health episode by an attendee of the meetings, a mental health episode that verged on the unsafe.

I have to tell you; these sheriffs were not trained for that. They did not apply to become a sheriff to do that kind of work. In reality, they should not have been doing that. Yet, we dump more and more social, economic, mental, and physical healthcare issues on their plate.

We are asking ill-equipped law enforcement members to be responsible for managing the mental health crises of our communities. No wonder they are under duress.

Police officers report higher rates of depression. Thirty percent of responders develop some kind of behavioral health condition, compared to 20 percent of the general public. Law enforcement officers have a 54 percent increase in suicide risk when compared to the civilian population. Correctional officers in our prisons have suicide rates much higher than other law enforcement agencies or even the military.

Yet, Republicans want to crack down on mental unwellness in every instance except in cases regarding fentanyl. I wonder why that is the case? By bolstering the institutional policy status quo, you are not helping the mental health of our officers or those that they interact with.

I am actually floored that Republicans have the audacity to talk about supporting police when they have done nothing but put these folks in more danger. For the past 2 years, House Republicans have closed the Labor, Health, and Human Services account for Community Project Funding requests, obstructing funding from flowing into our districts to support those struggling with mental health.

House Republicans also barred non-profits from applying for Community Project Funding within the Community Development Fund—Economic Development Initiative for HUD, preventing organizations that specialize in addressing homelessness from receiving vital Federal funding and placing additional burdens on law enforcement.

It is hypocritical to say this is Police Week and you want to support law enforcement when you are vehemently opposed to funding, supporting, or uplifting any of the initiatives that actually would do the most to help police, including their mental health, and including the mental health of those they interact with.

Instead, let's commit to legislation like H.R. 6202, the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act. This legislation diverts Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma-informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes.

I have to tell you, the most common reasons why police officers are called are for issues related to parking, noise nuisance, poverty, domestic violence, and mental health episodes, and none of these, truthfully, require police intervention. Most demand mental health intervention, especially when you are dealing with someone in crisis.

□ 1830

By investing in mental health crisis intervention initiatives, we can actually better ensure the safety of both our communities and law enforcement.

I generally don't like to talk about another State or somebody else's district, but I want to share a little bit about what has been happening in Oregon. In Eugene, Oregon, they instituted this initiative called CAHOOTS, Crisis Assistance Helping Out On the Streets, a program with the city's police department, and it has had resounding success.

For nearly 30 years, the program has dispatched crisis response professionals to assist people who are intoxicated, mentally ill, and/or disoriented to assist the responding officers, reducing police service calls by almost 9 percent every year. It has also cut down on workers' compensation issues and other liability claims.

This program actually inspired me to introduce and pass into law the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act in the California State Legislature, which established a pilot grant program to support similar community organizations that provide stability, safety, and culturally informed and appropriate responses to mental health crises to people experiencing homelessness, to challenges with domestic violence, and also to natural disasters.

Law enforcement was supportive of this because they don't want to take mental health crisis calls, but I don't know if Republicans care about them

or about this country's mental wellness because they are certainly unwilling to support policy changes and crucial investments at the Federal level that would address mental health crises and mental health episodes.

In closing, I am going to think back to my time in the California State Legislature working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and listening to stories of correctional officers battling depression, battling alcoholism, feeling isolated, being abused by other correctional officers, and being afraid to talk about it. I think about the conversations I had with the parents of correctional officers who died by suicide at their job.

All of these examples are examples of a mental health crisis happening in our homes, our streets, and our facilities, where we are asking folks to show up every day of sound mind and work on behalf of a locality, county, or community to help keep it safe, and we are not even doing our part. Republicans are not even doing their part to help them be safe.

I hope that Republicans are done playing hooky at a courthouse in New York today and will come back here and focus on this immediate, critical, and important epidemic that has taken hold of the very people they claim to support.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, 9 months ago, the Lahaina fires took the lives of 101 people and destroyed hundreds of structures, including homes, classrooms, historic parks and features, and businesses. While we have come a long way to repair the physical damage inflicted upon our community, the trauma and emotional pain from the fires continue to take root in the lives of our Maui "family" "ohana."

First responders, disaster workers, and volunteers are on the front lines and have been there from day one, delivering physical and emotional support to our people and families during this time of crisis. While we know they often—and you heard this from the previous speaker—put the needs of others before themselves, the reality is they, too, need help dealing with the challenges and dangers that come with experiences and the things that they see every day on the job, the situations that they are faced with.

I will digress a bit and tell you some stories of things that I saw in the first days, weeks, and even months after the fires. It was not uncommon for me to come across even some of the top brass in leadership of our emergency management, fire department, or police department, and they would stop me. You could see by the look in their eyes that it was very hard for them to continue as they talked about the things they saw and the experiences that they went through as victims and survivors themselves, many of them asking me: How

can I go on? What do I do now? I need help, too.

Statistically, sadly, we know that first responders, police officers, and firefighters find themselves in this very situation time and time again. We know that these first responders are more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty, and that depression and PTSD are up to five times more common in first responders.

Unfortunately, there are only a limited number of services and resources available specifically to address the mental health needs of our first responders. Too often, first responders are directed to services that fail to meet them where they are at and are inadequate to support their mental health and well-being, to truly understand the situation that they are dealing with every single day, reliving the trauma, reliving the moment that they have experienced, yet on the surface having to put on that happy face and continue to serve the public.

This is unacceptable. That is why I introduced the CARE for First Responders Act, which would make sure our first responders, disaster workers, and volunteers have immediate access to on-site, specialized crisis counseling services and resources. Our bill would also establish a peer support program and a national hotline to provide 24/7 confidential, comprehensive crisis services to first responders and their loved ones.

Every day, these brave individuals risk their lives to keep our communities safe. They are our superheroes, but they are still human. All of us need to be there for them, and we must do everything we can to provide all of our survivors and disaster responders with the mental health and support they need now.

The reality is that we can clear away the debris, rebuild our schools, and reopen our roads. We can see houses coming up. Healing from the pain and trauma, though, is a lot more difficult, and that takes time.

As we recognize Mental Health Awareness Month, I thank my colleague from Vermont for giving us this opportunity to call attention to the mental health crisis that is ravaging our people right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues that while we have made incredible progress to expand access to mental health and substance use disorder services, there is still much more work to be done, and it must be done now. We must continue to fight to ensure everyone can get the care they need when they need it and where they are at.

We must pass critical lifesaving measures like H.R. 6415, our CARE for First Responders Act, a truly bipartisan measure with 44 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle to support those who support, care for, and protect us every single day.

We must prioritize and act with urgency to fund and pass progressive policy changes to support mental health

in our community. For the sake of all the people who we love, for every single person even in this building, we must do it now.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my wonderful colleague from Vermont for yielding and for convening this important conversation.

This discussion could not be more timely, Mr. Speaker. Rates of mental health conditions for America's children have been rising for years, and now they are rising exponentially.

In 2019, one in three high school students reported persistent feelings of hopelessness and depression, representing a 40-percent increase over 10 years. Social media has had a profoundly negative impact on mental health, with adolescents who spend more than 3 hours per day on social media facing twice the risk of developing symptoms of depression and anxiety.

The youth mental health epidemic in America has also caught the attention of our top public health authorities. Over the last several years, the Surgeon General has issued advisories about youth mental health and the harm caused by social media. Included in the advisories is guidance on how young people, their families, educators, health professionals, tech companies, and other stakeholders can address these challenges by encouraging healthy relationships, modeling good behavior, improving data privacy for children on social media, and more.

The CDC has also been involved, including through research about the COVID pandemic's negative impact on youth mental health, the isolation. The agency found that during the pandemic, youth experienced a very low rate of social connectiveness, understandably. A sense of being cared for, supported, and belonging at school, and that lack of feeling connected to school, was associated with a nearly 20 percentage point increase in persistent feelings of hopelessness and depression amongst American young people.

These statistics, obviously, are deeply troubling and a warning sign to us here in Congress and to America. We have a responsibility to the future of this country in Congress to support children and families who are struggling.

I am proud to have led legislation like the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act, which would provide Head Start and Early Head Start programs with funding to conduct behavioral health interventions for young American children. I am proud to say that this bill passed the House last Congress with bipartisan support in my broader Mental Health Matters Act.

We have to keep pressing on until this bill and other legislation to protect the mental health of young Americans get across the finish line, signed,

and implemented. We know that failure to address mental health disorders and adverse childhood experiences early on can lead to a lifetime of bigger issues and serious outcomes for the individual and for our country and communities.

As we continue our work in Congress to address children's mental health, we must ensure that our efforts meet the critical needs of this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman for convening this and for leading the effort to raise the consciousness of this epidemic in America.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from Members from many different parts of the country, from Vermont to Michigan to California to Hawaii. As I said before, we must prioritize human connection and healthy relationships, and we have to craft policy and make bold investments to address our national mental health crisis.

The percentage of U.S. adults who report having been diagnosed with depression at some point in their lifetimes has reached nearly 30 percent. This is almost a 10 percentage point increase since 2015. The percentage of Americans who currently have or are being treated for depression has also increased to almost 18 percent. These rates are the highest recorded by Gallup polling since it began measuring depression using the current form of data collection in 2015.

It is impacting all of us, but I am particularly concerned about the toll it is having on our kids and teens. Thirty years ago, the greatest health threats to teenagers came from binge drinking, drunk driving, teen pregnancy, and smoking. These have all fallen sharply since then, but they have been surpassed by soaring rates of mental health disorders.

In a little over a decade, the number of adolescents reporting depression has increased by 60 percent. Emergency room visits by adolescents are up as parents seek help for their teens who are struggling with anxiety, depression, and self-harm. Suicide rates among adolescents are up sharply, as well.

The public health crisis has intensified since the pandemic, but it didn't cause it. We have seen a steady increase over the past 20 years. Young people now are getting less sleep, less exercise, and less in-person time with friends, all crucial for physical and mental health. Adolescent brains are being exposed to a huge wave of incoming stimulation via social media and technology.

□ 1845

Teens in my district have told me they feel anxious, disconnected, and depressed. Many fear that their constant use of cell phones and social media is impacting their mental health.

We have important work to do, all of us. Every single congressional district is experiencing this. My work on men-

tal health will be a cornerstone of the work that I do in Congress.

I am working toward a future in which anyone who wants mental health care gets it and when we finally end the unequal treatment of mental health and addiction.

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

ISSUES IN NICARAGUA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. 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 subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, American citizens from Alabama and Texas and their Nicaraguan partners have made it their mission to spread the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Nicaraguan people for nearly 30 years.

Evangelists with Mountain Gateway Ministries have worked across the country, leading on disaster recovery and feeding, clothing, and planting churches with the support and assistance of the Nicaraguan government.

In January, however, the Attorney General of Nicaragua began pursuing charges against three U.S. citizens associated with Mountain Gateway and 11 Mountain Gateway Nicaraguan pastors on trumped-up charges of money laundering and organized crime.

In addition to being barred from meeting with their legal representation and their families, the lawyers on their case were denied access to the case files and to other relevant documentation against the pastors.

During the sham trial, the government was unable to produce evidence of the alleged illicit activity. Despite this, the 11 pastors have been sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and a combined \$1 billion in fines.

These pastors were working to bless the people of Nicaragua, and now they have been thrown in prison, and all their property has been seized.

These sentences leave families without income and children without mothers and fathers simply for sharing the good news of Jesus. I am deeply concerned that these citizens and pastors were targeted for sharing their faith.

Matthew 5:10 says: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

I recently introduced a resolution, H. Res. 1019, condemning the Nicaraguan government for unjust imprisonment of these people, and I hope my colleagues will join in support.

I am praying for a swift resolution to this situation so these pastors can be safely returned to their families and continue sharing the Gospel.

I am grateful to the Members of Congress who joined me for this Special Order to highlight this issue and call on the Nicaraguan government to release the imprisoned pastors immediately.

I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), one of my first cosponsors of H. Res. 1019.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of these Nicaraguan pastors, ministry leaders of Mountain Gateway, who are unable to speak for themselves.

I thank my colleague from Alabama for taking this time of the Special Order to discuss this issue, to bring it to the attention of the American people, and, really, to the world.

He has been a great champion on this, and there are many members of our delegation in Alabama, and, really, across the country, that are very concerned about what we have heard going on in Nicaragua and the situation down there.

Unfortunately, so many of the American people are very unaware of what the situation is just a few hundred miles south of our border here in the United States of America.

These leaders, as has been already mentioned, but it should be repeated. These leaders have been convicted by the Nicaraguan government on sham charges. They now face up to 15 years in prison and \$80 million in fines each.

The arrests came after these courageous pastors led a series of revivals that were authorized by the Nicaraguan government. They were rounded up, and they were imprisoned shortly after a mass outpouring of faith in the capital city.

Mr. Speaker, it is an act of religious persecution that put these men and women in prison, these pastors, these leaders, these spiritual leaders, these ministry leaders. It is human rights violations that have kept them in prison.

Again, I am so thankful that we live in a country where we do not have to worry about going to prison. I think so many Americans take for granted all the many freedoms that we have in this country.

One of those main freedoms that we have is that we get to worship freely. We can worship freely, whether it be at an outdoor revival, whether it be in a large event, small event, or just being at home reading our Bible. We don't have to worry about being sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Myself, as a young boy who accepted Christ in my own life, I can now be in Congress, and I can be a citizen here in this United States and not worry about the threat of prison being hung over my head. We can worship freely whether it is to go to an outdoor revival, a program that was such as happened in Nicaragua, or whether it is to simply

go to a small church service or just simply being at home with some other Christians sitting around, reading or praying the Bible together.

During this time when we are reflecting on what is going on here, I encourage the American people to reach out to their Members of Congress and to encourage them to do what they can to stand with those of us who are trying to call attention to this very serious issue.

This not only goes on in Nicaragua, but it also goes on in many other parts of the world, as well. Today, we certainly want to call attention to those pastors and ministry leaders from Mountain Gateway who aren't able to speak for themselves and be a voice here in the United States House of Representatives.

We ask for their release, and I would call on the Nicaraguan government to take action to address these indisputable violations and to free these men and women so that they can be returned to their homes and their families.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), my friend.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding time. I rise today to urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 1019, introduced by my colleague from Alabama (Mr. MOORE), in response to the Nicaraguan government's unjust imprisonment of 11 pastors associated with Mountain Gateway, a missionary group based here in the United States.

This wrongful imprisonment is not the first time Nicaragua has persecuted good Samaritans trying to help their impoverished Nation. In recent years, Nicaragua has arrested Catholic missionaries, as well as members of the Red Cross.

As the United States Congress, we have a vested interest in both upholding international religious freedom and the safety and security of American citizens currently targeted.

I join my colleagues to call on the Nicaraguan government to rescind these unjust charges immediately and release the pastors.

To the pastors and persecuted Christians everywhere, I encourage them with this passage from Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, previously our colleagues across the aisle were talking about hope and mental health in America.

I think in Nicaragua, these ministries and certainly these missionaries were impacting people's lives and bringing them hope. It is just a shame what has happened to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time and for his leadership on this important issue.

Since its founding in 2006, Mountain Gateway Ministries has been changing people's lives through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the feeding and clothing of those in need, and the provision of water, food, equipment, and recovery assistance during and after natural disasters.

These noble and selfless efforts have had far-reaching impacts on the lives of so many families and individuals extending far beyond the borders of any individual Nation.

In 2013, Mountain Gateway Ministries began their important work in Nicaragua, spreading the Lord's word to hundreds of thousands of people.

The ministry has started and supported multiple churches across the country, provided countless aid and helping hands through hurricanes and other humanitarian relief projects, and has even gone as far as to run a Fairtrade coffee farm with the goal of providing a source of stable income for local residents in nearby rural communities.

Over the course of 10 years, they have operated with the cooperation and approval of the Nicaraguan authorities. Unfortunately, this all changed after the ministry held a series of evangelistic services in 2023, which nearly 1 million people attended.

Shortly after those services ended, the Nicaraguan government rapidly changed its position and began a relentless campaign of wrongful persecution.

In December 2023, under the guise of false money laundering claims and with little to no notice, the Nicaraguan government canceled the ministry's legal status, arrested several Nicaraguan pastors and ministry partners, threatened the arrest of U.S. citizens involved with the ministry, seized the ministry's properties, and froze its bank accounts.

After spending months at a Nicaraguan prison with no access to legal counsel, no visits from their relatives, and being unable to hear the allegations against them, the trials against those arrested commenced.

During the trial, the presiding judge arbitrarily elevated the charges against these individuals to aggravated money laundering claims.

All the Nicaraguan defendants were found guilty of the elevated charges and sentenced to severe punishments, including over 10 years in prison and fines amounting to tens of millions of dollars.

These instances of wrongful targeting and persecution have unfortunately become routine actions by the Nicaraguan government.

The same government has taken similar steps against the Catholic Church, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and many other religious groups, charities, and civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, what is currently unfolding in Nicaragua with the members of Mountain Gateway Ministries is a

travesty, an injustice on the greatest scale.

From the time of their arrest to the handing down of their sentences, the treatment of these individuals and the ministry is in complete contradiction to the most fundamental freedoms and beliefs that we hold here in America, including the freedom of religion, presumption of innocence, and the guarantee of due process and equal treatment under the law.

I commend Mountain Gateway founder Jon Britton Hancock and his family, who are constituents of mine in Wyoming, for bringing this to my attention and for their tireless efforts to advocate for the just treatment and release of these individuals.

I urge President Biden, the State Department, and all of my colleagues to call on the Nicaraguan government to take prompt action to address these violations of religious freedom and abandonment of justice and due process.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Ms. HAGEMAN speaking tonight on that. I certainly want to encourage everybody to get on this resolution, H. Res. 1019, to help free these folks and bring attention to this issue.

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we pride ourselves on our individual liberties and due process of law. We were founded on the freedom of religion, and it is one of the most important freedoms that we hold. I am deeply disturbed by the ongoing situation of religious persecution in Nicaragua. The Mountain Gateway pastors, who spread the teachings of Jesus, have been violated at the hands of the Nicaraguan government. No person should ever be imprisoned for peacefully practicing their religion. Religious persecution is both intolerable and barbaric. The radical, leftist government of Nicaragua and President Daniel Ortega have proven themselves time again to be horribly oppressive. As a member of the United States Congress, I condemn Nicaragua's actions, and I will always fight for religious freedom at home and abroad.

WEAPONIZATION OF THE DOJ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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 subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, of all of the harm done over the past 3 years by Democrats, perhaps most damaging has been the loss of faith and trust in our most sacred institutions,

especially our judicial system and our Federal law enforcement.

Like never before, the Department of Injustice has explicitly demonstrated a willingness to target conservatives and political opponents. They are not even pretending anymore.

Whether conducting SWAT raids in tactical gear at the homes of pro-life protesters, targeting and arresting concerned parents at school board meetings, buying private data on those exercising their Second Amendment rights, surveilling Catholics practicing their faith in Richmond, or the disparate treatment of January 6 prisoners, it is no surprise that half of the country doesn't trust the people in power in this administration.

□ 1900

Of course, their biggest and most immediate target is the 47th President of the United States because they know that Donald J. Trump is the primary obstacle to their quest to conquer and control the citizens of the United States, stripping them of their pesky constitutional freedoms.

The egregious lawfare, the abusive legal persecution of President Trump, is nothing more than election interference at the highest levels. It is a violation of voters' rights. It is criminal conspiracy. Their aim is to put in jail the only person, President Trump, who is protecting the American people from 4 more years of descent into an abyss from which we would never recover.

Democrats know with our country and every American far worse off than they were 3 years ago, they cannot beat President Trump at the ballot box. Whether you are talking about the border invasion, whether you are talking about the surrender of our energy independence, whether you are talking the onslaught of regulations that is costing the average family thousands of dollars, whether you are talking about the 40-year high inflation that Americans are suffering under, whether you are talking about our weakened military or our weakened foreign policy and the conflicts all over the world that didn't exist when President Trump was in office, Americans in this country are much worse off than they were 3 years ago when President Trump was in office.

The department of injustice, because they cannot beat him at the ballot box in November, colludes illegally and unconstitutionally with these rogue prosecutors and judges in New York and Atlanta.

They send Matthew Colangelo from the Department of Justice to New York. They corroborate with Fani Willis' boyfriend, who bills the Georgia taxpayers for hours spent working with the Department of Justice. The judge in New York City, who just happens to be assigned somehow every high-profile case of persecution of high-profile conservatives, abuses his power by declaring a gag order, not to ensure the de-

fendant, President Trump, gets a fair trial but to prevent President Trump, the defendant, from defending himself in the court of public opinion.

The efforts to rig the 2020 election included the suppression of conservative views, the phony Russia collusion scandal, spying on the Trump campaign, the dirty Steele dossier, the relaxation of voting procedures in the name of COVID to facilitate the ability to cheat.

Their efforts to rig the 2024 election, however, are much more explicit and transparent: prevent President Donald Trump from being on the ballot. When that failed, keep him off the campaign trail and bleed his resources. Better still, the coup de grace for them: Put him in jail via dishonest convictions and crooked courts while he waits for what will surely be certain victory by appeal.

As always with these people, the process is the punishment. In fact, this judge in this New York City trial, his daughter is raising millions of dollars off the trial for the Democratic Party.

The ex-con, the star witness, admitted today to multiple counts of perjury in his testimony under oath. These ridiculous trials, so-called improper business records, so-called overvaluation of assets, alleged document mishandling in Florida for a President who can declare anything declassified by simply possessing it, alleged election interference—that is rich coming from the Democratic Party and these rogue prosecutors colluding with the DOJ. All of this began when President Trump declared his candidacy for reelection.

Who was harmed by these alleged crimes? Who were the victims? What was the real crime? Of course, no one, no one, and nothing. This is not going to work. The American people know it for what it is.

The truth and the law are on the side of President Trump, and he is going to be the 47th President.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to dovetail with what Mr. GOOD has talked about, and that is the weaponization of the Federal Government against American citizens for political purposes.

It is bad enough when it becomes weaponized against American citizens, but it becomes actually exponentially worse when it becomes a tool of authoritarianism to actually attack political opponents.

Why is it worse? It is worse because it undermines the very foundation of the rule of law and of the free association and free speech of American citizens, from which we recognize all of our political apparatus.

Let's think about this. We know the committee of weaponization, the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, recently put out a report dealing

with the misuse of financial records of Americans. Imagine if the Federal Government could get ahold of everybody's credit card statements. Well, they can, actually. Why can they? Because they have asked for it, and the banks and credit card companies, many of them, have actually turned that information over to the FBI and the Department of Justice.

For what reason? There is no particular reason. There is no indicia of probable cause or suspicious behavior. They are just acquiring metadata so they can go after and pursue the individuals.

We see the same thing with this movement to buy up additional metadata from data brokers, private commercial data brokers. They do that so they can avoid the requirements of suspicious conduct or probable cause.

That is what went on when the FBI actually did millions of queries on American citizens and did hundreds of thousands of illegal searches of the data of American citizens.

They didn't have probable cause. There was nothing, according to statute. This is part of the problem with the FISA statute. They had no reason to believe that any of those searches would lead to finding criminal conduct, yet they still went after these American citizens.

The DOJ and judiciary are joined by the ATF. The ATF has been going after firearm licensees, distributors, trying to find technical errors showing up because this is the way the Biden administration is trying to disarm the American public.

It just goes on. Every institution has been weaponized. The military has been weaponized.

It looks like General Perry is here. He might want to talk about that.

The education system is weaponized. You know what happens when you have a generation or two that has been indoctrinated into how bad this country is, that we have no moral high ground, that we don't respect freedom, that we are going to basically embrace critical race theory and that type of the thing.

First of all, you remember that when they did this, they said there is no such thing as critical race theory. That is what the Democrats said here. We were in Judiciary. We had debates on it. They said there is no such thing.

Of course, there is such a thing. Critical theory grew right out of the Frankfurt School, the philosophical group that was led by Jurgen Habermas, Theodor Adorno and the others in the Frankfurt School. They came over and created the critical theory.

In the early seventies, a law professor created the notion of critical race theory. He published articles. It was adopted. The reality is what has happened with that is you have an indoctrinated generation that believes that America is no good, was no good, and will never be good because it is systemically and inherently problem-

atic. It is not just critical race theory. There is a whole bundle of other critical arguments related to critical theory.

You have district attorneys and county attorneys who have run on the notion that those who commit violent crime are misunderstood and should be released into the public, and that those who are victimized become marginalized, which is why I introduced the ALVIN bill, which was to get at Mr. Bragg in New York, and the WILLIS Act.

What are these meant to do? They are meant to use what the Founders gave us within the Constitution, which is our opportunity to use the funding streams and the purse strings to actually try to bring a runaway executive branch back in.

This all culminates in today's actions. What do we see happening? I won't steal my friend's thunder because he was talking about former President Donald Trump, who is undergoing four pieces of lawfare. Those lawfare originated right in the White House. They are coming down from President Biden. How do we know that? Because the paramour of Fani Willis came up and met in the White House to get instructions. How do we know that? Because Jack Smith, who is prosecuting him here on the Mar-a-Lago case, went to the White House multiple times to get instructions. How do we know that? Because Alvin Bragg also met with the White House. How do we know that? Because Matthew Colangelo, one of the high-ranking DOJ lawyers, left that DOJ and went to Alvin Bragg's office after Alvin Bragg and everybody else who looked at the case that is going on in New York City said there is no there there.

By the way, they probably were also told your two star witnesses are Stormy Daniels, who has basically said multiple times—four different times—there was never any interaction between her and Donald Trump, and then Michael Cohen, who has a long string of convictions for lying. He lied about lying, and then he lied about lying about lying today. We heard it in the hours of testimony we saw.

The next step is, how else do you weaponize government? You use it to shield bad acts from the public. Let me give you one. This is my last one. Today, the Judiciary Committee voted to hold Merrick Garland in contempt of court. Tonight, I anticipate the Oversight Committee will do the same.

What did the Biden administration do? President Biden has asserted executive privilege. Now, I want my colleagues to think about this for just a moment. The rationale for the executive privilege based on what Merrick Garland said today, both in an oral and written statement, was two reasons. Number one, we are not going to be able to pursue sensitive investigations. He didn't say how that works, but that is not a reason for executive privilege. It isn't. The other thing with regard to

executive privilege is they talked about politics and the political ramifications if this audio recording was released.

Now, you have already released the transcript. By the way, both of those arguments are undercut because you already released a written transcript.

The only reason not to bring out the recording is because you were abashed, embarrassed because you either doctored your transcript, your written transcript, or because the performance is so egregiously bad in the oral transcript. Neither of those will work.

I am going to call right now and remind everybody that we can take action here. We should. I will just tell you that that is another way that you can weaponize government. That is to hide information, fail to be transparent. That is what this administration has done.

□ 1915

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS, an esteemed member of the Judiciary Committee for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), my good friend.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Freedom Caucus and the former chairman of the House Freedom Caucus for their comments.

I am happy to join in a colloquy with them over the abuses of power and the dangers of the abuse of power.

The Framers of the Constitution noted that it was the avarice of man, the avarice of mankind, the greed of mankind that compelled them to set this government up the way they did, so that there were three separate but coequal branches that would compete with one another and hold each other in check, Mr. Speaker.

It all depended on a few things. It depended on a public, it depended on men and women that would take care, who would put things above themselves that are bigger than themselves. It depended on a people that believed in the sanctity and the providence of God.

Mr. Speaker, it is a little ripped up here because I carry it with me everywhere, but this is the Constitution of the United States of America. I think you can clearly see it is a piece of paper for all intents and purposes. It cannot defend itself. It rides around in my pocket. It depends on people of integrity to defend it, to uphold it and this judicial system we have.

This system of justice we have is no different.

If people are willing to abuse it, it can no more defend itself than this piece of paper known as the Constitution can defend itself. It depends on us. When it is so willingly abused for avarice, for the greed of mankind, there is little that can be done about it.

This body can do little. Unfortunately, the little we can do there has been no interest shown in doing it,

which is the power of funding it. Unfortunately, while we see the abuses, while we watch the abuses front and center, the power that we have to say we will stop it, we have, unfortunately, given them more authority, given them more money than they have even asked for to continue to abuse it.

My friends, my colleagues visited a courthouse today with the former President of the United States for a case in which there is no crime enumerated because there is no crime—specious witnesses to say the least, unfortunately. It is a sad tale no matter which way you look at it.

The reason I am bringing it up and the former speaker brought it up is because you know who can't bring it up? The defendant, the former President of the United States as a defendant can't bring it up because there has been a gag order placed on him.

Mr. Speaker, gag orders are meant—and I am not an attorney, but I think my good friend from Arizona would admit—to protect the accused. Yet, the accused is the one who can't speak in his own defense on his own behalf. Meanwhile, the people that are accusing him, the awesome, unbelievable power of the State—when I say the State, the government, the Federal Government, unlimited resources provided by taxpayers, that is what the accused is up against.

We know because we have seen from history that the accused is the one who is little able to defend themselves, guilty or not guilty, so we want to provide every single protection to the accused, just in case—just in case, Mr. Speaker, they might not be guilty as charged.

Yet, in this instance, the avarice of man, the guilt and the greed of mankind has compelled this side of the aisle to go after with such a vengeance and use the instruments and the authority of the Federal Government to go after their political rivals.

They are blinded by their greed.

They are blinded by their hatred.

They are blinded by their need to control power so much so that they will do anything, and they have done anything.

We are watching the case in Florida where now we found out the evidence was tampered with. Oh, my goodness, it sure appears like, forget the evidence being tampered with, because it is being tampered with by the same people who appear to have set up the whole charade in the first place, again, against their political rival, the former President of the United States, who might very well be the next President of the United States.

I say all that to say this: History has shown us—and if you have traveled at all and watched conflicts around the world—that these injuries that occur from one side to the other tend to repeat themselves because then if there is going to be a redress—in other words, if there is going to be a fix or a solution to that egregious misuse of

power, then the other side is compelled to it when they are in a position of authority. It takes unbelievable will and integrity to say we are not going to engage in that kind of thing. If we are in a position of authority, we are not going to succumb to the greed and the avarice of mankind if you put us in authority.

Mr. Speaker, we all fall short of the grace of God, and the temptation can be overwhelming, which is why it is so important that both sides lay down their greed and say: We are going to try and do this fair and square. We are going to try to do this the right way. We are going to try to win the argument and not use the instruments of Federal power where we otherwise could. We are not going to do that.

Unfortunately, we are in the unchartered territory of the United States of America where that is not the case. This is the charted territory of many despots, dictators, and tyrants around the globe throughout history, and now it has come home to America. Unfortunately, in one of the major political parties in the United States of America. We are watching it weaponized not only against President Trump but average citizens, average citizens who fear that if they might speak, that they might be held in contempt, and they might be bankrupted by somebody that disagrees with them politically.

I will turn it back to my good friend from Virginia and thank him for the time and for bringing the subject up.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for some final thoughts.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate both of the chairmen for their comments.

I want to add just a couple things. We are a constitutional republic. We are not a democracy. A constitutional republic actually elects representatives to make decisions and represent the will of a district or a State. That is the distinction.

Democracy actually comes from the Latin word “demos”. It is where the people themselves are voting directly on the issues and decisions to be made. That is really what happens in a democracy, which is why the Founders warned us and said: You have a constitutional republic, you don't have a democracy. You don't have a democracy because democracies have been short and turbulent in their destruction.

As one historian said in about 1804, it has been the sad history of democracies that as soon as people realize they can vote themselves benefits from the government, they do so, and the government terminates. So we have a constitutional republic.

We have separation of powers both horizontally and vertically. James Madison taught us very clearly that we should honor those separations rigidly.

When we talk about horizontally, we always think of the legislative branch,

the executive branch, and the judiciary, which by the way, are not coequal branches. The Founders were very clear on this. They described the judiciary as the weakest branch. We control their jurisdiction, except for in a few cases of original jurisdiction. We create the Article III courts with the exception of the United States Supreme Court.

The executive branch has very limited powers. In fact, they thought the executive branch itself, the Presidency would be more ceremonial than substantive, and the legislative branch would be small with enumerated powers, but because the House of Representatives was elected directly by the people, it would have the purse strings.

The Senate was to be elected by the State legislatures, and they were to represent the States' interests.

Well, what has happened is we are upside down. We are so upside down because every State—having spent many years in the State legislature, and I think my colleagues know this.

What happens is this: We spend about 80 percent of our time in the State of Arizona trying to respond to Federal mandates passed by this bunch of yoyos or by the bureaucracy where they were telling us things like, gee, in Phoenix, Arizona, what we want you to do is we want you to water down your dust because the number one particulate in the Phoenix metro area is dust. That is your biggest pollutant. Water it down.

The other half is EPA saying: You can't water it down because we are watching you on your water usage. This is from people who are cubicle dwellers who are controlling, without any understanding, 5.5 million people in the Phoenix metro area.

They become weaponized. They are nameless. They are faceless. They are the D.C. cartel, which consists of bureaucracy, media, and lobbyists. That is your cartel. They have taken the institutions of this country, and they have weaponized them against the American people.

It is time for this body to say we are the ones closest to the people, and we must do all we can. We may not have leverage over the Senate now, we may not have leverage over the executive branch now, but we must do and can do everything possible to restore the separation of powers both horizontally and vertically. If we did that, I guarantee you what would happen is this weaponization would dissipate. It wouldn't go quietly in the night, but we have felt it wrap around our necks like the flaxen cords of sin, and we have got to begin cutting it off.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for his comments.

We have seen over the last 3 years the consequence of electing people who will abuse power, weaponize the Federal Government against citizens and

political opponents, and carry out disparate justice treatment based on political views.

Both Chairman PERRY and Chairman BIGGS have spoken eloquently about the Constitution, our true north, our compass, which is just a minor inconvenience to the folks on the other side, who have a mentality of show me the man, I will show you the crime.

We cannot let them win in this endeavor. We must hold them accountable. That is why it was a privilege today to go up, Mr. Speaker, and defend our former President and future President of the United States for the abuse of power that is being directed at him right now as they target truly the American people as he stands in their way.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of a funeral.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3935. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 546.—An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 17, 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-4202. A letter from the Program Analyst, Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Almonds Grown in California; Amendments to the Marketing Order [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-21-0089] received May 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 Agriculture.

EC-4203. A letter from the Program Analyst, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's notice of funding availability — Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program [No. USDA-FSA-OA-FLSP-G-23-0001] received May 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4204. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Regulations Policy Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Condensed, Extracted Glutamic Acid Fermentation Product [Docket No.: FDA-2024-F-1850] received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4205. 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 May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4206. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additions to the Entity List [Docket No.: 230713-0167] (RIN: 0694-AJ28) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4207. 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) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4208. 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 the Unverified List [Docket No.: 230810-0191] (RIN: 0694-AJ33) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4209. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Recovery and Conservation Planning, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem, Washington State [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2023-0074; FXES1130100000-245-FP01E00000] (RIN: 1018-BG89) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4210. A letter from the Executive Assistant to the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Systematic Processes for Disposition or Repatriation of Native American Human Remains, Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony [NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0036506; PPWOCRADN0-

PCU00RP14.550000] (RIN: 1024-AE19) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4211. A letter from the Acting Assistant Director, Office of Congressional Relations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Obsolete Procedures and Requirements Related to F, J, and M Nonimmigrants [DHS Docket No.: ICEB-2021-0016] (RIN: 1653-AA87) received April 30, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4212. A letter from the Chief Regulatory Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rulemaking — Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for "T" Nonimmigrant Status [CIS No.: 2507-11; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2011-0010] (RIN: 1615-AA59) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4213. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0764; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01017-T; Amendment 39-22716; AD 2024-06-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4214. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0009; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00789-T; Amendment 39-22712; AD 2024-06-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4215. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2400; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00782-T; Amendment 39-22715; AD 2024-06-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4216. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2233; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00755-E; Amendment 39-22704; AD 2024-05-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4217. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1413; Project Identifier AD-2023-00087-T; Amendment 39-22706; AD 2024-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4218. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-

1400; Project Identifier AD-2022-01374-T; Amendment 39-22708; AD 2024-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4219. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-78 and V-171; Darwin, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1735; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4220. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support and Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0220; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00760-T; Amendment 39-22733; AD 2023-13-07R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4221. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Alaskan Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airway V-506 in the Vicinity of Kodiak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2105; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAAL-61] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4222. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2143; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00088-A; Amendment 39-22718; AD 2024-06-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4223. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airman Certification Standards and Practical Test Standards for Airmen; Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1463; Amdt. Nos.: 61-153, 63-46, and 65-64] (RIN: 2120-AL74) received May 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4224. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Criminal Justice Reviews for the SBA Business Loan Programs, Disaster Loan Programs, and Surety Bond Guaranty Program (RIN: 3245-AI03) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-4225. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Transfer of Certain Credits [TD 9993] (RIN: 1545-BQ64) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-4226. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Guidance on the Defini-

tion of Domestically Controlled Qualified Investment Entities [TD 9992] (RIN: 1545-BQ36) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 8418. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the Lethal Means Safety and Suicide Prevention training course of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JAMES, Mr. STANTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. MENG, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DELUZZO, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 8419. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to provide funding for United States victims of state-sponsored terrorism by ensuring consistent and meaningful distributions from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 8420. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CRANE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROY, Mr. SELF, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 8421. A bill to abolish the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks, to repeal the Federal Reserve Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BALINT (for herself and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 8422. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish programs for the provision of mental health services to individuals affected by a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr.

TONKO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 8423. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. BURLISON):

H.R. 8424. A bill to require the release to the public of all documents, reports, and other records relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 8425. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to revise a rule relating to language translation assistance with respect to certain needs assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BACON, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZZO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. IVEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 8426. A bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FROST, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 8427. A bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER:

H.R. 8428. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 8429. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of Byrne-JAG grants for the purchase of disaster response and tactical vehicles; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. HUNT, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. TIMMONS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. BOEBERT, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 8430. A bill to make certain adjustments pertaining to the Alternatives to Detention program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 8431. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide regular updates to Livestock Indemnity Program payment rates to reflect market prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 8432. A bill to codify Executive Order 13809, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. BURLISON):

H.R. 8433. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the National Institutes of Health to select awardees based on merit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 8434. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 107 North Hoyne Avenue in Fritch, Texas, as the "Chief Zeb Smith Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 8435. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain price protection payments as eligible rollover distributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8436. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify a provision relating to quality loss adjustment coverage; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SELF, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BACON, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. MANNING, Mr. MAST, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BARR,

Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 8437. A bill to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. MCCLELLAN (for herself and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 8438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit qualified distributions from section 529 plans for certain transportation and parking expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 8439. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify household income to exclude income earned by a member who is 21 years of age or younger and who is an elementary or secondary school student; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 8440. A bill to waive the statute of limitations for cases against the government related to the General Motors bailout that were filed on or before July 9, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 8441. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from using Federal funds to establish the ICE Secure Docket Card program and to prohibit the use of documentation issued in connection with immigration proceedings to establish eligibility for Federal public benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 8442. A bill to temporarily expand the supplemental nutrition assistance program income eligibility of households that include certain veterans; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 8443. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SELF, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MANN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ESTES, Mr. EZELL, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr.

HARRIS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BOST, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. HILL, Mr. ROSE, Mr. FLOOD, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.J. Res. 144. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, relating to "Definition of 'Engaged in the Business' as a Dealer in Firearms"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.J. Res. 145. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Drug Administration relating to "Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROY, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HUNT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.J. Res. 146. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to "Clarifying the Eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients and Certain Other Noncitizens for a Qualified Health Plan through an Exchange, Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit, Cost-Sharing Reductions, and a Basic Health Program"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MANN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina):

H.J. Res. 147. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration relating to "Worker Walkaround Representative Designation Process"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.J. Res. 148. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Clean Vehicle Credits Under Sections 25E and 30D; Transfer of Credits; Critical Minerals and Battery Components; Foreign Entities of Concern"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.J. Res. 149. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem, Washington State"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H. Res. 1232. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of "National Hypertension Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. GRUJALVA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H. Res. 1233. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H. Res. 1234. A resolution celebrating the East Bay Regional Park District's 90th anniversary; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H. Res. 1235. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that certain welfare programs discourage marriage and hurt the institution of the family in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 1236. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 16, 2024, as the "National Day of Light"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KILEY):

H. Res. 1237. A resolution recognizing "Necrotizing Enterocolitis Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: This bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the Lethal Means Safety and Suicide Prevention training course of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 8419.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: Victims of State-sponsored Terrorism

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 8420.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8
The single subject of this legislation is: Public Safety

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 8421.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 5
The single subject of this legislation is: Financial Services

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 8422.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1
The single subject of this legislation is: Mental Health

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 8423.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is: Aging Services

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 8424.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is: To require the release to the public of all documents, reports, and other records relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 8425.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18
The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to revise a rule relating to language translation assistance with respect to certain needs assessments.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8426.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that the United States 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:

This bill empowers the Federal Labor Relations Authority to protect the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 8427.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that the United States 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:

This bill empowers the Federal Labor Relations Authority to protect the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 8427.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. CHAVEZ DEREMER:

H.R. 8428.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 8429.
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:

local law enforcement vehicle purchases.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 8430.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 8431.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide regular updates to the Livestock Indemnity Program payment rates to reflect market prices.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 8432.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

Preserving access to the 1033 program for law enforcement.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 8433.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

Preserving merit-based classification for federal awards.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 8434.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 107 North Hoyne Avenue in Fritch, Texas, as the "Chief Zeb Smith Post Office."

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8435.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain price protection payments as eligible rollover distributions.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8436.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Crop Insurance

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 8437.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 8418.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 8438.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
529 Savings Plans

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 8439.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Nutrition

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 8440.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
To waive the statute of limitations for cases against the government related to the General Motors bailout that were filed on or before July 9, 2015 and for other purposes

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 8441.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from using Federal funds to establish the ICE Secure Docket Card program and to prohibit the use of documentation issued in connection with immigration proceedings to establish eligibility for Federal public benefits.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 8442.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To temporarily expand the supplemental nutrition assistance program income eligibility of households that include certain veterans.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 8443.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
"The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:
The Prison to Proprietorship Act would direct the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Resource Partners to provide entrepreneurship training to federal prisoners.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.J. Res. 144.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is:
To repeal the Biden Administration's "Engaged in the Business" Rule

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.J. Res. 145.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Provides for congressional disapproval under Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Drug Administration relating to "Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests".

By Ms. MACE:

H.J. Res. 146.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To Provide for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to "Clarifying the Eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients and Certain Other Noncitizens for a Qualified Health Plan through an Exchange, Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit, Cost-Sharing Reductions, and a Basic Health Program".

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 147.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Labor

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.J. Res. 148.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Revokes Department of Treasury rules relating to "Clean Vehicle Credits under Sections 25E and 30D".

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.J. Res. 149.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Resolution of Disapproval under the Congressional Review Act

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 15: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 38: Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 130: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 431: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 620: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 720: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 789: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 936: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 1015: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1088: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1139: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1372: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 1413: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1440: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 1477: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 1480: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1591: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1666: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1668: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1721: Mr. CASTEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1724: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 1788: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1793: Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 1818: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 2377: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2407: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2413: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. PASCARELL.
H.R. 2474: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HIMES, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2539: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2729: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2785: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2802: Mr. PASCARELL.
H.R. 2808: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 2828: Mr. SORENSEN and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2880: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2889: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 2921: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2923: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 2941: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2974: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2987: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3031: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3161: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 3170: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3366: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3383: Mr. MANN and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3394: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 4034: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4040: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 4121: Mr. PASCARELL.
H.R. 4154: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 4189: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 4296: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4335: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4363: Mr. SABLON.
H.R. 4439: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4519: Ms. WILD and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4583: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4602: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4848: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 4940: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 4942: Mr. CASE, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 5212: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5256: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5315: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 5342: Mr. HERN.
H.R. 5397: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 5414: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5420: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 5488: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 5530: Ms. VAN DUYN and Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 5555: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5707: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 5830: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 5959: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6020: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6023: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 6058: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 6094: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 6144: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 6283: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 6286: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 6452: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 6455: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6524: Ms. TLAI.
H.R. 6780: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 6892: Mr. KEATING and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 7056: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 7131: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 7133: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 7187: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 7218: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 7227: Mr. PASCARELL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 7390: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7401: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 7434: Mr. FEENSTRA.
 H.R. 7438: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 7480: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 7490: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 7587: Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 7600: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 7629: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 7675: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 7764: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7770: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7802: Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 7825: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7826: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
 H.R. 7849: Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 7862: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7866: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 7890: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
 H.R. 7921: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 8004: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 8042: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 8046: Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 8208: Mr. TIMMONS.
 H.R. 8209: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 8212: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 8247: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 8271: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 8303: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 8315: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 8320: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 8338: Mr. FLOOD.
 H.R. 8358: Ms. WILD and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
 H.R. 8362: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.R. 8368: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.R. 8370: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. Pingree, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
 H.R. 8373: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 8386: Mrs. LESKO.
 H.R. 8390: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 8408: Mr. BEAN of Florida and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 8410: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. POSEY.
 H.J. Res. 76: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.J. Res. 82: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. COHEN.
 H.J. Res. 97: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
 H.J. Res. 113: Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.J. Res. 123: Mr. NEHLS.
 H.J. Res. 134: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.J. Res. 139: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.J. Res. 140: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 141: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 142: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 143: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H. Res. 86: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H. Res. 185: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H. Res. 1206: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H. Res. 1217: Mr. TONKO.
 H. Res. 1231: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 5094: Mr. LAWLER.