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No. 141

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RALPH NORMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

MEDICAL DEBT

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, no one should go bankrupt because they get sick.

I was proud to be able to join Director Chopra of the CFPB along with Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL in hosting a roundtable on the impact of medical debt on our families.

We talked about the groundbreaking proposal by the Biden administration that would change the lives of millions

of people where we would ban and prohibit medical debt from appearing on people's credit reports.

I know this step is long overdue, having introduced legislation like the Restoring Unfairly Impaired Credit and Protecting Consumers Act which would prohibit outright the reporting of medical debt on consumer reports.

Today, 15 million Americans have \$49 billion in medical debt on their credit reports. In Wayne County, which is the largest county in Michigan, nearly one in six residents have medical debt.

Behind these numbers are real people. They are our families, whose lives are being impacted by this crushing burden all because they got sick.

We heard this firsthand from one of my residents, Livonia resident Erika Price, who was devastated by our broken healthcare system while watching her husband's body deteriorate.

For many, medical debt means sleepless nights worrying about making ends meet. Some families go bankrupt. Others lose their homes.

This is wrong, and, again, no one chooses to be sick.

The burden of medical debt can also haunt families by lowering their credit score, preventing them from getting a job, being able to rent a home, or even be able to get a car or a small business loan.

To address this crisis, I joined Senator BERNIE SANDERS and Congressman RO KHANNA in introducing the Medical Debt Cancellation Act to eliminate medical debt completely.

We know that we have sick care in our country, not healthcare. We know that this is also an economic and social justice issue and that many of our low-income families, our most vulnerable, some of my seniors even with insurance, are starting to see medical debt rise. We also know many of our Black and Latino neighbors are more likely to be impacted.

We know that without Medicare for All, millions of people will lack coverage while expenses continue to rise.

We all deserve so much better than a broken healthcare system that profits off of sickness and leaves more than 20 million people without health insurance.

No one should lose their home or have to declare bankruptcy because they got sick. Medical debt should never haunt someone financially. This body must take action to relieve this burden for many of our residents.

MICHIGAN NEEDS PUBLIC POWER

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of DTE Energy's corporate greed, while many residents suffer the consequences and go days without power in Michigan.

Our families can't afford more power outages that spoil their groceries. And guess what? They only get \$25, sometimes \$35 in reimbursement. It ruins their medicine that is in the refrigerator. It leaves our neighbors without access to critical medical devices, all because DTE would rather pay out their executives—look it up—and their shareholders rather than ensure reliability.

They defer maintenance and would rather pay their shareholders instead of making sure the grid is strong and reliable.

Last month, with record-breaking heat waves, temperatures reached 95 degrees in southeast Michigan while over 200,000 residents went without power due to DTE Energy's failure to invest in their infrastructure upgrades while continuing to raise rates on our families.

The company made \$1.4 billion in profits last year alone. Their CEO, Jerry Norcia, makes \$10 million a year, but they are begging the Michigan Public Service Commission to approve more rate hikes—I think it is the third

□ 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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or fourth already—and asking our residents to pick up the tab for their executives to travel on corporate jets. It is shameful.

The Michigan Public Service Commission should reject these outrageous rate increases. They are not reasonable. They are not fair. We need utilities that serve the people, not shareholders.

We need public power. DTE and other for-profit utilities should be turned into publicly owned and operated services. We see it over and over again by DTE's actions that we cannot allow these corporations to continue because they are always going to put profit before our people.

FALLING SHORT

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, is often hailed as landmark civil rights law or the most important civil rights laws in our country offering a promise of equal education for all of our children with disabilities.

We continue to fall short though in this promise.

The 50-year-old law is underfunded to this day. We passed it in 1975, and we promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of the Federal mandate on our school districts, and we are only reaching about 14 to sometimes 17 percent.

We are not doing enough.

Paraprofessionals alone in Detroit are working without a contract right now. Our Federal Government needs to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education.

CHINA IS A SIGNIFICANT THREAT

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most pressing national security threat to our Nation right now: the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP is engaged in a full-scale influence and espionage operation right here in the United States of America.

From Confucius Institutes to TikTok, and from spy balloons to intellectual property theft, the CCP's mission is quite clear: to collect our data, to infiltrate our country from within, and to become the world's sole superpower.

Mr. Speaker, plain and simple, we need to make a change.

We must recognize the significant threat that Communist China poses. We must decouple ourselves from our dependence on China. We must restore strong American leadership around the globe. We must ban our adversaries like China from buying U.S. farmland. We must put an end to their data collection schemes.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand behind our ally Taiwan. The path forward is clear: peace through strength and a resolute leader in the White House.

GOLD STAR CEREMONY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak from my heart right now on a

subject matter that we dealt with yesterday in the rotunda not too many feet from this House floor.

I was honored to be at the ceremony yesterday for the 13 Gold Star families, the 13 servicemembers who bravely gave their lives 3 years ago on the wall at Abbey Gate due to a decision made by a failed administration to get all American troops out of Afghanistan, to leave them there—our allies—clinging to the wheels of aircraft as they tried to escape the grip of the Taliban. It was a flawed decision.

This administration never apologized to those 13 families for that critical mistake in our world history. Yesterday, someone finally had the guts to apologize to those families: our Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON. I applaud him for that.

The highest honor that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal, was given posthumously to those 13 brave individuals, including Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz from Missouri.

I realize that that apology and that acknowledgment and those Congressional Gold Medals will never completely heal those families, but I do think it was a step in the right direction.

I was honored to have dinner with some of those families last night along with DARRELL ISSA, KEN CALVERT, and BRIAN MAST, sitting down with those families and just hearing their stories and how much it meant to be in that rotunda yesterday, and for our Nation to finally acknowledge that it was a mistake. This administration has never done that, and I think they will have to live with that.

I am glad that our Speaker awarded those Gold Star medals, and I am glad we came together. It was bipartisan yesterday in that rotunda, make no mistake. I think we all felt the pain of those family members.

I just left the rotunda and came back over here. I love going to the rotunda every morning when I can and seeing people come in for the very first time. They look up, and they see the pictures painted by people, like Trumbull and others, who have painted representations of our heroes. To have those 13 heroes with their pictures in that rotunda yesterday was very fitting.

Mr. Speaker, I just want those families to know that we stand with them. We will never forget them. We have their backs. I hope someday we can regain their respect.

Life is precious, but those willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation deserve our complete respect. I thank the families and their servicemembers for giving it all for our great Nation.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, lastly, I want to reflect on today, 9/11, as a day of remembrance. This is now the 23rd anniversary of the fateful date in U.S. history when Islamic terrorists on planes loaded with people crashed into the World Trade Center.

Let's keep that memory alive.

PARTISAN CHAOS

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, here we are once again. My Republican colleagues have decided to end the 118th Congress the same way they started it; not with a serious budget but with partisan chaos.

Let's look at the last 2 years. First, the GOP manufactured a debt ceiling crisis and took our economy hostage. Despite that, we came together as Democrats and negotiated in good faith. We struck a bipartisan deal, and we signed it into law, but the Republicans tore it up. They have ignored it ever since.

They have driven us to the edge of a government shutdown four times, all to take money out of the pockets of hardworking families and stuff the pockets of billionaires.

It is the same plan every single time: manufacture a crisis then make working people pay the price, cut their healthcare, delay their retirement, lay off the teachers.

Well, this week, they have decided to run this same play for a fifth time. They have brought another extreme partisan bill to the floor.

Speaker JOHNSON said yesterday: "... it's the right thing to do." The right thing to do?

Today is 9/11, the 23rd commemoration of the horrors that were befallen upon us on that day, and I, too, was at the ceremony honoring those heroes that we lost in Afghanistan.

□ 1015

So coming up \$12 billion short for our veterans' healthcare and endangering their disability checks, that is the right thing to do?

Compromising our national security, cutting Social Security's ability to meet the needs of our seniors, and even defunding election security?

That is the right thing to do?

Come on. They know this is the wrong thing to do.

So why are we doing it?

Why this reckless 6-month CR?

It is for one reason: Donald Trump's Project 2025.

The GOP wants to delay this fight past the election into next year all in the hopes that they have a better chance at enacting Trump's extreme agenda.

What is that agenda?

Ending Social Security and Medicare as we know them, auctioning off the VA to for-profit corporations, cutting our school budgets in half, eliminating the Department of Education, eliminating Head Start, raising the cost of childcare, imposing a national sales tax, rationing healthcare for working families, and enacting a nationwide abortion ban.

The Republicans have shown us their plans for a second Trump term. They have told us it will be even worse than his first. We should believe them.

The American people reject this extremism, and so should the GOP. Let's pass a bipartisan funding agreement that fulfills our duty to our country, to our veterans, to our seniors, and to our children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUSTAVOUS "GUS" HOLMES BELL III

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on July 22 at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as Buster, was a dedicated, hardworking man who earned a degree in civil engineering from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a second lieutenant as a reserve commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus eventually landed in Savannah, Georgia, and was honorably discharged in 1969. Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

In honor of Gus' contributions to the city, former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11 as Gus H. Bell III Day in Savannah. Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife, Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adair, and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

On a personal note, he was one of my mentors who had a great deal to do with helping me and the city of Pooler and our tremendous growth that we experienced while I was mayor. I will forever be grateful for that.

RECOGNIZING RONALD COOPER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Ronald Cooper, who heroically saved the life of a woman who was kidnapped in Brunswick, Georgia.

On November 9, 2019, now-retired Glynn County police officer, Ronnie Cooper, responded to a kidnapping call on his police radio. A woman had been abducted from the daycare center where she worked. Bravely, the woman fought back against her attacker, allowing more time for Officer Cooper and the Glynn County Police Department to locate her. The assailant was

forced to change his plans, and the brave folks at Glynn County PD were able to locate the victim.

Against the clock and all odds, Officer Cooper and his partner, Officer Jeremy Stagner, successfully rescued the victim from the would-be killer.

Thanks to Officer Cooper, Officer Stagner, and all the brave law enforcement officers who work diligently to keep our communities safe from violence like this.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF FREDDY HOWELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell.

Mr. Howell has had a wonderful 39-year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in north Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager.

I am grateful for Mr. Howell's impactful public service to Bryan County and the First District of Georgia.

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" BERKOWITZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Berkowitz, who sadly passed away this August at the age of 91 years old. He was a dear, dear friend.

After attending the Georgia Military Academy, Dick pursued a graduate degree at the Wharton School of Business. Dick proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in France with the Army Finance Corps.

Mr. Berkowitz also had a 42-year-long career in investment banking and as a stockbroker. His career was marked with success as he was the youngest general partner ever at a Wall Street firm in 1967.

In addition to his military service and professional career, Dick will be remembered for expressing his outspoken political beliefs through writing candid memos and his involvement in the Savannah, Georgia, community.

Dick's legacy will surely be carried on by his wife, Lynn, and his five beloved children.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Berkowitz family, Dick's friends,

and every person he impacted throughout his wonderful life.

We will miss Dick. I will miss my friend Dick. God bless him.

U.S. SHIPBUILDING UPDATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, September 14, the USS *New Jersey*, the 23rd Virginia-class submarine, is going to be commissioned in northern New Jersey. It was delivered to the Navy earlier this year.

Next to me is a photo of USS *Iowa* which is going to be the 24th Virginia-class submarine which is going to be delivered next month. This is a shot from the drydock in Groton, Connecticut.

Early next year, the 25th submarine, the USS *Massachusetts* is going to be delivered to the Navy. Later in the year, the 26th submarine, USS *Idaho* is going to be delivered to the Navy. In the following year in 2026, USS *Arkansas* and USS *Utah* are also going to be delivered.

Again, these are really the most critical maritime vessels, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. We are here on China week. What is happening in these shipyards is the best rebalancing of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is happening at the same time that we are building the *Columbia*-class submarines which are the ballistic submarines. Those submarines are actually 2½ times the size of the Virginia-class submarines. They are just massive vessels which, again, are critical because the hull life of the submarines they are replacing, the *Ohio*-class submarines, are over 40 years old. All this work, again, is something that is really driving a lot of economic activities certainly in southern New England but, frankly, all across the State.

Again, Congress has had a big part to play in terms of funding. Just in the recent supplemental, the submarine industrial base funding is aimed at three different things: number one, workforce; number two, supply chain; and number three, facility.

This is a picture of a supply chain company in Tolland, Connecticut, which is in my district in eastern Connecticut, Shelby Supply Company. The gentleman on the far right is Tim Briere. He is the owner of the company.

Their hiring has grown three times over the last 3 years because of the metal fabrication work that they do that, again, are a part of the submarine industrial base.

The woman on the far left in this picture is Amanda Dodd. She is somebody who grew up in Connecticut. She moved to Texas. She is a welder, and she moved back to Tolland, Connecticut, last year. She is part of the team there that is contributing to this production process which took a hit during COVID. There was a slippage in

terms of the production cadence and the schedule, but now they are recovering it. Congress has had a big part to play in terms of giving the funding for programs like those that Shelby Supply is part of.

In August, I visited Divers Cove, American Systems in Norwich, SEACORP in Groton, and Collins and Jewell in Bozrah. Again, these are all supply chain companies which are part of this enterprise.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when we look at the horizon as far as the amount of work we are talking about here, it is at least 20 years, and we have to go younger and sooner in terms of training up people in terms of the metal trade skills and engineering skills that are going to be essential if we are going to succeed in this shipbuilding plan.

This is a picture of a welding lab where last Friday we had a ribbon cutting. This is a small public high school up in the northeast corner of the State of Connecticut, Tourtellotte High School. It is a regular public high school. This is a comprehensive high school, not a trade school. Because of the submarine industrial base funding which passed in this Chamber earlier this year, they, again, are now installing more welding booths so that the students are going to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The welding class used to be eight kids. Now it is going to be 50. These are kids who when they graduate from high school are going to be eligible to get their security badge, go into the shipyard, and be part of this production process.

Interestingly, talking to Superintendent Melinda Smith and some of the teachers at the high school, because of this program, students who otherwise would really not be that connected in terms of the work that was going on there because they really were not college bound, attendance is now going up. It is because these kids understand that this program which they really like, which is about an hour and a half a day, if they don't show up for school, then they are going to get removed from the program.

It is a win-win situation in terms of increasing educational proficiency in terms of all subjects, but particularly in giving people a skill which is a life skill that is going to allow them to succeed in the future.

Again, this is now happening not just in trade schools, which are wonderful, the career and technical schools which now have waiting lists for kids who want to get involved, but it is also happening in nontrade public high schools. Westbrook High School in Connecticut is also going to be a part of this program, and that is how we succeed as a nation to recapitalize our Navy fleet.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a few wonderful things that happened in my district this fall.

Mr. Speaker, every September, Cleveland County, North Carolina, celebrates an iconic event that marks the transition to autumn. This year, however, we have a special reason to celebrate. It is because the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, North Carolina, is reaching an extraordinary milestone: its 100th anniversary.

For a century, the fair has been more than just an event. It has been a cornerstone of our community. It has brought families together, celebrated Cleveland County's rich agricultural heritage, and provided endless entertainment with thrilling rides and fantastic food.

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the fair is the perfect way to welcome the fall season in North Carolina, and if you are a politician running for office, then you need to be there. The fair is a must. I have spent a lot of time shaking hands there over the years.

I am really grateful for the opportunity to interact with people when they are having great family fun. I thank everyone who makes the fair happen, the volunteers and the folks who work the fair.

I congratulate the Cleveland County Fair on its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CAMP MEETINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a unique and longstanding summer tradition in North Carolina's 10th Congressional District: church camp meetings. These annual events date back to the 1800s and are wonderful celebrations of faith, family, and community.

There are three camp meetings in my district not far from where I live: the Balls Creek camp meeting held in Catawba County and the Rock Springs and Tucker's Grove camp meetings which are both held in Lincoln County and very close to where I live in Lincoln County.

All three campgrounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp meetings happen each August and last for up to 2 weeks. Families gather for worship under an arbor which is a central open-air shelter that seats hundreds of people. There are also singings, youth rallies, and plenty of time to visit with family and friends.

Many families, in fact, stay at the campground in wooden cabins known as tents. Ownership of many tents has been passed down for generations.

These are beloved events, and they truly are events. These events were started so many years ago by families of the earliest settlers to the area. Many people who attend are direct descendants of these people of faith who first started gathering more than 150 years ago.

It is important to not just honor our traditions, but to preserve them, and that is what these camp meetings do. The organizers of these camp meetings continue to do that with these important events and timeless expressions of our enduring faith. For that, we honor and thank them.

□ 1030

REMEMBERING CASSIE MAE SMITH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a remarkable woman, Cassie Mae Smith, a Battleboro, North Carolina, resident, and my State of the Union guest this year whose beautiful life spanned 109 years.

On August 10, she passed at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was a beloved figure, affectionately called Ma Cassie by her neighbors and friends.

She was born in 1914, before women had the right to vote. Once Ma Cassie was able to exercise her right to vote, she voted in every election she could and began advocating for others to do the same.

In March, my office helped her achieve two items on her bucket list. She had never met a President or flown on an airplane. She flew to our Nation's Capital for the State of the Union. Afterward, she met President Joe Biden.

While here, I am grateful for so many colleagues from across the country and from across the aisle for taking the time to speak with her.

I am also grateful for President Biden spending time talking with her. If not the oldest, she had to be one of the oldest ever to attend the State of the Union Address. It meant a lot to her, and she was indeed grateful.

She loved our country, the United States of America. Her story of resilience and grace has touched the lives of many, including my own. Her journey has inspired us all, from working on a farm in North Carolina to traveling for the first time at 109 on an airplane to our Nation's Capital.

For those who knew her, Ms. Cassie Smith was also a woman of unwavering faith. She loved the Lord. She loved her church, Pittman Grove Baptist Church, and Pastor Thomas Ray Green and his wife, Sharon, who traveled with her for the State of the Union.

In fact, after the State of the Union, she made clear to me, she said: "I know my pastor prays for me." Frank Smith, her son, said his mother had a deep spiritual connection with God, always looking up when she prayed. He once asked: "Mamma, who are you talking to?" She said: "I am talking to the Lord."

I also recognize Faye, Frank's wife and Ms. Cassie's caregiver, and all her caregivers.

According to her son, the family had planned to celebrate Ma Cassie's 110th birthday this October with a trip to the mountains, the last item that she had on the bucket list.

Well, she didn't make it to the mountains. However, Frank, her son, said it best: "God has said, I am going to take her, perhaps, to the mountain top."

We will forever hold her legacy in our hearts, and my deepest condolences go to her family and the Battleboro community.

RECOGNIZING AUSTIN LIVINGSTON

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

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Austin Livingston and his years of incredible service and exemplary work for the Fifth District of South Carolina.

Austin was born in Texas. He was adopted as an infant and spent most of his formative childhood years raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

I had the privilege of him living in our neighborhood, and I took him on backhoe rides, along with other children, to the store and other places. He was known for his physical power on the high school tennis team and also served in our Nation's Capitol as Senate page for Senator Strom Thurmond.

This early experience left on him a lasting impression, and he was delighted when fate brought him back nearly three decades later to serve as a staff member for the House of Representatives.

He was head of the committee for the Fifth District. In between two congressional jobs, he proudly graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in computer information systems. He also worked as a commercial airline pilot, where he flew for Continental Airlines for over 11 years. He was a leader in the commencement photography industry and started his own information technology consulting company, specializing in cybersecurity.

He has taught Sunday school at his local Presbyterian church in Rock Hill for years and helps as chair of the board of Westminster Catawba Christian School in Rock Hill.

Most importantly, Austin is an outstanding father to his son, Pierce, and he is a loving husband to his wonderful wife, Camille.

As communications director and later deputy chief of staff for my office, Austin spearheaded numerous initiatives, including extensive office renovations and building a TV studio from scratch, which I didn't have to ask him to do. He did that on his own initiative. This was during COVID, when restrictions to facilitate virtual interviews were rampant.

It is not only Austin's accomplishments that set him apart but his character. Throughout the years, colleagues and associates have consistently

noted his integrity, humility, work ethic, humor, and levelheadedness in a crisis.

I can tell you he is one of the few people I have ever met who has never said a bad word about anybody. He is a leader among leaders, and it has been a true honor to have him on my staff.

His impact on the Fifth District of South Carolina and its 725,000 people will be seen for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Austin Livingston for his profound dedication and work. I wish him all the best in his new photography business, as he deserves the best of the best.

CELEBRATING MORTON COLLEGE'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, on its 100th anniversary.

Located in Cicero, Illinois, since 1973, Morton College is the pride of the community. The campus has an award-winning library, a student success center, and facilities equipped with state-of-the-art technology for the more than 3,500 students enrolled in it.

As a Hispanic-serving institution, Morton has remained true to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of a diverse community through exemplary teaching and learning opportunities, community service, and lifelong learning.

I am honored to have an exemplary institution in my district, and I congratulate the Morton College community. Here is to the next 100 years.

HONORING JORGE RAMOS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legendary journalist, Jorge Ramos, as he steps down after 40 remarkable years at Univision.

Jorge has been a beacon of truth and integrity, a voice for the voiceless, and a relentless advocate for justice for the Latino community.

In a world often dominated by sensationalism, he stood as a pillar of credibility, amplifying stories that might otherwise remain unheard. From covering the struggles of immigrants to challenging those in power, Jorge's work has illuminated issues that many in the media choose to ignore.

His legacy is one of courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to truth.

"Thank you, Jorge, for being a voice dedicated to justice and for keeping our community informed." "Gracias, Jorge, por ser una voz dedicada a la justicia y por mantener informada a nuestra comunidad."

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, September 11 serves as a reminder to each of us and our allies across the world, across the planet, of the tragic loss of nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. It also serves as a reminder of our strength as a nation to stand united in the face of terrorism.

Yes, 23 years ago, we remember and will never forget the lives lost that fateful day as we witnessed the strength and bravery of individuals who sacrificed everything to help their fellow New Yorkers, colleagues at the Pentagon, and fellow passengers and crewmembers of United Airlines Flight 93.

We remember, Madam Speaker, Port Authority Police Officer Bruce Reynolds, who raced from the George Washington Bridge south to the towers to give his life in support of New Yorkers. Today, we honor him with Bruce's Garden in Inwood, along with 22 other members of the Inwood community who were either raised or lived in that community and gave their lives on that fateful day.

We remember Yamel Josefina Merino, a 24-year-old emergency responder who raced down to the southern tower to try to help people and was one of the first victims of that attack.

Since 2001, we have worked to increase the benefits for those who have been affected in the aftermath. I am a proud cosponsor of the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, which will provide additional funding to the program that provides treatments to 9/11 responders and survivors.

September 11 is a solemn day in our Nation's history. It brought our Nation together. We remember how churches in my district had processions in the street. Thousands of local residents participated.

We have heroes from Harlem, East Harlem, the Bronx, Washington Heights, Inwood, and Hamilton Heights who gave their lives for our Nation. While 23 years have passed since the attacks, we remember and mourn the lives we lost and reflect on the sacrifices and heroism of our first responders, and we vow to never forget. I know many young people who were not there on that day perhaps have forgotten or the memory has faded.

We will never forget the heroism of the men and women who gave up everything for our country, for democracy. We will never forget 9/11 and cannot ignore the magnitude of emotion and remembrance as we reflect on the lives of survivors, their families, and first responders.

May God continue to bless our 9/11 families and first responders, and may God continue to bless these United States of America.

□ 1045

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the solemn anniversary of the most tragic day in modern American history, the September 11 attacks.

Our Nation was deliberately attacked 23 years ago by al-Qaida terrorists, killing almost 3,000 Americans and injuring countless more in the worst attack against our homeland in American history.

On this day, let us honor the memories of the fallen and stand with the friends and families of those who perished. May their memories always be a blessing.

Let us also commend the courage of the first responders and emergency personnel who put themselves in harm's way to help the victims. While others ran to safety, these individuals braved smoke and fire in service to their fellow Americans, sometimes paying the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

While the terrorists hoped this brazen attack would break America's resolve, they were dead wrong. In the days and months following 9/11, our Nation came together with a renewed sense of fortitude, unity, and determination. It sparked an enduring sense of resilience that carried us through the darkest hour and emboldened us to hold those responsible accountable.

May God bless America.

FENTANYL CRISIS IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on the destructive surge and scourge of fentanyl, which is poisoning communities in my district and across the Nation. Across America, countless lives have been lost, and too many families have felt the pain of losing a loved one.

In May, I hosted Members of the Judiciary Committee for a field hearing in my district. We heard from Jill Fagan Alexander, a mother who has tragically lost not only one, but two children to the fentanyl crisis, Sam and Gabe. Tragically, these are only two of the many lives lost to the poison at the hands of the Mexican drug cartels and the Chinese Communist Party.

Amid the ongoing border crisis, the amount of fentanyl entering our country has spiked to record levels, endangering citizens across the Nation. In Arizona, the cost of this epidemic ballooned to over \$58 billion in 2023, accounting for the cost of hospitals, public services, law enforcement officers, and the loss of quality of life and productivity of those suffering from this addiction.

Just this week, this body passed H.R. 8663, the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act. This would authorize DHS to test and develop more tech-

nology to better detect these deadly drugs. However, we must do more.

I stand willing and ready to work with any of my colleagues who want to find solutions to solve this crisis. The stakes could not be clearer. One pill can kill. We must do more to fight the spread of fentanyl to ensure the safety of our citizens and our communities.

RURAL PHARMACIES CLOSING IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the grave concerns over the continued reports of pharmacies closing in rural communities across my district.

I was notified by a constituent recently that two independent pharmacies in Willcox and Benson will soon close, citing the constrictive practices of pharmacy benefit managers. Local independent pharmacies are critical to rural communities as they are often the only medical provider for hundreds of miles, especially in light of the vast consolidation of large pharmacies buying up smaller ones.

We must stand for independent practices that serve our local communities. As we speak, this becomes a rural access health crisis, forcing residents of those communities to travel long distances to receive the medication and medical services that they need. This not only places an undue burden on those with limited resources and mobility, but it also increases their risk of delayed treatments and worsened health outcomes, leaving rural communities vulnerable and underserved.

It is critical that we address this growing problem now and support our rural pharmacies to ensure that all individuals, regardless of where they live, have access to the healthcare that they deserve.

CLOSING THE BRIBERY LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, 3 months ago, the Supreme Court opened a loophole in our bribery laws. They legalized, in effect, a certain kind of bribery. That is bribery where the payment to the politician comes after they do the thing they have been bribed to do.

The Supreme Court said: That is not bribery, but that is a tip. That is a gratuity, and it is not against the law.

Justice Kavanaugh said: If Congress wants this to be against the law, then they should pass a law saying so.

Well, I agree. My office has filed a bill to close exactly that loophole, and nothing else. We consider this a completely nonpartisan effort. This is simply about making sure that you cannot bribe politicians. That was the state of the law 3 months ago as we all understood it, and now that has been changed by this court ruling.

My office filed a bill. We are very grateful that a Member of the majority, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) has joined us on that bill.

I am encouraging every Member of this body, regardless of party, to join us to make sure that we send a very simple statement to the country: You cannot bribe politicians. That should be against the law. Even if you come up with a somewhat creative way in which to do it straightforwardly, it is wrong. It should be illegal. If we pass this bill, it will be illegal once again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR JOHN
"LUCKY" LUCKADOO

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major John "Lucky" Luckadoo, an extraordinary American hero who displayed remarkable bravery in World War II.

Now 102 years old, Major Luckadoo is one of the last remaining members of the distinguished 100th Bomb Group, famously known as the Bloody Hundredth.

Major Luckadoo grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He joined the Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. After training, he served with the Eighth Air Force's 100th Bomb Group based in Thorpe Abbots, England.

Of the 40 men from his training class who served in the 100th, only four completed their tour, highlighting the dangerous nature of their mission and Major Luckadoo's extraordinary fortune and resilience.

Major Luckadoo undertook 25 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe, serving as both a pilot and copilot in the B-17 Flying Fortress, showcasing his outstanding bravery and expertise under highly challenging conditions and overwhelming odds.

Lieutenant Colonel John Bennett, leader of the 100th Bomb Group, aptly remarked: "What the 100th lacks in luck, it makes up for in courage."

Major Luckadoo embodied this spirit, and his extraordinary story of survival is chronicled in his biography, "Damn Lucky." Major Luckadoo's survival and the subsequent telling of his story contribute significantly to the historical record of World War II and stand as a testament to the bravery and sacrifices of the Greatest Generation.

Major Luckadoo currently resides in Dallas, where he actively engages in his community and continues to share his story, ensuring that future generations will continue to draw inspiration from his courage and dedication.

In light of his heroic service and enduring legacy, it is fitting that we honor Major John "Lucky" Luckadoo and express our deepest gratitude for his remarkable contributions to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL KENNETH WILLIAM
CORDIER

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Kenneth William Cordier, who dedicated his life to serving his country and embodied the

highest ideals of patriotism, courage, and sacrifice, including more than 6 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

Born in 1937 in Canton, Ohio, Colonel Cordier entered the United States Air Force through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Akron University in 1960, beginning a distinguished military career that spanned over two decades.

After training as a Minuteman missile launch officer, Colonel Cordier earned his pilot's wings in 1963 and was assigned to the 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flying the F-4C Phantom jet fighter.

On December 2, 1966, during his 176th combat mission, Colonel Cordier was shot down over North Vietnam. Captured and imprisoned for over 6 years, he endured harsh conditions in the infamous North Vietnamese prisons, in which he demonstrated extraordinary resilience and unwavering faith.

After his release in 1973, Colonel Cordier resumed Active-Duty service with distinction, directing air operations at Sembach Air Base, reactivating the Wiesbaden Air Force Base, and serving as an air attache in England.

Colonel Cordier's service to his Nation is dignified by numerous awards, including two Silver Stars, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars with Valor, the Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, the POW Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired with honors in 1985.

After the war, he worked tirelessly to dissuade animosity against the Vietnamese people and culture, instead advocating for diplomatic solutions to bring peace to the region and heal old wounds.

Colonel Cordier would return to Vietnam five separate times. A special note: On his second visit, this distinguished hero brought former POWs to help them find closure in their traumatic experiences as prisoners in Vietnam and to assist in their healing process.

Beyond his military career, Colonel Cordier was a devoted husband and father to his wife and daughter, Barbara and Ann.

Colonel Cordier's life and service are a testament to the values of duty, honor, country, and inspiring future generations to serve with the same dedication and courage. Therefore, I ask that all Americans take a moment to honor the legacy and life of Colonel Kenneth William Cordier, United States Air Force.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Aerospace Week, I

rise to recognize the vital role the aerospace industry plays in our Nation's economy, security, and technological leadership.

The United States is on the cutting edge of aerospace technology because of the people who dared to do the unimaginable, just like the Wright brothers over 120 years ago.

Because we dreamed big, we have flown faster than the speed of sound and put mankind on the Moon. We have made flying and space launch a normal occurrence. What used to be science fiction is now a fact of life.

Aviation has become an integral part of our society and our economy. Every day in the United States alone, nearly 3 million people fly on 45,000 flights. The industry continues to grow each year.

In 2023, the aerospace industry contributed \$425 billion to the U.S. GDP and supported over 2.2 million jobs. It is also a key tenet of our National Defense Strategy, equipping servicemembers with the most advanced and effective systems in the world.

As co-chair of the House Aerospace Caucus, I am proud to recognize our Nation's incredible aerospace industry and its workforce, our pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, engineers, and others who will help us continue to soar to new heights.

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS NAVAJO AMY BEGAYE

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

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, last week, contestants competed in the 72nd Annual Miss Navajo Pageant in my district.

To become Miss Navajo, contestants participate in a rigorous weeklong annual competition which requires contestants to demonstrate proficiency in both Navajo and English languages, knowledge of Navajo culture and beliefs, business interviews, contemporary talents, and traditional skills such as sheep butchering and preparing traditional foods.

I recognize Amy Begaye, who has served as Miss Navajo for the past year.

□ 1100

I met Amy last year during her first trip to the U.S. Capitol and learned about her experience and background and the process of becoming Miss Navajo.

We have had a few chances to connect throughout the years, and I have been impressed with her hard work and professionalism. She has been a strong leader and an advocate for Navajo history and culture.

Madam Speaker, I thank Amy for her leadership as Miss Navajo over the last year. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and know she will continue to make the Navajo Nation proud.

SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF ARTHUR O. EVE, JR.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Arthur O. Eve, Jr., a remarkable individual and leader, affectionately known throughout western New York and beyond as Champ.

As the beloved son of New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve and an educator, the late Lee Constance Eve, life lessons in civic responsibility, faith, and a strong work ethic were instilled in him early by his family.

As a standout football player who earned all-Catholic honors during his time at Canisius High School and shined on the field at the University of Texas at El Paso, Champ turned his athletic talent, natural leadership, and team-building skills into an opportunity to inspire and mentor countless young people through coaching basketball at Calvary Baptist Church, Hutch Tech High School, and Buffalo State University.

Through his coaching, he touched hundreds of lives for the better.

In his professional positions within a juvenile detention center and Educational Opportunity Center, Champ dedicated himself to empowering those in need.

At Buffalo's Municipal Housing Authority, Champ transformed the agency and set a national standard for compliance and inclusion, which led to the BMHA being recognized as a high performer by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Champ was a leader and a respected voice on issues impacting Buffalo's Black community, serving as president of the Black Student Union during his time at the University at Buffalo. He was the founder and president of Unity Coalition, widely recognized as one of the strongest organizing units in the entire State of New York.

As deputy commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections and as a community leader, Champ supported democracy through his work, impressing upon others the power of a vote to express one's values and shape the future of our community and our entire Nation.

A man of great faith and devotion, Champ was an active member of Elim Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Bishop T. Anthony Bronner.

To me, Champ was a dear friend whose counsel guided me in many important decisions throughout my own career.

Through a lifetime of tireless advocacy, Champ had an impact on every single life in western New York, our great State of New York, and the entire Nation. He helped unite us like never before in Buffalo, and our great city's renaissance is a shining example of what Champ believed in: diversity,

inclusivity, and opportunity, and a world where everyone can succeed.

Transcending his passion for the community was his love and devotion to his family. He leaves behind his father, the Honorable Arthur O. Eve, Sr.; beloved wife, Kim; nine children, Arthur III, Shiana Denise, LaNeesha, Eric James, Louis, Ashley, Melzetta, Bobby, and David Paul; and eight grandchildren, Caiden, Rylee, Cailee, Kendall, Ari, Lucian, Maliha, and Lux, shared through their blended family; siblings, Leecia, Eric, Malcolm, and Martin; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As we remember Arthur O. Eve, Jr., we grieve the loss of a beloved friend, celebrate a life well lived, and find solace in knowing that his legacy of service will live on.

Madam Speaker, may Champ Eve rest in peace.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, 23 years ago, the events of 9/11 forever changed our Nation. Family members, friends, neighbors, and loved ones left their homes that morning never to return. Firefighters from across our district answered the call that day. Port Authority police officers would lay down their lives to save others, honoring the oath they made the day they put on their uniform for the first time.

Our hearts are heavy with the memories of those who were lost on that fateful day, but we haven't forgotten and we will never forget the bravery and courage of the New Jerseyans and all those who responded to 9/11. Their memory is a blessing and a solemn reminder of what is most important in our own lives.

I personally remember being a high schooler, standing across the Hudson River, watching countless men and women covered in ashes just trying to make their way home. We all realized in that moment that our Nation would never be the same.

Since then, more brave responders have died of illnesses caused by 9/11 than were lost on that day. This tragic reality is proof that there is more work to be done. We will continue to fight for 9/11 first responders and their families, to ensure they are given the resources, support, and gratitude for the sacrifices they made in service to others.

As we mourn today, let our memories be a reminder that in the wake of 9/11, we united as a country. We united not just in grief, but in resolve. We set aside our differences, we found common ground, and we healed together.

Today, as we face a Nation that feels more divided than ever before, I join my colleagues in remembering the challenges that we have overcome and the unity that made it possible. For

the sake of our country, let's recommit ourselves to finding that unity, once again. If we do so, we will truly honor all of the lives that were lost that day and in the years since.

REMEMBERING BILL PASCRELL, JR.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, on August 21, New Jersey lost one of the greatest champions in our State's history.

Bill Pascrell was more than just a Member of Congress. He was a friend, a mentor, and someone who was loved and admired by many, myself included.

Bill was a true Patersonian, Paterson with one t, and his constituents knew that in him they had a fighter. He was always ready to speak up for what was right, and he served with purpose. Bill was tough, but kind; strong-willed, but a team player; and he always had a joke or story that would make you laugh.

His legacy has left a mark on this institution and our entire country that will never be forgotten.

Since coming to Congress last year, I knew I could count on Bill, and this place will not be the same without him here. I know the same is true for all of those who had the privilege of serving alongside him.

It is on all of us to continue Bill's legacy by continuing to fight for that which we know is fair and right. That is how we can rightfully honor such a great man, a great leader, and a great friend.

Madam Speaker, may Bill rest in peace. It was an honor and privilege to know him and to call him friend.

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 at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy and eternal God, on this 11th of September, we remember a clear blue sky and a nation at peace. As that memory is now shattered by the destruction that followed, we pray the wisdom to claim Your eternal promises in our country's remembrance of that tragedy.

Like grass are our days, that flourish like flowers in the field. The wind passes over them, and they are gone. And so, in an instant, our country was robbed of its sense of security and bereft of thousands of its citizens, swept away by the winds of war.

We pray that Your steadfast love, O Lord, which is from everlasting to everlasting, to rise from the wreckage of that defining day in history. Bless the sacrifice of too many of our sons and daughters who gave their lives to defend the freedoms assaulted on that bucolic day and the decades that followed. Heal the enduring grief of countless families. Bring peace upon our world which remains in upheaval.

Remind us again of Your compassion for Your children. Freedom, by Your grace, is still to be found in You. Peace and justice, in Your mercy, are ours to preserve and uphold.

Ennoble us as a nation, each children of Your creation, with the assurance that our hope still rests in You alone.

God, bless America and receive our prayers as we offer them in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 23rd anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day where nearly 3,000 lives were stolen from us in a series of brutal terrorist attacks that would alter the course of our Nation's history.

On that fateful morning, families in New York and across America began their day like any other, only to face a tragedy that forever changed our Nation. Husbands and wives, parents and children, went about their routines unaware of the devastation that awaited them.

Their loss is immeasurable, but so too is the extraordinary bravery and sense of patriotism that emerged from that chaos. Our first responders, firefighters, police officers, and medics

rushed into danger displaying unmatched heroism and selflessness. They ran toward the inferno while others fled, saving countless lives and embodying the true spirit of courage.

As we remember those whom we lost and honor the valor of our first responders, let us renew our commitment to the values they protected. Their sacrifice demands that we stand united, proud, and resolute.

May their legacy drive us to uphold the freedom and unity that make our Nation strong and resilient. God bless the families impacted that day, God bless our first responders and military, and God bless the United States of America.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 7032. An Act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act.

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

RECOGNIZING EMMAI PIERCE OF ROANOKE RAPIDS UPON JOINING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS

(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, the National Society of High School Scholars announced Emmai Pierce of Roanoke Rapids' selection to join the esteemed organization.

Pierce is a rising senior at Halifax County Early College where his weighted cumulative grade point average is over 4.0.

Over the past summer, he interned in the technology services department of Halifax County Schools and in the Halifax School District C Teamship.

The National Society of High School Scholars is a prestigious honor society that recognizes students with outstanding leadership skills, community service, and academic achievement.

Emmai is now a member of a unique community of scholars, a community

that represents the bright future even of eastern North Carolina.

Congratulations to Emmai. It is a well-deserved recognition.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, and I rise today to remember the innocent lives that we lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 flew into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Not long after, Flight 175 roared over lower Manhattan into Tower 2.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, was hijacked and made the abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C., but because of the brave passengers and crew members, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the days, weeks, months, and now more than two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down. We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and -women who joined the fight to protect our freedoms.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we, as Americans, are resilient. We will never forget, not 23 years later, and not ever. May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all of those who keep us safe.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP IS A POLL TAX

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, we find ourselves in the position where rather than passing bipartisan appropriation bills, House Republicans have, once again, loaded must-pass legislation with their MAGA wish list.

This time it is the SAVE Act, which seeks to address noncitizen voting, which is already illegal and punishable by up to 5 years in prison, despite no evidence of a widespread problem.

What the SAVE Act really is is the latest Republican effort to restrict access to the ballot box with burdensome proof-of-citizenship requirements. However, under this bill, Americans would not be able to use their driver's license, any State-provided ID, or military or travel ID. The only acceptable form of proof of citizenship will cost money, such as a passport.

That is a poll tax.

I took my oath of office in this body on the Bible in which my father kept

the poll tax receipt that he had to pay as a reminder of how my family had to fight for the sacred right to vote.

I will not stand for a new poll tax to be put in Federal law, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on today's CR.

HONORING SARPY COUNTY SHERIFF JEFF DAVIS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis, who has announced his retirement after one-half century of service.

Sheriff Davis began his career as a 911 dispatcher at 18 years old. After gaining experience on the operations side of law enforcement, he received his law enforcement officer certification and served as a deputy sheriff for the county.

Through the years he has worked in several divisions before becoming the chief deputy. In 2005, he was sworn in as the new Sarpy County sheriff. Serving in that role, he is known as someone who leads with common sense and a sense of fairness that has earned him respect across the State of Nebraska.

Beyond the sheriff's office, he has given back to his community as the chairman of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Easter Seals Telethon and through the Knights of Columbus.

As Sheriff Davis embarks on this new chapter, I want to extend my gratitude and that of the people of the First District of Nebraska for his many years of outstanding service.

COMMEMORATING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. KEAN of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States, a day where the lives of 2,977 Americans, 750 of whom were New Jerseyans, were lost.

After the worst attack in our Nation's history, we came together as Americans, and we showed the entire world our resilience.

Today, we mourn the lives lost in the Twin Towers and the buildings nearby, the Pentagon, and in the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Flight 93. We commemorate the sacrifice of thousands of first responders who rushed into the face of danger. We honor the passengers of the hijacked flights.

We remember those who were lost and help those today who survived and who are now dealing with illnesses from that day. We recognize the resilience of our families, our communities, and our Nation.

Today, I will remember and keep alive the call to never forget.

□ 1215

PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1430, I call up the bill (H.R. 9456) to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, 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 (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9456

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 "Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES AND CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) INCLUSION ON THE COMMITTEE.—Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a member of the Committee with respect to a covered transaction that involves—

"(A) agricultural land;

"(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

"(C) the agriculture industry, including agricultural—

"(i) transportation;

"(ii) storage; and

"(iii) processing."

(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

"(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

"(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether the Committee should initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D), or take another action authorized under this section, with respect to the reportable agricultural land transaction.

"(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'reportable agricultural land transaction' means a transaction—

"(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction;

"(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

"(III) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of

Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

"(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements under this subparagraph shall terminate, with respect to a foreign person of the respective foreign country, on the date that the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the case may be, is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations."

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 Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9456, the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024. This important legislation would codify a new set of policies that were enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. H.R. 9456 would make those measures permanent.

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for offering this legislation.

The bill is straightforward. It adds the Secretary of Agriculture as a permanent member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, for any transactions related to the purchase of agricultural land, agricultural biotechnology, or any other transactions related to the U.S. agricultural industry.

The bill also provides a mechanism for USDA to notify CFIUS of particularly sensitive agricultural transactions. Then, the interagency process must determine whether a review is appropriate. This legislation guarantees that the Secretary of Agriculture will have a seat at the table.

Agriculture Secretary Perdue under the Trump administration and Secretary Vilsack under this administration both agree that having a permanent member of CFIUS is necessary. In fact, during the House Committee on Agriculture hearing earlier this Congress, Secretary Vilsack discussed the implications of a permanent placement of the USDA Secretary on CFIUS, saying: "Being a permanent member would allow us . . . to educate the

other members of CFIUS about what to look for and what to be sensitive to when it comes to agriculture and agricultural production."

I agree with the Secretary. USDA has the unique expertise that can benefit the other CFIUS members. That is why this bill is so important.

This bill is the combination of two pieces of legislation that received unanimous recorded votes as part of a Financial Services Committee markup last fall.

My legislation, the inclusion of the Agriculture Secretary as a CFIUS member, and my colleague from Missouri, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER's legislation, the USDA referral system, both enjoyed unanimous bipartisan support. In addition, slightly modified versions of these measures were enacted in the FY24 appropriations in March. I was pleased to see the policies become the law of the land.

H.R. 9456 would permanently authorize them rather than rely on the annual appropriations process.

The bill focuses the government's limited resources on foreign adversaries: the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It is not about closing off the United States from the rest of the world.

For decades, Congress and the executive branch have upheld our country's commitment to an open investment climate. Foreign investment in the United States creates millions of jobs while boosting U.S. exports and expanding R&D budgets.

This legislation is consistent with our core American values and consistent with the unanimous bipartisan legislation passed in the Financial Services Committee.

Since the 1970s, USDA has been responsible for the collection of foreign ownership in U.S. agricultural land. This piece of legislation, as with the bipartisan committee-passed version and the provision currently in law as appropriations language, empowers USDA to flag foreign persons and entities for CFIUS to consider.

To object to this legislation is to object to current law, existing practices, and bipartisan consensus.

CFIUS' mandate remains clear. It must stay focused on national security issues, whether in agriculture or any other sector.

I am hopeful this bill will soon find its way to the President's desk so that the growing cooperation between CFIUS and USDA can continue, allowing CFIUS to take advantage of the subject matter expertise housed at the Department of Agriculture. Food and agricultural security is a critical component of our national security, and this legislation recognizes that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge

the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Today will serve as a reminder that we should work hard to guard against terrorism and always stand against hate.

Mr. Speaker, moving to the debate on H.R. 9456, I would like to start by noting that Democrats, especially those serving on the Financial Services Committee, have a strong record of working with Republicans to counter threats from the People's Republic of China. In fact, just yesterday, the House passed two bills from our committee.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9456 is not an example of that kind of bipartisanship. In fact, this bill undermines a bipartisan law that we passed just 6 months ago. Yes, it was 6 months ago that the House and Senate worked across the aisle and with the Biden-Harris administration to pass legislation that would protect our national security from adversarial countries like China acquiring critical agricultural land in the United States.

To help review foreign investments involving U.S. agriculture, this bipartisan law added the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which is the interagency committee that determines whether a foreign investment in a United States company or asset could pose a threat to our national security. That law further codified reporting and coordination between the Secretary of Agriculture and CFIUS.

I mention this law, Mr. Speaker, because I think my Republican colleagues have forgotten what we did only 6 months ago. In their rush to pull together bills for the so-called China week, they appear to have brought up a poorly drafted copy of legislation we already passed.

However, in the frenzy to bring this bill to the floor, H.R. 9456 doesn't duplicate the law. Rather, it results in the Secretary of Agriculture having to report countless transactions to the committee that have nothing to do with our national security.

Currently, the law provides to the Secretary of Agriculture the support of the United States intelligence community to identify those transactions that may pose a threat to our national security. Inexplicably, H.R. 9456 removes that intelligence community assistance, leaving the Secretary to guess which transactions might pose a threat to our national security.

Further, unlike the law that was passed just 6 months ago, the bill broadens the scope from "foreign governments and entities of concern" to now include "foreign persons," which means all individuals and entities of China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. This means anyone with citizenship in those countries, including refugees or people who are here in the United States with green cards or other visas.

The bill's broad-brush approach of targeting individuals from China,

North Korea, Russia, and Iran amounts to racial profiling. This bill's focus is similar to the restrictive, xenophobic real estate laws passed in a number of States, like Florida, where citizens of the same countries are banned from buying property and which has resulted in numerous instances of discrimination.

It is for this reason that this bill is opposed by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the National Iranian American Council, Stop AAPI Hate, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American Scholar Forum, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Biden-Harris administration has also put out a Statement of Administration Policy, saying that it is inconsistent with CFIUS process and would not be implementable as drafted.

Mr. Speaker, these deficiencies, taken together, will divert precious resources from CFIUS' targeted national security reviews. This is a bad bill that harms the bipartisan work we already passed this year and would sow divisions among neighbors across America.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I will vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who not only understands the security issues because of his involvement as a United States Congressman for the State of Washington, but he is also a farmer from the State of Washington. He understands the impact these issues have on farms and ranches across the country.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, the reality that we face is simple: The CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, is planting roots in our homeland and working around the clock to infiltrate our institutions.

In the last decade, Communist China's investment in U.S. ag land has grown tenfold. That is a dangerous trend that we cannot overstate, but today, we are taking an important step in keeping them out.

My bill to add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States is critical in keeping the CCP off of American soil.

Mr. Speaker, food security, as you have heard many times, is national security. This legislation strengthens the safety of our supply chains and opens a door to new reporting mechanisms that USDA can use to keep us safe from this threat.

□ 1230

With an already flawed foreign purchase reporting system within USDA, we must be sure our ag land is protected from nefarious actors.

As chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, I hear from farmers and ranchers across the country who are concerned by the reality that not

only is the CCP in our backyard, but we cannot accurately say where.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, my bill guarantees that the Secretary of Agriculture can accurately monitor and report purchases not just for land, but also for biotechnology, transportation, storage, and processing.

This bill is a first step. It is the beginning of the effort to keep our greatest adversaries from being able to purchase any American farmland because, the way I see it, a group like the CCP, who has made it their goal to cripple the United States, has no business having a hand in our supply chains and critical lands, but, first, we must know exactly how much they already have.

Mr. Speaker, time is not on our side here. Every moment we wait, the CCP tightens their grip on our system, further succeeding in their efforts.

I thank Speaker JOHNSON and Leader SCALISE for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor. A vote for this bill is a vote for our farmers, our economy, and our national security.

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

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

I want to highlight just how rushed the process for this bill has been. I remind my colleagues that this bill was only introduced 5 days ago, on Friday of last week.

The notice of the Rules Committee hearing for this bill went out the same day that the bill was introduced, and the hearing happened the very next Monday.

That timing didn't give Members and staff so much as a single business day to prepare, let alone for the Treasury Department and outside groups to conduct their own analyses. Needless to say, there hasn't been a single hearing on this bill, nor has it ever been marked up. To top it all off, the rule providing for consideration of the bill gives Members no opportunity for amendment.

Considering we just passed legislation to address the very concerns that this bill purports to tackle, I can see no policy reason as to why we are moving ahead with this bill so hastily. Given the serious defects with this bill, I don't understand why Republican leadership is denying Members the opportunity to properly assess these issues.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have insisted on following regular order again and again, so I would urge them to heed their own calls on this bill and allow this body to properly consider this legislation.

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

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

H.R. 9456 is comprised of two bills that were both marked up and unanimously reported from the Financial Services Committee. The administration did not send any technical assistance when both bills were marked up in

the committee a full year ago. They did not send TA until 2 days before this bill went to Rules. The edits were very technical in nature and open to interpretation.

I repeat again: Both of the underlying bills were marked up and unanimously reported from the committee in September of 2023. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle voted for the language in committee, and the Treasury gave no responses at the time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD).

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for introducing this very important and long-overdue piece of legislation.

According to the USDA, as of 2022, foreign individuals held an interest in over 43 million acres of U.S. ag land. For context, 43 million acres is larger than the State of Florida and greater than the total land area of 29 U.S. States.

Between December of 2021 and December of 2022, privately held foreign ag land increased by more than 3 million acres and now accounts for 3.4 percent of all privately held agricultural lands in the U.S.

This is a real problem, and it is growing. Our Nation's land is linked to our national security, our food supply, and energy resources. The rising trend of foreign ownership is highly concerning. The USDA is responsible for collecting data and reporting to Congress on foreign-owned ag land, but that is it. In its own words, the USDA does not have a role in reviewing the purchase or sale of ag land in our country.

Additionally, the USDA has failed to penalize improper filing of ag land transactions by foreign nationals, further emphasizing its lack of sufficient enforcement authority in this area.

Let me be clear: Foreign ag land ownership is a national security issue, and it should be treated as such. Over the last several years, we have all experienced firsthand the detrimental impact food and energy supply chain disruptions can have on our communities. Therefore, it is simply common sense that we pass this bill to expand CFIUS and better address this ongoing threat.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague is exactly right that the Financial Services Committee passed language that is similar in some respects to Representative NEWHOUSE's bill just 6 months ago in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

That language reflected bipartisan work done by the Financial Services Committee on two Republican bills that had been marked up by our committee with unanimous votes. We continue to work in a bipartisan manner as well as with the Senate and the Treasury Department to get language that reflected these two bipartisan bills into the appropriations bill, which ultimately got passed into law.

It is simply false to claim that the bill we are considering today is somehow a harmless duplication of what we have already enacted, as I have laid out in detail already.

This bill undermines the bipartisan work that we have done on this issue and raises serious concerns about both national security and racial profiling. We already did the work to strike a reasonable bipartisan compromise on this front, but Republicans are choosing to undermine that bipartisanship with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9456 would expand the kind of transactions that the Secretary of Agriculture is required to report to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., otherwise known as CFIUS, including any farmland transaction by foreign persons from China, North Korea, Russia, or Iran.

This broad definition of foreign persons would encompass all legal immigrants and refugees from these countries and require the Secretary to report on their agricultural land transactions.

This opens the door to treating immigrants as national security threats solely because of their country of origin and harms Asian-American communities across the board.

I recount that my own family, my father's family, was affected by the alien land laws that were prevalent on the West Coast of the United States. My grandfather, Esal Takano, emigrated to this country through the Port of Tacoma, and he married my American-born grandmother. He was not able to purchase land in his own name. In fact, in the mid-1930s, he purchased five acres of land in my grandmother's name because she was an American citizen. My uncle, who was returning in uniform from the 442nd Infantry, notified the family that there was a lien against the property, and they couldn't pay it in time because they were in internment camps.

It is a terrible chapter in our history that this country passed alien land laws that affected so many of the families that my family knows.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House Rules permitted, I would have offered a motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would add findings regarding the scapegoating of Asian and Iranian Americans as a long part of U.S. history and show instances of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide who have experienced discrimination and unfair treatment.

We must send this bill back to committee and bring forth thoughtful proposals that help our communities without putting our national security at risk.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

The Agriculture Foreign Investments Disclosure Act of 1978 already requires that all foreign persons and legal entities acquiring or transferring an interest in U.S. agricultural property submit a report to USDA containing the information on the transaction of the parties involved. That is present law.

CFIUS can already use this data when considering potential national security risks in determining whether a transaction is covered by its jurisdiction.

This bill does not change that jurisdiction. What this bill does is formally establish a referral system between USDA's current monitoring of land purchases and CFIUS in order to target our adversaries and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

The bill singles out purchases involving the People's Republic of China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. It is the governments of these nonfree societies that are our threats, and it is their manipulation of their people that are the threats we try to address.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret that China intends to take over America and become the world's superpower. It is all about control for the Chinese. They want to control our prices and our supplies. For the past few years, they have been on a spending spree, buying farmland across the United States.

Today, one in four pigs raised in the United States is owned by the Chinese, and 18 beef and 12 pork establishments have been given export licenses by the Chinese Government.

Even more alarming, not only do they intend to buy this land for their own benefit, but they also try to use these shell companies to buy land near classified military sites. One of the attempted purchases was in my district.

The Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act is an important step to stop this from happening. We must pass this legislation to permanently add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of U.S. agricultural land by foreign adversaries.

If we fail to act now, we risk more than just losing land. We risk the Chinese Communist Party controlling our future.

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

Several groups have come out in opposition to this bill over concerns of racial discrimination and profiling, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the National Iranian American Council, the Stop AAPI Hate, the Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American Scholar Forum, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

□ 1245

For example, according to the American Civil Liberties Union:

This legislation discriminates and targets individuals solely because of their citizenship and tends to conflate individuals from covered countries with their governments. It does this despite the lack of any showing that it is necessary or that passing this bill would do anything to protect U.S. national security interests.

According to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus:

H.R. 9456 is not an effective way to address national security. It is a continuation of our Nation's shameful history in enacting racist alien land laws from the 19th and 20th century that barred Chinese and Japanese immigrants from purchasing land and which eventually laid the groundwork for mass incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

We cannot go back to those shameful parts of our history where we denied equal protections and due process for entire ethnic groups simply because of their ethnic heritage.

The bipartisan language that we already passed into law appropriately tailors reporting from the Secretary of Agriculture to include only those transactions that have a national security nexus, including transactions that involve foreign governments or entities of concern, which is defined to include foreign terrorist organizations or sanctioned entities on the Treasury Department's economic and trade sanctions lists.

The law also provides support to the Secretary of Agriculture from the United States intelligence community to determine which transactions may pose a national security concern.

This bill overturns that bipartisan compromise and would treat refugees and legal immigrants from any of these countries in the same manner as known terrorist groups.

This is outrageous. I hope that both sides of the aisle will do what is right, do what is fair, and recognize the history that we are not proud of as it relates to racial profiling.

I hope that we would do the right thing on this bill. This bill should not be passed. We have already done what was needed in a bipartisan way. I don't know why they would take time to undermine the work that we did, and I certainly want a "no" vote on the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, before I yield to my colleague from Michigan, I

yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a process that combines two good pieces of legislation. This is a process that takes what we successfully did in appropriations, which means an annual process of renewal, and it makes it permanent law.

This is an acknowledgement that Congress recognizes the importance of making this statute permanent, not just a part of annual funding language. It is hard for me to imagine why we wouldn't support this. It is just difficult to imagine.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, food security is national security. The Chinese Communist Party understands this.

That is why Xi Jinping has labeled food security a national priority, and CCP-aligned companies have amassed thousands of acres of American farmland.

When the CCP looks at U.S. farmland, it sees a strategic asset. Once acquired, it will be used to enhance Chinese national security and undermine our own.

This is because there is no such thing as a private company in China. Under their national security laws, private companies are required to help the Chinese Government and military upon request. It is certainly not a coincidence that so much of the farmland Chinese companies acquire are next to American military bases or critical infrastructure.

China would never allow U.S. firms to buy land near Chinese military bases. To protect our national security, we need to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. NEWHOUSE's Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act to do just that.

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

My colleague across the aisle has pointed out that the language that we passed into law as part of the Appropriations Act just 6 months ago may expire along with the appropriations.

While that may be the case, it is simply false to claim that all this bill would do is ensure that the language survives past that expiration. If that were all this bill were doing, I would support it, the same way I supported that language before.

In fact, I would urge Republicans to bring a bill to the floor that would exclusively eliminate any expiration on the bipartisan language that we have already passed so that we can continue to work in a bipartisan manner on this issue, instead of moving this harmful bill that we are considering here today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indi-

ana (Mr. BAIRD), one of my fellow farmers, who understands these issues from the tractor seat and the field.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, when we talk about land for farmers and ranchers, we are really talking about that top eight inches of soil, which for some of you that may not recognize, that we consider that a living, breathing organism because of the organisms there and the complex chemistry that takes place, the nutrient exchange that grow the plants that rise above the surface.

I compliment our farmers and ranchers. We have spent a great deal of time and money and effort for conservation programs to protect that top eight inches of soil.

When we talk about land, we are also referring to a very precious resource. Since we have invested so much time and effort to make sure that we preserve that land, we are not interested in letting our adversaries have access to that.

In that vein, in Indiana, foreign investors own and lease about 400,000 acres of agricultural land. When I talk about agricultural land, I am talking about the land that either produces crops, forestry, pasture forages, and that sort of thing.

Some of them do not pose a real threat; however, foreign adversaries, including Communist China, are buying up farmland. Investors from Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela under the Maduro regime, as I heard our speaker mention a minute ago, hold about 95,000 acres of American agricultural land, but between 2010 and 2021, just the last decade or so, individuals or entities affiliated with the Communist China increased ownership of our agricultural land from 13,000 acres to 383,000 acres. That is a tenfold increase.

We need to be conscious of that, we need to be aware of that, and we don't need to let our adversaries have that.

What is even more concerning is that the Chinese-owned entities have purchased farmland near at least 19 of our military bases. This strategically placed land could be used by the Chinese Communist Party to surveil our military sites. This is a huge national security threat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HINSON). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, our adversaries are buying up our farmland. I mentioned that. The U.S. is currently losing 175 acres of farm and ranchland every hour for housing and other industries. The reduction in the amount of land for sale is contributing to the higher prices of land as well as making it harder for young farmers to access quality land.

We cannot keep burning the candle at both ends and allow our adversaries to purchase land when the American

farmers are struggling to do so. Ultimately, food security, as has already been mentioned, is national security. We must ensure a resource as precious as our farmland cannot be exploited or purchased by our adversaries.

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

As I laid out in my opening remarks, this bill confusingly duplicates and conflicts with existing law.

To be clear, this bill would add new language rather than amending the existing language that is already in law. Having two conflicting laws creates significant legal ambiguity as to how to interpret these competing texts.

It would undoubtedly result in litigation as agencies struggle to determine what their legal obligations are, tying up limited resources at both CFIUS and the Department of Agriculture.

This hastily written text does not appear to have appropriately taken into account the resulting legal ambiguities, and I would urge all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to, at the very least, take the time to address these legal ambiguities and provide a clear mandate.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa, I will simply note that like all legislative processes with the signature of the President on this piece of legislation, it will supersede the appropriated law. It will be straightforward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON).

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act. I thank Representative NEWHOUSE for his continued leadership on this issue. I am proud to have helped introduce this important piece of legislation to protect our food supply from foreign adversaries like Communist China.

China does continue to buy up American farmland at an alarming rate. They are aiming to gain control of our food and fuel supply chains, stealing American intellectual property, and strategically purchasing land near sensitive sites.

China doesn't even allow its own citizens to own land, but we have allowed China to purchase nearly 350,000 acres of our agriculture land.

Our adversaries will stop at nothing to disrupt critical industries like agriculture, and this bill will help us to block transactions that are a threat to our national security.

By ensuring that the Secretary of Agriculture has a seat at the table at CFIUS, foreign transactions involving agricultural assets will receive proper oversight so that we can prevent our adversaries from continuing to undermine our food supply and national security.

In Iowa, we know our land is sacred. Iowa farmers truly do feed and fuel the

world, so we cannot allow the CCP to continue buying up our most valuable resource.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good piece of legislation.

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

H.R. 9456 undercuts not only a bipartisan accomplishment from 6 months ago, but also our government's ability to stop adversarial countries like China and Russia from acquiring companies, technology, and land that are critical to our national security.

This bill will also cause financial harm to lawful, permanent residents and other immigrants based solely on an investor's citizenship.

Members of this body considered this issue just 6 months ago, passing bipartisan legislation to add the expertise of the Secretary of the USDA to CFIUS and improving the process by which agricultural land transactions are shared with and reviewed by the government.

□ 1300

That bill was drafted in coordination with the Biden-Harris administration as well as Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate. It was passed into law through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. There is no need to rewrite this law.

H.R. 9456 is a rush job by the House Republican leadership, and it shows how harmful this bill is to both our national security and the people who we serve.

I would just say to my colleagues that if you are really concerned about security, if you really want to support ag and the farmers, why did you just pull the continuing resolution that we were supposed to take up to continue government functioning?

Now, I guess you don't have the votes, and you are doing nothing to protect the very people who you purport to want to protect. Wow.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would note, as I conclude with my comments and yield back also, there have been many occasions when the good lady, the ranking member of the full committee, and I have battled over issues, and there have been occasions when we have been in the same trenches, fighting in the same direction on policy. I would say that she is always a very worthwhile adversary and just a pretty viciously effective ally on those rare occasions, but today, we disagree. We disagree.

I believe Americans have long recognized that a resilient food supply is essential to national security, which is why the rise of foreign investments in our Nation's farmlands deserves increased scrutiny.

We have seen our geopolitical adversaries, China in particular, are eager to exploit vulnerabilities in critical supply chains. Investment from China

poses a unique risk to the American economy, and the Chinese Communist Party exercises immense control and influence over Chinese-owned companies operating abroad.

This bill recognizes that a national security framework that excludes agriculture is incomplete.

In my own State of Oklahoma, foreign land ownership has been against the law for decades and decades, but my State officials tell me that with the web of LLCs and trusts and a variety of other legal mechanisms, they have a difficult time in enforcing that.

This piece of legislation today is one of many pieces of the puzzle to bring this to a focus. If you care about the security of this great Nation and if you care about building on actions that we have taken in this Congress before, then I urge you to vote for this bill. Make permanent law what is now an annual appropriation-type process. I think it is the right thing to do.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this discriminatory and unnecessary legislation.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) is currently empowered to examine foreign investments related to agriculture.

This legislation would continue to exacerbate anti-Asian hate and xenophobia. This legislation mirrors the discriminatory real-estate laws proposed in many States, including my home State of Texas.

As a staunch opponent of invidious discrimination, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3697—Preemption of Real Property Discrimination Act, which would preempt these unacceptable State laws that seek to deny foreign citizens the opportunity to acquire real property in the United States.

Congress must reject all attempts to exacerbate the already intolerable levels of xenophobia in our Nation.

Diversity is a benefit, not a detriment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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. TAKANO. 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. Tanko of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 9456 to the Committee on Financial Services.

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

Mr. Takano moves to recommit the bill H.R. 9456 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Insert after section 1 the following:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The scapegoating of Asian and Iranian Americans for our nation's problems has long been part of U.S. history—and history has shown us that heightened xenophobia creates a cycle which leads to violence. Since the 19th century, Asian Americans have been unjustly targeted through the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the “Yellow Peril” era lynchings of Chinese immigrants, exclusionary alien land laws, the incarceration of 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans during World War II, the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass surveillance of Muslim, Middle Eastern, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian communities in the aftermath of 9/11, and the racial profiling of Chinese American scientists under the China Initiative.

(2) Today, nearly half (49%) of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment that may be illegal.

(3) Since March 2020, over 11,500 anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents have been reported to Stop AAPI Hate.

(4) 58% of Asian American adults say they have experienced racial discrimination or been treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity.

(5) 78% of Asian adults have been treated as a foreigner in some way, even if they are U.S. born.

(6) A majority of Iranian Americans say that they or someone they are close to has experienced discrimination.

(7) Six in 10 Iranian Americans are concerned about increasing discrimination against and the personal safety of Iranian Americans.

(8) It has been widely reported that implementation of laws restricting or prohibiting foreign persons from China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, including refugees and green card holders, from purchasing property and land in 22 States across the country have contributed to racial profiling, xenophobia and discrimination lawsuits.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that racial profiling and xenophobia have no place in America, that hate crimes against the Iranian American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities have increased, and that Congress should not pass laws that codify or perpetuate discrimination.

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 ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIFFANY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1316

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIFFANY) at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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. 1425.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430 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. 1425.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1317

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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, with Mr. VAN DREW in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

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

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

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1425, Congressman TOM TIFFANY's No World Health Organization Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act.

This bill ensures that the Biden-Harris administration does not circumvent Congress, and it requires that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response as agreed to by the World Health Assembly must be considered by the Senate as a treaty.

When it comes to imposing binding international obligations on Ameri-

cans, the executive branch cannot go it alone. In our Constitution, in our republican system of government, the people's elected Representatives in Congress must give their approval.

An international treaty that cannot command the support of two-thirds of the Senate is not actually a treaty. While one administration may submit to it, it certainly does not bind our Nation or future administrations.

This proposed World Health Organization Pandemic Agreement is no exception. In fact, that potentially expansive agreement especially needs proper review and debate by the American people's elected Representatives.

Article 19 of the WHO Constitution states that such agreements must be submitted to each member state for review “in accordance with its constitutional processes.” Our constitutional process requires ratification by the Senate for something to be considered a treaty before it may come into force.

Likewise, during the World Health Assembly in May, the World Health Organization Director-General promised that any agreement “will go to parliaments for consideration and ratification.” We don't have a parliament. In our body, it would go to the Senate.

It isn't being sent there by the Biden-Harris administration. Why does the administration not want this to go to the Senate? That is an important question to ask. They certainly have not kept the drafting and negotiations transparent or accountable to the American people.

Now that negotiations are supposed to conclude by early 2025, there remains a distinct possibility that the World Health Assembly will try to call an emergency vote on a final draft treaty before a new U.S. administration takes office.

Far too little attention has been paid to what this treaty would mean for health policy in the United States and elsewhere. The latest draft is limitless in scope and contains overly broad language that can be read to support abortion and radical left ideology. It claims to impose undefined financial obligations. It grants more authority to the WHO, potentially infringing on our sovereignty. It threatens both intellectual property and free speech rights. It provides zero accountability for China.

The pandemic treaty would give more U.S. taxpayer dollars to the WHO bureaucrats to manage, even though the U.S. has already spent billions on pandemic preparedness. In total, the U.S. has spent around \$2.2 billion toward global health security which, along with the Pandemic Fund donations, goes toward strengthening global health systems, supply chains, healthcare workforces, and international laboratories.

In addition, the International Health Regulations have been in place since 2005 as a mechanism to address infectious disease outbreaks around the world. They were just updated this past May to include a new financial mechanism. Why do we need yet another

funding stream of U.S. dollars for pandemics?

What is also concerning is how the treaty is being used as a vehicle to promote and implement a radical left ideology. If this treaty were truly a model for promoting global health security, then the World Health Organization would keep it clean of divisive and controversial items, not just for Americans' interests but for interests around the world in keeping with the humanitarian principle of neutrality.

Americans remember and are still recovering from the devastations of COVID-19. Many lives and livelihoods were lost, and we can certainly and should prepare for future pandemics. However, Americans also remember the WHO's egregious mishandling of COVID-19. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros enabled the Chinese Communist Party's grand COVID-19 coverup in the winter of 2020 by parroting the Chinese Communist Party's lies such as that the virus did not spread via human-to-human transmission that contributed directly to death and disruption around the world.

Despite that colossal failure, the World Health Organization still has not addressed China's involvement in the pandemic's creation or spread and have not conducted internal reforms necessary to address its own role in the mismanagement of that pandemic. Instead, WHO is asking for more money, more authority, more legitimacy, and less accountability. The Biden-Harris administration is supporting their efforts to do so.

Thankfully, H.R. 1425 ensures that the American people, through their elected Senators, will have the opportunity to review any pandemic treaty, especially the sweeping grant of power and money to the World Health Organization.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I stand in opposition to H.R. 1425. We can't forget the dark times that COVID-19 brought to our communities across the United States and around the entire world. The pandemic resulted in a tragic loss of lives. More than 1.2 million Americans and more than 7 million people around the world died. The next pandemic is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when.

During the response to COVID-19, we saw inequities, inequalities, and unfairness across the international system—vaccine manufacturing capabilities benefiting wealthy nations and vaccine access being denied to less wealthy nations who were forced to wait in line and, in some cases, punished for sharing COVID samples with CDC labs and other global health institutions that helped improve the efficacy of U.S.-produced vaccines.

The American people understand that the United States' leadership is critical to addressing the world's most

pressing challenges. A key way to do this is through multilateral institutions, including the World Health Organization. Working multilaterally is critical to strengthening our national security and to securing our public health systems.

Don't just take my word for it. In a nationwide poll conducted at the height of the pandemic, it was found that 82 percent of American voters supported the United Nations' role in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 overseas. That included 98 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Republicans.

The pandemic accord aims to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The United States is a linchpin in ensuring a pandemic accord not only serves our global health security interests but also helps coordinate a global response to public health threats that don't see our borders.

H.R. 1425 is a sadly, nakedly partisan attempt to subvert U.S. diplomatic efforts to reach a pandemic accord agreement alongside 194 World Health Organization member states. The draft pandemic agreement strengthens the global workforce, improves distribution of medical countermeasures, and provides funding for WHO members to improve their response capacity. We must not miss this opportunity to improve global health systems response capacity, including to prevent the tragic loss of life in the United States of America and globally.

Only by learning from our mistakes made during the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this agreement could be a watershed moment in advancing global health security. We must support the ongoing pandemic agreement negotiations, as it could prove essential to saving American lives. Unfortunately, this bill only serves to undermine diplomatic efforts seeking to strengthen global health security.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats unanimously opposed this measure at markup, and we made clear when this bill was marked up by our committee in July, the President has the authority of acceding to an agreement through executive action.

□ 1330

Executive action does not require the advice and consent of the Senate. The vast majority, 90 percent, of all U.S. international legal agreements are approved via executive action rather than formal approval by the Senate.

The draft pandemic agreement under negotiation is not a treaty. If it were, I would be standing in support of H.R. 1425.

While framed as an effort to increase congressional oversight, this bill really is a part of Republicans' politicization of COVID response and antiscentence-based policy. It puts the safety and national security of Americans in jeopardy, simply because they don't like

the WHO, or any multilateral institutions for that matter, under their isolationist—they like to isolate themselves from everything and everyone. It is the MAGA platform.

If the U.S. is not allowed to sit at the table or our negotiating leverage is weakened by this bill, our adversaries and those who do not have our best interests in mind, guess what, they will be the ones to fill the void.

The Biden-Harris administration has made a good-faith effort to notify Congress of its planned actions regarding U.S. negotiations, and these efforts have been met with unanimous opposition from Senate and House Republicans who have voiced their opposition to any agreement no matter what its contents are.

One of the misleading claims made by critics of the draft pandemic agreement includes the idea that it would subvert U.S. sovereignty. Yet, in fact, the draft pandemic agreement explicitly states that it does not give the WHO any power to dictate specific policy to member nations and that member states may implement policies according to their sovereign laws. Simply put, the draft pandemic agreement expressly affirms the sovereignty of nations to address public health matters.

False claims that the agreement would undermine our sovereignty have been thoroughly debunked by multiple reputable sources. The Biden-Harris administration has made it clear that they will not support any agreement harmful to U.S. interests, including our sovereignty.

Securing the pandemic agreement would be essential to saving not just American lives but many lives around the world. This bill undermines diplomatic efforts seeking to strengthen global health security, and I, alongside all House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats, unanimously oppose this measure.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), the author of this very important bill.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership.

Mr. Chair, who do you want in charge of a pandemic policy in the United States? Do you want the corrupt globalists at the World Health Organization in charge of it, or do you want the United States of America to be at the wheel of our pandemic policy?

The answer is simple.

The World Health Organization has proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted to carry out an effective pandemic response.

In 2019, they ignored Taiwan's early warning about the COVID-19 outbreak, then they parroted the lies of the Chinese Communist Party that there was no human-to-human transmission.

Now, the Biden-Harris administration is seeking to reward them with our pandemic management.

The pandemic treaty draft includes no accountability or improved transparency measures for the CCP in its role in covering up the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It focuses on mandated resource and technology transfers and shreds intellectual property rights. It also contains certain provisions that may police our First Amendment rights.

Lastly, it does not protect the sovereignty of the United States of America. This legislation is a no-brainer for anyone who stands for transparency and America's sovereignty.

It would require any convention or agreement resulting from the work of the World Health Organization's intergovernmental negotiating body to be deemed a treaty, thus requiring the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate.

Given the vast reach of this so-called pandemic treaty, don't we want Congress to have oversight of it?

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, but more importantly, I urge all my colleagues to choose American sovereignty because that is really what is at stake today.

I would also say, Mr. Chair, I am hearing from the other side, from the gentleman from New York, it sounds like he has a draft of the treaty. If he does, we would like to see it because we have not received a final draft of the treaty, and that is part of the impetus for this bill.

If we are going to have transparency and accountability for the American people, which we should certainly have, then we need to see the document. Produce the document, allow us to be able to review it, and have the United States Senate, a body of the people of the United States of America, be able to ratify this very important agreement that may have far-reaching impacts on the American people.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, the ranking member highlights that the World Health Organization somehow gives a head nod to sovereignty. It is true that in their most recent public draft they mention sovereignty, but only to the extent that they agree that it is in their interest. So somehow they take a position where they are going to judge whether it really conforms or not. That should be alarming, and it should persuade my colleagues to not vote on party lines, but instead, to unite in support of this good bill.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, my constituents in Texas did not elect a single member of the World Health Organization to represent them.

This globalist cabal known as the WHO capitalized on the CCP bioweapon

which we now call COVID-19 and pushed its tyrannical policies across the world.

As my colleague across the aisle said, these were dark days under tyranny.

Leftwing globalists surrendered American sovereignty and gave control to the WHO during the public health emergency. These power-hungry bureaucrats shut down our entire country and infringed upon the constitutional rights of Americans.

The Biden-Harris administration cannot circumvent the treaty process defined by the Constitution. Any agreement with the WHO on international pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response must be considered by the Senate as a treaty.

There are definite criteria that determine what constitutes a treaty. I recommend my colleagues across the aisle read those criteria.

Our lawless President and his lawless administration should execute the law. Our Founders of the Constitution wisely included a requirement for the United States to agree to any international treaty a Senate supermajority would be required.

Americans don't support empowering unelected bureaucrats at the WHO who don't hold American values.

H.R. 1425 reaffirms Americans' voices through their elected Senators. There can be no WHO pandemic treaty without Senate approval.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

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

The gentleman indicated that he had not seen or known of the draft. I would refer him to the WHO's website. There is plenty of information. Just go to the website.

On the website, Article 24, Paragraph 3 of the draft agreement—I am reading from it now—goes on to say that: "Nothing in the WHO pandemic agreement shall be interpreted as providing the WHO Secretariat, including the WHO Director-General, any authority to direct, order, alter or otherwise prescribe the domestic laws or policies of any party, or to mandate or otherwise impose any requirements that parties take specific actions, such as ban or accept travelers, impose vaccination mandates or therapeutic or diagnostic measures, or implement lockdowns."

It is clear, concise, and available.

Furthermore, I understand that the Biden administration has issued a statement of policy on this bill strongly opposing it.

I include in the RECORD that statement of administration policy.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1425—NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT—REP. TIFFANY, R-WI, AND 59 COSPONSORS

Pandemic preparedness was a day one priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. Under this Administration's leadership, the United States has coordinated global efforts

to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the international community is better prepared to respond to the next pandemic.

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 1425, which provides that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by World Health Organization (WHO) member states pursuant to the recommendations, report, or work of the International Negotiating Body (INB) established by the second special session of the World Health Assembly "is deemed to be a treaty" and require the advice and consent of the Senate. Presidents have historically taken a variety of approaches to making and carrying out international agreements, and this bill would improperly purport to constrain the President's authority to do so in furthering the important work of achieving advancements, with the international community, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics. If enacted, this bill would undermine efforts by this Administration and future Administrations to better protect the United States by preventing international public emergencies like COVID-19 from happening again. The Administration will continue to engage with the Congress and adhere to well-established principles in assessing the outcome of the work of the INB as these negotiations continue.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, Mr. MEEKS talks like there is a final draft of the treaty. We, again, have not seen it. How else would he seem to know or claim to know that it is an executive agreement? We thought it was still in negotiations.

Mr. Chair, I am in strong support of H.R. 1425 requiring any agreement reached by the World Health Organization to be deemed as a treaty, and thus, requiring the approval of the Senate by a two-thirds vote.

The WHO corruptly handled the China virus due, in no small part, to WHO Director-General Tedros being heavily influenced by Chinese President Xi.

In 2020, Tedros praised China for their handling of the pandemic, even though it was clear that they were withholding critical information about the true origin and nature of the virus.

This year, member states of WHO have been working to come to an agreement on what is called the pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response accord. Thankfully, this agreement, which would absolutely be an unconstitutional surrender of sovereignty of the United States, has not been finalized.

However, the World Health Assembly, the body deliberating language in the agreement, has already agreed to several amendments committing to solidarity and equity, establishing a new body to facilitate effective implementation, and creating an international human rights authority to improve coordination between countries.

This is nothing more than an international power grab by leftist elitists

who hate America, want to infringe on individual privacy, and seek to attack the fundamental principles of American self-governance and self-determination.

The WHO symbolizes and represents what the left wants for the world and for the United States, where national sovereignty and individual freedom mean nothing.

The Democrats don't believe in American exceptionalism, American sovereignty, our founding Judeo-Christian principles, or the preservation of that which makes us unique and the hope for the world.

That is why they believe that everybody in the world has the inherent right to come to America, whether legally or illegally.

Just 4 short years ago, the Biden administration—or the Biden-Harris administration as it used to be called—was shutting down our economy and forcing us to stay in our homes due to the China virus. They think that went great, and they would gladly do it again if it was beneficial to their own interests.

The United States should end all taxpayer funding of the WHO, formally withdraw as a member, and ignore any and all edicts put out by that body.

Until we do that, at a minimum, we should ensure the Senate holds them accountable for their infringement on our sovereignty and require a two-thirds approval of any agreement or treaty, which is what it really is.

I thank my friend Mr. TIFFANY for his leadership, and I thank Mr. DAVIDSON for leading this debate on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

□ 1345

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the right to close.

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

Let me say, Mr. Chair, that I believe that one of the things that my Republican friends are trying to do here is to divert the actions, the inactions, and the failure of the prior administration during the pandemic. I think that is what the real issue is here and that is what the problem is. That is why they are putting this bill forward. It is because they know about the former President, and they know what he said during the time of the pandemic. It is still there for all the world to see about what he said at that particular time. It is this debate, and this bill is why they are debating this and are against the bill vigorously.

So what happened?

What did Donald Trump say?

Let's go back, because sometimes it seems as though our memories fail of what took place during the pandemic. One way we can do that is let's look at what the President said because he loves to tweet, or now whatever else he puts it on, but he said:

"We are in very close communication with China concerning the virus. Very

few cases reported in USA, but strongly on watch. We have offered China and President Xi any help that is necessary. Our experts are extraordinary!"

That is what he said. Then he came right back after that:

"I think our relationship has never been better. We're very much involved with them, right now, on the virus that's going around. We're working very closely. I spoke to President Xi. We're working very closely with China. And, honestly, I think, as tough as this negotiation was, I think our relationship with China now might be the best it's been in a long, long time."

He goes on, and on January 29 he said:

"Just received a briefing on the Coronavirus in China from all of our great agencies, who are also working closely with China. We will continue to monitor the ongoing developments. We have the best experts anywhere in the world, and they are on top of it 24/7!"

That is the former President of the United States.

What I think has to happen is that we must apply some of the very painful lessons from COVID-19. One of those lessons that we learned is we must strengthen our global health systems.

The pandemic agreement, if secured, could do just that. We learn from the past. It would help us, but if we do H.R. 1425, we would be effectively sending and torpedoing the United States' membership in the WHO's pandemic agreement.

Now, I know as, I said before, my Republican colleagues don't like to be a part of multilateral organizations. However, when we have a worldwide pandemic, it is multilateral organizations working collectively together that can save lives because it doesn't stay in one part of the world. It travels all over the world, and it means that we have to converse, negotiate, and work with others.

The world is much smaller today. You can't isolate it. We have got to work with people. Multilateral organizations are for that purpose. Oftentimes our experts' voices lead. If you take our voices away, then it hurts the American public, the American people, and our friends and allies and others all around the world.

We have got to strengthen our multilateral relationships, especially when we are talking about WHO's pandemic agreement. That is because what that agreement aims to do is strengthen global pandemic prevention and strengthen preparedness and response. We can't let this noise and we can't allow Republicans to politicize the response of COVID pandemic and utilize antisocial-based policies to derail our diplomatic efforts. This is something that we really should be working together on to get done.

Doesn't it just make sense that we are part of the process of improving and moving forward for the next pandemic because we know it is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when the world will have it?

Don't you want to learn so the lives that we lost previously are no longer lost?

Preventing them should be our goal in a bipartisan way, not coming up with something that virtually takes away our negotiating power with the WHO and move forward.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, it seems that the ranking member feels confident that if this were exposed to the legislature of our own country that it would torpedo the agreement. That is what he said.

He also said, maybe in a different context, that if our voices are not heard, then America is weaker. Well, he joins a long line of members of his party who say things like: To protect our democracy, we have to avoid democratic processes. We can't allow the people's voice to be heard. We have to use the elite to protect everyone, people who know best. Frankly, if we can't just do it within the Biden-Harris administration, we should do it as partisan globalist institutions and not let it be subject to scrutiny.

In fact, maybe he is on to something. Secretary Blinken, when he testified before our committee last, said that he has remaining concerns.

We don't know that this is a final draft because the Secretary of State says that he has lingering concerns, and he is not sure before his term ends as Secretary of State that they can reach a final agreement.

He is not sure that he can.

Why?

It is because he has concerns about intellectual property infringements and things that would hurt the sovereignty of our own country. This subjects the agreement, frankly, to what article 19 of the WHO constitution says. It states that such agreements be submitted to each member state for review "in accordance with its constitutional process."

The World Health Assembly in May, the World Health Organization Director-General promised that any agreement "will go to the parliaments for consideration and ratification."

This administration wants to avoid that, and their proxies here in the House want to make sure they can get away with it. That is what this bill is about.

I, again, thank Mr. TOM TIFFANY from Wisconsin for introducing this bill and Chairman McCaul for moving it through committee and to the floor.

What the other side is claiming is that Congress should not have any role in addressing a sweeping international health treaty that will affect the health, finances, and freedoms of American citizens, and I think it is dead wrong. This bill is the minimum due diligence that we owe the American people.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for H.R. 1425, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the esteemed gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). My colleague is the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations' State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank our ranking member, Mr. MEEKS, for his tremendous leadership on so many fronts especially as it relates to global peace and security. I thank him for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1425. Now, we have all seen and felt how global health threats don't respect borders. Any serious global health response requires cooperation, not finger-pointing. This partisan bill doesn't provide any pathway to protecting Americans and the world from the next pandemic.

The good news is that we have an alternative, a positive example of how to build a global health partnership. I am talking about the effort to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Mr. Chair, 20 years ago, AIDS was a death sentence for millions. Entire countries and communities were literally facing oblivion.

I, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, worked with President George W. Bush and top Republicans like Senate Republican leader Bill Frist and House Foreign Affairs Chair Henry Hyde to create PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I believe now probably only about 20 to 25 percent of Members who are presently serving were here when we passed this first major global health initiative.

Today, PEPFAR is the most successful assistance program in history. PEPFAR investments have helped save 25 million lives. That is what we did. Seven million orphans and vulnerable children have received support, and 5½ million babies have been born HIV-free.

This success has led Congress to extend PEPFAR three times. Last year, for the first time, Congress failed to do this despite bipartisan support. I have spoken at length with many Members on both sides of the aisle, and both sides of the aisle, the Members, continue supporting PEPFAR's work. However, Republican leadership seems to prefer divisive bills like H.R. 1425 instead of bipartisan bills like PEPFAR. They are choosing divisiveness over cooperation and results.

This is just a 5-year extension with no changes. That is all we are asking for.

Mr. Chair, PEPFAR also, you have to understand, is a key national security priority. The world is watching. We are trying to show people in other countries that the United States should be their preferred partner, of course, instead of China, for example.

What message does it send when we walk away from our commitments before the job is done?

Yes, we all are committed to an AIDS-free generation by 2030, and that

is why a 5-year extension is extremely important.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would reauthorize PEPFAR for another 5 years, just as we have in the past three times, to ensure that the United States keeps its commitment to finally defeat HIV and AIDS for everyone everywhere.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of the amendment.

Ms. Lee of California moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 1425, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "PEPFAR Extension Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. INSPECTORS GENERAL AND ANNUAL STUDY.

Section 101 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7611) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (f)(1)—
 - (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "March 25 of fiscal year 2025" and inserting "2030"; and
 - (B) in subparagraph (C)(iv)—
 - (i) by striking "nine" and inserting "14"; and
 - (ii) by striking "2025" and inserting "2030"; and
- (2) in subsection (g)—
 - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2024" and inserting "2031"; and
 - (B) in paragraph (2)—
 - (i) in the heading, by striking "2024" and inserting "2031"; and
 - (ii) by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2031".

SEC. 3. PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA.

Section 202(d) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7622(d)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (4)—
 - (A) in subparagraph (A)—
 - (i) in clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
 - (ii) in clause (ii), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
 - (B) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
- (2) in paragraph (5), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

SEC. 4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 403 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7673) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
- (2) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

Ms. LEE of California. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, I thank my colleague, the inimitable Congresswoman from California, BARBARA LEE, for her remarks on the bill and on PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. She is a true leader and a tremendous advocate on many issues, but especially on PEPFAR.

I support her bill that reauthorizes PEPFAR. As she stated, it is one of the most successful U.S.-led global health interventions ever. She did it in a bipartisan way with a Republican President and Republican Senate. That is the way we used to do business around here.

PEPFAR, as she said, has saved over 25 million lives in more than 50 countries. I was pleased by the statements made by my Foreign Affairs Committee chair, my friend who I have talked to about this bill over and over again, MIKE MCCAUL, during a hearing we had where we recognized the importance of PEPFAR's programming in Africa.

Chairman MCCAUL emphasized the need to ensure the extension of PEPFAR, "a 20-year success story." He highlighted the President of Botswana's gratitude toward PEPFAR, who noted its public health impacts have saved a generation.

I was pleased by Africa Subcommittee Chair JOHN JAMES, who today praised PEPFAR as the most successful foreign policy tool since the Marshall Plan and declared we have to have a long-term reauthorization plan—bipartisanship at its best—and recognition of the value of PEPFAR.

The unprecedented 1-year reauthorization has done little to reassure our African partners, our diplomatic corps, and PEPFAR implementers that Congress is committed to ending the scourge of HIV/AIDS once and for all.

We must have a clean 5-year reauthorization of PEPFAR, and I am willing to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop playing politics with people's lives and get a clean 5-year reauthorization done.

I work with MIKE MCCAUL. I work with JOHN JAMES. I work with my colleagues on the other side, especially on this committee, in a bipartisan way. We work with Republicans in the Senate. We worked with a Republican President. This should not be something that is difficult to get done.

I, again, thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership, for her vision, and for saving millions of lives. I agree with her that H.R. 1425 is a distraction from responsible global health legislation.

Let's keep PEPFAR in bills that target malaria, tuberculosis, and other neglected tropical diseases. Let's get rid of them collectively together for all time.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Just a reminder to all of our colleagues following this vigorous debate that this bill is not about PEPFAR. This bill is about the administration's desire to enter into a treaty with the World Health Organization to surrender our sovereignty without following our constitutional process.

This bill would require the Senate to ratify a treaty. If it is going to have the binding force of law on future administrations, that is what our process requires in our Constitution, and frankly, it is what is acknowledged by the World Health Organization itself. It is what they are expecting of other countries, but somehow the Biden-Harris administration doesn't expect it of us and, sadly, their proxies don't either.

The other side mentioned in their debate that viruses don't recognize boundaries, that pandemics don't recognize borders, but the reality is the response does. We saw very different responses around the world, some pretty alarming and downright dystopian. If the World Health Organization chose to do that, America should sovereignly make its choice for our country, for how we react to it.

Of course, that is what is going to happen. Admittedly, some future administration might move in lockstep with the World Health Organization, but without the effect of a treaty, the United States certainly isn't obligated to, and perhaps that is a good thing.

Maybe it is a good thing that they are going to skip this. Maybe the administration will avoid it coming up in the Senate. Maybe the administration would veto it if we did get it over the finish line, but certainly, we should never surrender our sovereignty to the World Health Organization, in particular.

I thank Mr. TIFFANY for introducing this bill and Chairman MCCAUL for moving it through our committee and to the floor.

Mr. Chair, I encourage all of our colleagues to support H.R. 1425, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I am a proud cosponsor of Rep. TIFFANY's H.R. 1425, No WHO pandemic Treaty Without Senate Approval Act. H.R. 1425 would ensure that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response agreed to by the World Health Assembly is deemed a treaty and thereby sent to the Senate for "Advice and Consent".

In my 45 years in Congress, I have seen time and time again efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) to expand authorities and ideologically colonize vulnerable countries using foreign assistance—the majority of it funded by U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Once again, but now in a manner that is most concerning to me—through a treaty—they plan to exploit people's fears of the next pandemic in order to execute and bind Leftist ideological pursuits, disguised as supporting "equity", "essential health services", and the

like, all the while trampling on U.S. sovereignty, threatening intellectual property rights and free speech, and promoting or funding abortion.

The approach to drafting this treaty has also been disturbing—the lack of transparency, the backroom negotiations, support for the WHO power grab, placing unknown financial obligations for U.S. taxpayers—while benefitting China at the expense of the United States.

Can Americans even trust the World Health Organization? Has WHO earned back our trust after the devastating blow we experienced from their horrific mismanagement and coverup of PRC involvement of the COVID-19 pandemic?

No, they haven't.

We weren't even going to be given a chance to see the final negotiated text before the treaty's presentation at the World Health Assembly this past May. Luckily, the negotiators could not reach an agreement in time (but may do so before the end of this year).

From day one, we have been pressing the Biden Administration for transparency, to protect U.S. sovereignty from unelected WHO bureaucrats, and to commit to sending the proposed WHO Pandemic Treaty to the Senate for a real review before the U.S. government makes any agreement. This agreement is far too important to not receive a proper Congressional review and debate. Millions of taxpayer dollars are at stake.

Will President Biden, make the treaty's final draft public so that taxpayers can review this treaty? So that civil society and the private sector can review it? So that U.S. Congress can review and debate it?

So far, our demands have not been heeded.

It is an absolute affront to our sovereignty to hand over critical health authorities to these unelected bureaucrats—with no accountability whatsoever—and empower them to dictate policies to U.S. medical professionals and U.S. taxpayers when it comes to vaccines, therapeutics, and the like.

Using potential pandemics as a pretext to violate the principles of good governance erodes trust and undermines international cooperation when it is most needed.

And we most certainly won't be signing a blank check. The American taxpayer should not be fleeced like this.

Binding international covenants, treaties, or agreements—and the legal obligations imposed on nations—requires serious and comprehensive analysis and must be sent to the Senate for "Advice and Consent".

I urge all members of Congress to do their duty and vote in favor of H.R. 1425.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-44 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the 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. 1425

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On May 18, 2020, President Donald Trump sent a letter to World Health Organization (referred to in this Act as "WHO") Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (referred to in this Act as the "Director-General"), announcing that—

(A) United States contributions to WHO would be halted due to its mismanagement of the COVID-19 outbreak and its lack of independence from the People's Republic of China; and

(B) the United States would withdraw from WHO if it did not commit to substantive improvements within 30 days.

(2) President Trump's May 18 letter cited numerous instances of WHO mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(A) unjustified delays informing member states about a potentially serious disease outbreak in Wuhan, China; and

(B) repeated grossly inaccurate or misleading claims about the transmissibility of the virus and about the Government of China's handling of the outbreak.

(3) On June 30, 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally notified the United Nations of the United States decision to withdraw from WHO, which would have taken effect on July 6, 2021, under the terms of a joint resolution adopted by Congress on June 14, 1948 (Public Law 80-643; 62 Stat. 441).

(4) A Pew Research Center survey conducted in April and May 2020 indicated that 51 percent of Americans felt that WHO had done a poor or fair job in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

(5) On January 20, 2021, President Joseph Biden sent United Nations Director-General António Guterres a letter retracting the United States notice of withdrawal from WHO.

(6) On December 1, 2021, at the second special session of the World Health Assembly (referred to in this Act as the "WHA") decided—

(A) to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body (referred to in this section as the "INB") to draft and negotiate a WHO convention (referred to in this section as the "Convention"), agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, with a view to adoption under Article 19 or any other provision of the WHO Constitution; and

(B) that the INB shall submit a progress report to the Seventy-sixth WHA and a working draft of the convention for consideration by the Seventy-seventh WHA, which is scheduled to take place beginning on March 18, 2024.

(7) On February 24, March 14 and 15, and June 6 through 8 and 15 through 17, 2022, the INB held its inaugural meeting at which the Director-General proposed the following 5 themes to guide the INB's work in drafting the Convention:

(A) Building national, regional, and global capacities based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

(B) Establishing global access and benefit sharing for all pathogens, and determining a global policy for the equitable production and distribution of countermeasures.

(C) Establishing robust systems and tools for pandemic preparedness and response.

(D) Establishing a long-term plan for sustainable financing to ensure support for global health threat management and response systems.

(E) Empowering WHO to fulfill its mandate as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, including for pandemic preparedness and response.

(8) On July 18 through 22, 2022, the INB held its second meeting at which it agreed that the Convention would be adopted under Article 19

of the WHO Constitution and legally binding on the parties.

(9) On December 5 through 7, 2022, the INB held its third meeting at which it accepted a conceptual zero draft of the Convention and agreed to prepare a zero draft for consideration at the INB's next meeting.

(10) In early January 2023, an initial draft of the Convention was sent to WHO member states in advance of its formal introduction at the fourth meeting of the INB, which is scheduled for February 27 through March 3, 2023. The draft includes broad and binding provisions, including rules governing parties' access to pathogen genomic sequences and how the products or benefits of such access are to be distributed.

(11) Section 723.3 of title 11 of the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Manual states that when "determining whether any international agreement should be brought into force as a treaty or as an international agreement other than a treaty, the utmost care is to be exercised to avoid any invasion or compromise of the constitutional powers of the President, the Senate, and the Congress as a whole" and includes the following criteria to be considered when determining whether an international agreement should take the form of a treaty or an executive agreement:

(A) "The extent to which the agreement involves commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole".

(B) "Whether the agreement is intended to affect state laws".

(C) "Whether the agreement can be given effect without the enactment of subsequent legislation by the Congress".

(D) "Past U.S. practice as to similar agreements".

(E) "The preference of the Congress as to a particular type of agreement".

(F) "The degree of formality desired for an agreement".

(G) "The proposed duration of the agreement, the need for prompt conclusion of an agreement, and the desirability of concluding a routine or short-term agreement".

(H) "The general international practice as to similar agreements".

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a significant segment of the American public is deeply skeptical of the World Health Organization, its leadership, and its independence from the pernicious political influence of certain member states, including the People's Republic of China;

(2) Congress strongly prefers that any agreement related to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response adopted by the World Health Assembly pursuant to the work of the INB be considered a treaty requiring the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring;

(3) the scope of the agreement which the INB has been tasked with drafting, as outlined by the Director-General, is so broad that any application of the factors referred to in section 2(11) will weigh strongly in favor of it being considered a treaty; and

(4) given the level of public distrust, any relevant new agreement by the World Health Assembly which cannot garner the two-thirds vote needed for Senate ratification should not be agreed to or implemented by the United States.

SEC. 4. ANY WORLD HEALTH AGENCY CONVENTION OR AGREEMENT OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT RESULTING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING BODY'S FINAL REPORT DEEMED TO BE A TREATY SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly pursuant to the rec-

ommendations, report, or work of the International Negotiating Body established by the second special session of the World Health Assembly is deemed to be a treaty that is subject to the requirements of article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, which requires the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-656. 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 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

Mr. OGLES. 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:

Redesignate section 4 as section 5 and insert after section 3 the following:

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to unequivocally support Taiwan's full participation in the World Health Organization.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, this amendment would make it the policy of our Nation to advocate for Taiwan's full participation in the World Health Organization.

For far too long, we have allowed Communist China to dictate the course of U.S. foreign policy as well as the agenda and membership of every major international organization, including the United Nations. This decades-long policy of global appeasement to the CCP came home to roost 4 years ago.

Decades upon decades of giving in to China has left Taiwan with fewer and fewer allies. In the late 1990s, over 30 countries recognized Taiwan. Now, the number is down to 12. Much of the world has placed Taiwan in the company of pariah states like North Korea and Iran.

Because the world allowed the PRC's pressure campaign against Taiwan to succeed, no one listened when Taiwan tried to warn the World Health Organization of possible human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus on December 31, 2019. No one listened to them when Taiwanese health experts visited Wuhan and found indications of human-to-human transmission in mid-January 2020. In fact, at the same time, the WHO released a statement declar-

ing no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus.

Mr. Chair, we lost weeks. We lost weeks of preparation against the ravaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our Nation all because Communist China told the world that under no circumstance could Taiwan be given a seat at the table at the World Health Organization.

We can only guess how many untold thousands of American lives were lost as a result. We do know, however, that decade after decade of U.S. foreign policymaking has prioritized appeasing the PRC over the security of the American people, and it needs to stop.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment as we need to expand Taiwan's international space and enable its participation in international forums.

Taiwan is a friend, a democracy, and a critical part of the international community. As such, Taiwan should be contributing its expertise and participating as an observer in the World Health Assembly.

This is why last Congress, when I was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I helped get S. 812 signed into law to direct the State Department to support Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly.

As a result, the Biden-Harris administration has consistently pushed for greater participation by Taiwan at the WHO. This amendment sends another signal to the WHO as to where the U.S. Congress stands.

I agree with Mr. OGLES' amendment, but I do think that we should be precise and careful in how we talk about important policy matters.

I want to emphasize that I read this amendment as being consistent with the spirit of current U.S. policy, which supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO's World Health Assembly.

Supporting Taiwan's full membership in the WHO, however, is inconsistent with U.S. policy and would undermine our longstanding One China policy, given Taiwan is not a U.N. member state.

Taiwan should, as I believe this amendment properly states, have full observer status in the WHO, so I urge all of my colleagues to support Mr. OGLES' amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the comments of my colleague because

we should show our support and allegiance to Taiwan, nor should we placate the People's Republic of China regarding Taiwan. We are, in fact, making war more likely, not less, if we allow the Chinese Communist Party to have influence over our policy on such things as Taiwan's participation in the WHO.

We cannot and should not surrender our national sovereignty out of fear. This is the definition of weakness, and weakness invites aggression. If the Communists in Beijing don't think we have established a credible deterrence, they will attack Taiwan. They will consider attacking Taiwan.

I know my colleagues and I agree that Taiwan is an ally to the people and nations of good around the world. They want to work with the United States. They want to help, as they did in April 2020 when Taiwan provided free personal protective equipment to our Nation at a time when it was scarce.

Communist China, on the other hand, would rather cover up a deadly virus, wasting weeks and resulting in the deaths of untold hundreds of thousands if not millions. They are more worried about their reputation. That is an atrocity. It is appalling, and we need to recognize the fact that the existential threat to the United States of America is China. At every turn, they work to undermine us, and I, for one, have had enough.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman McCAUL for his support, and I urge adoption of my amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

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The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 5. NO FORCE OR EFFECT TO TREATY PRIOR TO RATIFICATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response deemed to be a treaty by section 4—

(1) shall have no force or effect under the laws of the United States before the date on which such treaty is ratified with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(2) may not be used, prior to such date, to establish or demonstrate the existence of a

violation of United States law or an offense against the law of nations in United States courts, including—

(A) to establish standing, a cause of action, or damages as a matter of law; or

(B) to demonstrate whether an action by a Federal agency is arbitrary or capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the United States must never relinquish its sovereignty. Without question, we must work to ensure that, in the eloquent words of President Lincoln during the "Gettysburg Address": "This government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

The power bestowed upon our government is derived from the will of the American people, not by foreign governments or organizations that syphon away our money as if we were a cash cow.

Foreign entities, such as the World Health Organization, or WHO, should never be allowed to corrode America's sovereignty and hand down edicts to the American people. We chart our own course, and we will not be deterred from doing so.

We should be even more skeptical of foreign entities, like the WHO, that are bedfellows with Communist China. China and its international cabal of bureaucrats would love nothing more than to have the United States follow their direction and the direction of their puppets like mindless lemmings.

They are hell-bent on controlling our God-given freedoms at the expense of our livelihoods. This cannot and will not be allowed to stand.

My amendment strengthens the underlying bill to ensure that H.R. 1425 will slam the door on any attempt to allow international bureaucrats at the WHO to undermine U.S. sovereignty and the will of the people.

My amendment clarifies that no WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, or response can have any force or effect in U.S. law before or unless the Senate ratifies such a treaty.

This includes the clarification that no WHO agreement may be used to establish standing to sue under U.S. law or to challenge U.S. agency actions. Only if the American people's Representatives have spoken, with two-thirds of the Senate ratifying any WHO agreement, should it be allowed to have any impact on U.S. law.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. The draft pandemic agreement advances global health security without impacting the United States' international sovereignty. The draft agreement explicitly states that it does not give the WHO any power to dictate specific policy to member nations and that member states may implement the policies according to their own sovereign laws.

Many of the issues the United States delegation in Geneva is currently negotiating in the draft pandemic agreement are to ensure a final agreement is in compliance with U.S. laws rather than subverting them.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons and others, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this misleading amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I am, frankly, surprised at my colleague for opposing an amendment that does nothing more than strengthen this piece of legislation. This amendment ensures that we do not violate our national sovereignty. I think it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, it is explicit in the agreement that our sovereignty is not threatened, so this is duplicative, and that is why I oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I reiterate what I said a few minutes ago. I respect my colleague from New York (Mr. MEEKS), but what harm does it do to put belts and suspenders on a bill?

The gentleman says it is not needed. It takes up a few words more. It is not going to have any negative effect on the national debt, but it makes it abundantly clear that no organization, particularly the WHO, can order this country to do anything under any kind of an agreement without a vote of the United States Senate, as we would do with any kind of treaty or other agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, strengthen the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

Mr. MASSIE. 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 6, after line 17, insert the following:

(12) Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution provides that the President “shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur”.

(13) Alexander Hamilton writes in *Federalist Paper #75* regarding the Treaty Making Powers of the Executive that “Its objects are CONTRACTS with foreign nations, which have the force of law, but derive it from the obligations of good faith. They are not rules prescribed by the sovereign to the subject, but agreements between sovereign and sovereign. The power in question seems therefore to form a distinct department, and to belong, properly, neither to the legislative nor to the Executive. The qualities elsewhere detailed as indispensable in the management of foreign negotiations, point out the Executive as the most fit agent in those transactions; while the vast importance of the trust, and the operation of treaties as laws, plead strongly for the participation of the whole or a portion of the legislative body in the office of making them”.

(14) If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens those provisions must pass both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must.

(15) The United States Constitution establishes a clear framework for making treaties by the Executive and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This process is indispensable for the Founders' vision of constitutional government.

(16) The United States House of Representatives does not vote for, ratify, affirm, or consent to treaties.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which simply recognizes that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Our Constitution establishes a very clear framework for making treaties by the executive and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Our Constitution also establishes a clear framework for making laws that affect our domestic affairs. If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens, those provisions must pass both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must.

Treaties don't override our constitutional process for making law. Presidents can't make U.S. law by agreeing to new terms in an international treaty. Every law that American citizens live under must pass the House and the Senate.

My colleagues have eloquently made the point that a President can't enter into a treaty without the advice and consent of the Senate, and, in doing so, they are standing up for the sov-

ereignty of American citizens. They are requiring the Senate to be that portion of the legislative branch that decides what laws will bear on citizens, depending on what the treaty is.

My amendment here is very simple. It says that, if a treaty has a law in it that has a bearing on United States citizens, on our domestic activities, then it has to follow the lawmaking process of the Constitution.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it is within the President's authority to negotiate treaties and agreements without Senate ratification. While inserting findings clarifying the role of Congress and ratifying treaties would be entirely appropriate for a treaty under recognition, the draft pandemic agreement is not a treaty.

As I have previously stated, the United States President has the option of acceding to a treaty or agreement through executive action alone without the advice or consent of the Senate.

Over 90 percent of all U.S. international legal agreements have been approved via executive action rather than normal or formal Senate approval. These findings insinuate that the Biden-Harris administration is attempting to sidestep the Senate in these pandemic agreement negotiations. This is absolutely, 100 percent wrong.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, the bulk of my speech in support of my amendment actually doesn't come from me. It is going to come from Alexander Hamilton, who describes in *Federalist 75* the treaty-making powers of the executive. He states: “Its objects are contracts with foreign nations, which have the force of law, but derive it from the obligations of good faith.”

This is the most important part: “They are not rules prescribed by the sovereign to the subject, but agreements between sovereign and sovereign. The power in question seems therefore to form a distinct department, and to belong, properly, neither to the legislative nor to the executive. The qualities elsewhere detailed as indispensable in the management of foreign negotiations, point out the executive as the most fit agent in those transactions; while the vast importance of the trust, and the operation of treaties as laws, plead strongly for the participation of the whole or a portion of the legislative body in the office of making them.”

What is he saying here? He is saying domestic laws can't be made using a treaty. Treaties can't bind the United

States to declare war. Treaties can't raise taxes. Treaties can't create new laws for us. The United States should not take part in international institutions that erode our sovereignty. Congress should not legitimize blatantly unconstitutional notions that agreements that come out of these institutions supersede the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I will close by saying this: Do we believe that the Senate itself and the President, without consulting the House, could implement a vaccine mandate by merely calling it a treaty and finding another sovereign party to enter into it with? I do not.

Do we believe that they could implement or impose social distancing on U.S. citizens by calling it a treaty and finding another sovereign to enter into an agreement with? I do not. They have to come to the House.

Let's take the example of gun control. By the way, this is not a hypothetical. Do we think they could impose gun control on U.S. citizens in a treaty with the United Nations and some other sovereign countries merely with the advice and consent of the Senate? That would take two-thirds or 67 votes in the Senate, but it could completely leave out the House of Representatives. No, they cannot do that. That is outside of our Constitution. We are guaranteed a Republican form of government with a legislature that makes the laws that bear on citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I will close with this most important part of my amendment, which says: “If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens those provisions must pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must.”

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1430

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) having assumed the chair, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, 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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, 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 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1420

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430 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. 1425.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) kindly take the chair.

□ 1421

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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, with Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendment No. 3, printed in part B of House Report 118-656, offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in part B of House Report 118-656, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes 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 vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 403, noes 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 409]

AYES—403

Adams	Armstrong	Banks
Aderholt	Arrington	Barr
Aguilar	Auchincloss	Barragán
Alford	Babin	Bean (FL)
Allen	Bacon	Beatty
Allred	Baird	Bentz
Amo	Balderson	Bera
Amodei	Balint	Bergman

Beyer	Fleischmann	Lesko
Bice	Fletcher	Letlow
Biggs	Flood	Levin
Bilirakis	Fong	Lieu
Bishop (GA)	Poster	Lofgren
Bishop (NC)	Foushee	Lopez
Blumenauer	Fox	Loudermilk
Blunt Rochester	Frankel, Lois	Lucas
Boebert	Franklin, Scott	Luetkemeyer
Bonamici	Frost	Luna
Bost	Fry	Luttrell
Bowman	Fulcher	Lynch
Boyle (PA)	Gaetz	Mace
Brecheen	Gallego	Magaziner
Brown	Garbarino	Malliotakis
Buchanan	Garcia (IL)	Maloy
Bucshon	Garcia (TX)	Mann
Budzinski	Garcia, Mike	Manning
Burchett	Garcia, Robert	Massie
Burgess	Jimenez	Mast
Burlison	Golden (ME)	Matsui
Bush	Goldman (NY)	McBath
Calvert	Gomez	McCaul
Cammack	Gonzales, Tony	McClain
Caraveo	Gonzalez, V.	McClellan
Carbajal	González-Colón	McClintock
Cárdenas	Good (VA)	McCollum
Carey	Gooden (TX)	McCormick
Carl	Gottheimer	McGarvey
Carson	Graves (LA)	McGovern
Carter (GA)	Graves (MO)	Meeks
Carter (TX)	Green (TN)	Menendez
Cartwright	Green, Al (TX)	Meng
Casar	Greene (GA)	Meuser
Case	Griffith	Mfume
Casten	Grothman	Miller (IL)
Castor (FL)	Guest	Miller (OH)
Castro (TX)	Guthrie	Miller (WV)
Chavez-DeRemer	Hageman	Miller-Meeks
Cherfilus-	Harder (CA)	Mills
McCormick	Harris	Molinaro
Chu	Harshbarger	Moolenaar
Ciscomani	Hayes	Mooney
Clark (MA)	Hern	Moore (AL)
Clarke (NY)	Higgins (LA)	Moore (UT)
Cleaver	Hill	Moran
Cline	Himes	Morelle
Cloud	Hinson	Moskowitz
Clyburn	Horsford	Moulton
Clyde	Houchin	Mrvan
Cohen	Hoyle (OR)	Mullin
Cole	Hudson	Murphy
Collins	Huffman	Nadler
Comer	Huizenga	Napolitano
Connolly	Issa	Neal
Correa	Ivey	Neguse
Costa	Jackson (IL)	Nehls
Courtney	Jackson (NC)	Newhouse
Craig	Jackson (TX)	Nickel
Crane	Jacobs	Norcross
Crawford	James	Norman
Crenshaw	Jeffries	Norton
Crow	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Cuellar	Johnson (SD)	Obenoltz
Curtis	Jordan	Ocasio-Cortez
D'Esposito	Joyce (OH)	Ogles
Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Omar
Davidson	Kamlager-Dove	Owens
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Pallone
Davis (NC)	Kean (NJ)	Palmer
De La Cruz	Keating	Panetta
Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Pappas
DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Pence
DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Perez
DelBene	Kennedy	Perry
Deluzio	Khanna	Pettersen
DeSaulnier	Kiggans (VA)	Pfluger
Diaz-Balart	Kildee	Phillips
Dingell	Kiley	Pingree
Doggett	Kilmer	Plaskett
Donalds	Kim (CA)	Pocan
Duarte	Kim (NJ)	Porter
Duncan	Krishnamoorthi	Pressley
Dunn (FL)	Kuster	Ramirez
Edwards	Kustoff	Raskin
Ellzey	LaHood	Reschenthaler
Emmer	LaLota	Rodgers (WA)
Escobar	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
Eshoo	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Españat	Landsman	Rose
Estes	Langworthy	Rosendale
Ezell	Larsen (WA)	Ross
Fallon	Larson (CT)	Rouzer
Feenstra	Latta	Roy
Ferguson	LaTurner	Ruiz
Finstad	Lee (CA)	Rulli
Fischbach	Lee (FL)	Ruppersberger
Fitzgerald	Lee (NV)	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	Lee (PA)	Ryan

Salazar	Spartz	Trone
Salinas	Stansbury	Turner
Sánchez	Stanton	Underwood
Sarbanes	Stauber	Valadao
Scanlon	Steel	Van Drew
Schakowsky	Stefanik	Van Dyne
Schiff	Steil	Van Orden
Schneider	Steube	Vargas
Scholten	Stevens	Veasey
Schrier	Strickland	Velázquez
Schweikert	Strong	Walberg
Scott (VA)	Suozzi	Waltz
Scott, Austin	Swalwell	Wasserman
Scott, David	Sykes	Schultz
Self	Takano	Waters
Sessions	Tenney	Watson Coleman
Sherman	Thanedar	Weber (TX)
Sherrill	Thompson (CA)	Webster (FL)
Simpson	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Slotkin	Tiffany	Westerman
Smith (MO)	Timmons	Wild
Smith (NE)	Titus	Williams (GA)
Smith (NJ)	Tlaib	Williams (NY)
Smith (WA)	Tokuda	Williams (TX)
Smucker	Tonko	Wittman
Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Womack
Soto	Torres (NY)	Yakym
Spanberger	Trahan	Zinke

NOT VOTING—34

Brownley	Jayapal	Radewagen
Carter (LA)	Johnson (GA)	Sablan
Crockett	Lawler	Scalise
DesJarlais	Leger Fernandez	Sewell
Evans	McHenry	Thompson (MS)
Garamendi	Moore (WI)	Vasquez
Gosar	Moylan	Wagner
Granger	Pelosi	Wexton
Grijalva	Peltola	Wilson (FL)
Houlahan	Peters	Wilson (SC)
Hoyer	Posey	
Hunt	Quigley	

□ 1647

Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 409.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 409.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CRAWFORD). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. CRAWFORD, 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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1430, 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 question is on the amendments.

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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. LEE of California. 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:

Ms. Lee of California moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 1425, 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 noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 1425, if ordered; the motion to recommit H.R. 1398, if ordered; passage of H.R. 1398, if ordered; the motion to recommit H.R. 9456; and passage of H.R. 9456, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 215, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 410]

YEAS—202

Adams	Craig	Jackson (IL)
Aguilar	Crockett	Jackson (NC)
Allred	Crow	Jacobs
Amo	Cuellar	Jeffries
Auchincloss	Dauids (KS)	Johnson (GA)
Balint	Davis (IL)	Kamlager-Dove
Barragán	Davis (NC)	Kaptur
Beatty	Dean (PA)	Keating
Bera	DeGette	Kelly (IL)
Beyer	DeLauro	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	DelBene	Khanna
Blumenauer	Deluzio	Kildee
Blunt Rochester	DeSaulnier	Kilmer
Bonamici	Dingell	Kim (NJ)
Bowman	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi
Boyle (PA)	Escobar	Kuster
Brown	Eshoo	Landsman
Budzinski	Espallat	Larsen (WA)
Bush	Fletcher	Larson (CT)
Caraveo	Foster	Lee (CA)
Carbajal	Foushee	Lee (NV)
Cárdenas	Frankel, Lois	Lee (PA)
Carson	Frost	Leger Fernandez
Carter (LA)	Gallego	Levin
Cartwright	Garcia (IL)	Lieu
Casar	Garcia (TX)	Lofgren
Case	Garcia, Robert	Lynch
Casten	Golden (ME)	Magaziner
Castor (FL)	Goldman (NY)	Manning
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Matsui
Cherfilus-	Gonzalez, V.	McBath
McCormick	Gottheimer	McClellan
Chu	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	McGarvey
Clarke (NY)	Hayes	McGovern
Cleaver	Himes	Meeks
Clyburn	Horsford	Menendez
Cohen	Houlihan	Meng
Connolly	Hoyer	Mfume
Correa	Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WI)
Costa	Huffman	Morelle
Courtney	Ivey	Moskowitz

Moulton	Ruiz	Swalwell	Williams (NY)	Wittman	Yakym
Mrvan	Ruppersberger	Sykes	Williams (TX)	Womack	Zinke
Mullin	Ryan	Takano			
Nadler	Salinas	Thanedar			
Napolitano	Sánchez	Thompson (CA)	Brownley	Grijalva	Quigley
Neal	Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)	DesJarlais	Higgins (LA)	Sewell
Neguse	Scanlon	Titus	Evans	Jayapal	Wexton
Nickel	Schakowsky	Tlaib	Garamendi	Lawler	Wilson (SC)
Norcross	Schiff	Tokuda	Granger	Peltola	
Ocasio-Cortez	Schneider	Tonko			
Omar	Scholten	Torres (CA)			
Pallone	Schrier	Torres (NY)			
Panetta	Scott (VA)	Trahan			
Pappas	Scott, David	Trone			
Pelosi	Sherman	Underwood			
Perez	Sherrill	Vargas			
Peters	Slotkin	Vasquez			
Pettersen	Smith (WA)	Veasey			
Phillips	Sorensen	Velázquez			
Pingree	Soto	Wasserman			
Pocan	Spanberger	Schultz			
Porter	Stansbury	Waters			
Pressley	Stanton	Watson Coleman			
Ramirez	Stevens	Wild			
Raskin	Strickland	Williams (GA)			
Ross	Suozi	Wilson (FL)			

NAYS—215

Aderholt	Fry	Meuser
Alford	Fulcher	Miller (IL)
Allen	Gaetz	Miller (OH)
Amodei	Garbarino	Miller (WV)
Armstrong	Garcia, Mike	Miller-Meeks
Arrington	Gimenez	Mills
Babin	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Bacon	Good (VA)	Moolenaar
Baird	Gooden (TX)	Mooney
Balderson	Gosar	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	Oberholte
Bishop (NC)	Hageman	Ogles
Boebert	Harris	Owens
Bost	Harshbarger	Palmer
Brecheen	Hern	Pence
Buchanan	Hill	Perry
Bucshon	Hinson	Pfleger
Burchett	Houchin	Posey
Burgess	Hudson	Reschenthaler
Burlison	Huizenga	Rodgers (WA)
Calvert	Hunt	Rodgers (AL)
Cammack	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rose
Carl	James	Rosendale
Carter (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Roy
Chavez-DeRemer	Jordan	Rulli
Ciscomani	Joyce (OH)	Rutherford
Cline	Joyce (PA)	Salazar
Cloud	Kean (NJ)	Scalise
Clyde	Kelly (MS)	Schweikert
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Scott, Austin
Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Self
Comer	Kiley	Sessions
Crane	Kim (CA)	Simpson
Crawford	Kustoff	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	LaHood	Smith (NE)
Curtis	LaLota	Smith (NJ)
D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Smucker
Davidson	Lamborn	Spartz
De La Cruz	Langworthy	Staubert
Diaz-Balart	Latta	Steel
Donalds	LaTurner	Stefanik
Duarte	Lee (FL)	Steil
Duncan	Lesko	Steube
Dunn (FL)	Letlow	Strong
Edwards	Lopez	Tenney
Elizze	Loudermilk	Thompson (PA)
Emmer	Lucas	Tiffany
Estes	Luetkemeyer	Timmons
Ezell	Luna	Turner
Fallon	Luttrell	Valadao
Feenstra	Mace	Van Drew
Ferguson	Malliotakis	Van Dwyne
Finstad	Maloy	Van Orden
Fischbach	Mann	Wagner
Fitzgerald	Massie	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	Mast	Waltz
Fleischmann	McCauley	Weber (TX)
Flood	McClain	Webster (FL)
Fong	McClintock	Wenstrup
Fox	McCormick	Westerman
Fox	McHenry	

NOT VOTING—14

Brownley	Grijalva	Quigley
DesJarlais	Higgins (LA)	Sewell
Evans	Jayapal	Wexton
Garamendi	Lawler	Wilson (SC)
Granger	Peltola	

□ 1658

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD). 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. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 199, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 411]

YEAS—219

Aderholt	Feenstra	Lamborn
Alford	Ferguson	Langworthy
Allen	Finstad	Latta
Amodei	Fischbach	LaTurner
Armstrong	Fitzgerald	Lee (FL)
Arrington	Fitzpatrick	Lesko
Babin	Fleischmann	Letlow
Bacon	Flood	Lopez
Baird	Fong	Loudermilk
Balderson	Fox	Lucas
Banks	Franklin, Scott	Luetkemeyer
Barr	Fry	Luna
Bean (FL)	Fulcher	Luttrell
Bentz	Gaetz	Mace
Bergman	Garbarino	Malliotakis
Bice	Garcia, Mike	Maloy
Biggs	Gimenez	Mann
Bilirakis	Golden (ME)	Massie
Bishop (NC)	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Boebert	Good (VA)	McCaul
Bost	Gooden (TX)	McClain
Brecheen	Gosar	McClintock
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	McCormick
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Burchett	Green (TN)	Meuser
Burgess	Greene (GA)	Miller (IL)
Burlison	Griffith	Miller (OH)
Calvert	Grothman	Miller (WV)
Cammack	Guest	Miller-Meeks
Carey	Guthrie	Mills
Carl	Hageman	Molinaro
Carter (GA)	Harris	Moolenaar
Carter (TX)	Harshbarger	Mooney
Chavez-DeRemer	Hern	Moore (AL)
Ciscomani	Higgins (LA)	Moore (UT)
Cline	Hill	Moran
Cloud	Hinson	Murphy
Clyde	Houchin	Nehls
Cole	Hudson	Newhouse
Collins	Huizenga	Norman
Comer	Hunt	Nunn (IA)
Crane	Issa	Oberholte
Crawford	Jackson (TX)	Ogles
Crenshaw	James	Owens
Curtis	Johnson (LA)	Palmer
D'Esposito	Johnson (SD)	Pence
Davidson	Jordan	Perez
Davis (NC)	Joyce (OH)	Perry
De La Cruz	Joyce (PA)	Pfleger
Diaz-Balart	Kean (NJ)	Posey
Donalds	Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler
Duarte	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Duncan	Kiggans (VA)	Rogers (AL)
Dunn (FL)	Kiley	Rogers (KY)
Ellzey	Kim (CA)	Rose
Emmer	Kustoff	Rosendale
Estes	LaHood	Rouzer
Ezell	LaLota	Roy
Fallon	LaMalfa	Rulli

Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz

Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne

Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—199

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

Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez

Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Brownley
DesJarlais
Edwards
Evans
Garamendi

Granger
Grijalva
Jayapal
Lawler
Peltola

Quigley
Wexton
Wilson (SC)

□ 1706

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed her vote from “present” 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.

PROTECT AMERICA'S INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC SECURITY FROM CCP ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1398) to establish the CCP Initiative program, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. VEASEY. 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. Veasey of Texas moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1398 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 noes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 214, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 412]

YEAS—203

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig

Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)

Jacobs
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan

Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes

NAYS—214

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecht
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott

Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry

Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rodgers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Loudermilk
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman

Williams (NY) Wittman Yakym
Williams (TX) Womack Zinke

NOT VOTING—14

Brownley Granger Peltola
DesJarlais Grijalva Quigley
Evans Jayapal Wexton
Garamendi Lawler Wilson (SC)
Good (VA) Murphy

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1713

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 412.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 180, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 413]

YEAS—237

Aderholt Davidson Hinson
Alford Davis (NC) Houchin
Allen De La Cruz Hudson
Amodei Diaz-Balart Huizenga
Armstrong Donalds Hunt
Arrington Duarte Issa
Babin Duncan Jackson (TX)
Bacon Dunn (FL) James
Baird Edwards Johnson (LA)
Balderson Ellzey Johnson (SD)
Banks Emmer Joyce (OH)
Barr Estes Joyce (PA)
Bean (FL) Ezell Kaptur
Bentz Fallon Kean (NJ)
Bergman Feenstra Kelly (MS)
Bice Ferguson Kelly (PA)
Biggs Finstad Kiggans (VA)
Bilirakis Fischbach Kiley
Bishop (NC) Fitzgerald Kim (CA)
Boebert Fitzpatrick Kustoff
Bost Fleischmann LaHood
Brecheen Flood LaLota
Buchanan Fong LaMalfa
Bucshorn Foxx Lamborn
Budzinski Fry Langworthy
Burchett Fulcher Latta
Burgess Gaetz LaTurner
Burlison Gallego Lee (FL)
Calvert Garbarino Lesko
Cammack Garcia, Mike
Caraveo Gimenez Lopez
Carey Golden (ME) Loudermilk
Carl Gonzales, Tony Lucas
Carter (GA) Gonzalez, V. Luetkemeyer
Carter (TX) Good (VA) Luna
Cartwright Gooden (TX) Luttrell
Case Gosar Mace
Chavez-DeRemer Graves (LA) Malliotakis
Ciscomani Graves (MO) Maloy
Cline Green (TN) Mann
Cloud Greene (GA) Massie
Clyde Griffith Mast
Cole Grothman McCaul
Collins Guest McClain
Comer Guthrie McClintock
Craig Hageman McCormick
Crane Harder (CA) McHenry
Crawford Harris Meuser
Crenshaw Harshbarger Miller (IL)
Cuellar Hern Miller (OH)
Curtis Higgins (LA) Miller (WV)
D'Esposito Hill Miller-Meeks

Mills Rose
Molinaro Rosendale
Moolenaar Rouzer
Mooney Roy
Moore (AL) Rulli
Moore (UT) Rutherford
Moran Ryan
Mrvan Salazar
Murphy Scalise
Nehls Schweikert
Newhouse Scott, Austin
Norman Scott, David
Nunn (IA) Self
Oberholte Sessions
Ogles Simpson
Owens Slotkin
Palmer Smith (MO)
Pappas Smith (NE)
Pence Smith (NJ)
Perez Smucker
Perry Sorensen
Pfluger Soto
Posey Spartz
Reschenthaler Stauber
Rodgers (WA) Steel
Rogers (AL) Stefanik
Rogers (KY) Steil

NAYS—180

Adams Goldman (NY)
Aguilar Gomez
Allred Gottheimer
Amo Green, Al (TX)
Auchincloss Hayes
Balint Himes
Barragan Horsford
Beatty Houlahan
Bera Hoyer
Beyer Hoyle (OR)
Bishop (GA) Huffman
Blumenauer Ivey
Blunt Rochester Jackson (IL)
Bonamici Jackson (NC)
Bowman Jacobs
Boyle (PA) Jeffries
Brown Johnson (GA)
Bush Kamlager-Dove
Carbajal Keating
Cardenas Kelly (IL)
Carson Kennedy
Carter (LA) Khanna
Casar Kildee
Casten Kilmer
Castor (FL) Kim (NJ)
Castro (TX) Krishnamoorthi
Cherfilus-Kuster
McCormick Landsman
Chu Larsen (WA)
Clark (MA) Larson (CT)
Clarke (NY) Lee (CA)
Cleaver Lee (NV)
Clyburn Lee (PA)
Cohen Leger Fernandez
Connolly Levin
Correa Lieu
Costa Lofgren
Courtney Lynch
Crockett Magaziner
Crow Manning
Davids (KS) Matsui
Davis (IL) McBath
Dean (PA) McClellan
DeGette McCollum
DeLauro McGarvey
DelBene McGovern
Deluzio Meeks
DeSaulnier Menendez
Dingell Meng
Doggett Mfume
Escobar Moore (WI)
Eshoo Morelle
Espaillat Moskowitz
Fletcher Moulton
Foster Mullin
Foushee Nadler
Frankel, Lois Napolitano
Gale McCormick Neal
Garcia, Robert Hoyle (OR)
Garcia, Robert Hoffman
Golden (ME) Ivey
Gonzalez, V. Jackson (IL)
Good (VA) Jackson (NC)
Gooden (TX) Jacobs
Gosar Jeffries
Graves (LA) Johnson (GA)
Graves (MO) Kamlager-Dove
Green (TN) Kaptur
Greene (GA) Keating
Griffith Kelly (IL)
Grothman Kennedy
Guest Khanna
Guthrie Kilmer
Hageman Kim (NJ)
Harder (CA) Krishnamoorthi
Harris Kuster
Harshbarger Peltola
Hern Quigley
Higgins (LA) Wexton
Hill Miller-Meeks Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—14

Brownley Granger
DesJarlais Grijalva
Evans Jayapal
Franklin, Scott Jordan
Garamendi Lawler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1719

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024

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. 9456) to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), 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 203, nays 213, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 414]

YEAS—203

Adams DeGette Landsman
Aguilar DeLauro Larsen (WA)
Allred DelBene Larson (CT)
Amo Deluzio Lee (CA)
Auchincloss DeSaulnier Lee (NV)
Balint Dingell Lee (PA)
Barragan Doggett Leger Fernandez
Beatty Escobar Levin
Bera Eshoo Lieu
Beyer Espaillat Lofgren
Bishop (GA) Fletcher Lynch
Blumenauer Foster Magaziner
Blunt Rochester Foushee Manning
Bonamici Frankel, Lois Matsui
Bowman Frost McBath
Boyle (PA) Gallego McClellan
Brown Garcia (IL) McCollum
Budzinski Garcia (TX) McGarvey
Bush Garcia, Robert McGovern
Caraveo Golden (ME) Meeks
Carbajal Goldman (NY) Menendez
Cardenas Gomez
Carson Gonzalez, V. Mfume
Carter (LA) Gottheimer Moore (WI)
Cartwright Green, Al (TX) Morelle
Casar Harder (CA) Moskowitz
Case Hayes Moulton
Casten Himes Mrvan
Castor (FL) Horsford Mullin
Castro (TX) Houlahan Nadler
Cherfilus-Hoyer Napolitano
McCormick Hoyle (OR) Neal
Chu Hoffman Neguse
Clark (MA) Ivey Nickel
Clarke (NY) Jackson (IL) Norcross
Cleaver Jackson (NC) Ocasio-Cortez
Clyburn Jacobs Omar
Cohen Jeffries Pallone
Connolly Johnson (GA) Panetta
Correa Kamlager-Dove Pappas
Costa Kaptur Perez
Courtney Keating Peters
Craig Kelly (IL) Pettersen
Crockett Kennedy Phillips
Crow Khanna Phillips
Cuellar Kildee Pingree
Davids (KS) Kilmer Pocan
Davis (IL) Kim (NJ) Porter
Davis (NC) Krishnamoorthi Pressley
Dean (PA) Kuster Ramirez

Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill

Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda

Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher

Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Lettow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—15

Arrington
Brownley
DesJarlais
Evans
Garamendi

Granger
Grijalva
Jayapal
Lawler
Peltola

Quigley
Turner
Waltz
Wexton
Wilson (SC)

□ 1725

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 269, nays 149, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 415]

YEAS—269

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Deluzio
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher

Feenstra
Ferguson
Lee (FL)
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy

Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pence
Perez
Perry
Petterson
Pfluger
Phillips
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas

Scalise
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger

Spartz
Stanton
Staubert
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne

NAYS—149

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Bush
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee

Frankel, Lois
Nickel
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal

NOT VOTING—12

Brownley
DesJarlais
Evans
Garamendi

Granger
Grijalva
Jayapal
Lawler

Peltola
Quigley
Wexton
Wilson (SC)

□ 1732

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

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

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE APALACHEE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a rough year in the 10th District of Georgia. We started out the year with the brutal and heinous murder of Laken Riley over at the University of Georgia, and then last Wednesday, at the Apalachee High School in Barrow County, we had an active shooter enter the school.

Christian Angulo, a 14-year-old student; Mason Schermerhorn, another 14-year-old student; Richard Aspinwall, a teacher and coach; and Christina Irimie, a teacher, lost their lives. Nine other people went to the hospital, and numerous people were hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join us for a moment of silence to reflect and remember those people who lost their lives and their families and those people who are still healing from this incident.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF OFFICER DARRON BURKS

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, this past week, north Texas laid to rest a sworn officer and beloved public servant, Officer Darron Burks, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty.

Long before anyone called me a Congresswoman, I was blessed to call Officer Burks a friend. I knew him before his time in law enforcement, when he proudly served his community as a public schoolteacher at Dallas Can Academy.

As a teacher, Darron inspired a generation of Dallas students to seek better for themselves, attain their degrees, and follow his example. He believed in practicing what he preached, and it was this dedication to his community that inspired him to complete police training.

Whether he was in front of a classroom or wearing a badge, Officer Burks was a shining example of servant leadership. He put his family, friends, and community before himself. His painful loss touches each and every one of us as we mourn his passing and celebrate his legacy.

On behalf of the people of north Texas who he loved and cherished, I wish to thank him one more time for his service and vow to honor his legacy of selfless servant leadership.

RECOGNIZING JONI CARRICO AS 2024 ANGEL IN ADOPTION

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Joni Carrico of Graves County, Kentucky, on being chosen as the 2024 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Ms. Carrico has worked tirelessly with the Hope That Binds, a nonprofit organization based out of western Kentucky that aims to provide financial assistance for foster and adopted families.

Through Hope That Binds, a network of loving families is growing and expanding. To date, over 100 families have been assisted through the organization's fundraisers and grant program.

Throughout her time at Hope That Binds, Ms. Carrico has been a voice of advocacy in her church and community. Her service has provided much encouragement to the First Congressional District of Kentucky and our constituents. She remains an important voice for hopeful parents seeking to grow their families.

Ms. Carrico is an outstanding leader in west Kentucky, and her work impacts our community daily. I thank Ms. Carrico for supporting, connecting, and advocating for Kentucky families.

DREADED SCOURGE OF PORCH PIRATES

(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, ahoy gentlefolk of the high seas of legislation. We gather 'round to speak of a matter that plagues our shores and threatens our treasures: the dreaded scourge of porch pirates.

Aye, these scallywags who plunder packages from doorsteps are a blight upon our communities, a menace to honest folks awaiting their rightful booty.

But fear not, for Congress spots justice on the horizon: the Porch Pirates Act. This mighty bill preserves our treasure and brings justice to those who dare to steal what is not rightfully theirs.

No longer shall we be at the mercy of porch pirates. Under this noble act, thieves will face fines or even a stretch in the brig.

Muster up, fellow congressional sailors. Let's pass the Porch Pirates Act so honest folk can rest assured that their treasures are safe from those who would plunder 'em.

□ 1745

IN MEMORY OF LOIS RUTH CASON WOOTEN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of

Lois Ruth Cason Wooten, who sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Lois studied English and library sciences at the University of Georgia. She took her passion and expertise to work as the head librarian at Northside High School in Atlanta, Georgia.

After her time in Atlanta, Lois and her husband, Frank, moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they selflessly served the city in a myriad of ways.

Lois was greatly involved in the Savannah Symphony. She was greatly involved in the Savannah College of Art and Design and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten are survived by their beloved daughter, Ann, and their wonderful grandchildren.

Lois will always be remembered for her service in the Atlanta and the Savannah communities and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere condolences to the entire Wooten family. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and Lois' friends today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, this morning at Ground Zero, we observed the 23rd anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

I was living in Lower Manhattan that day, and I will never forget watching the second plane hit the South Tower and then seeing the soot-covered people walking up Hudson Street. I will never forget the overwhelming patriotism that New Yorkers and Americans around the country displayed in the face of that evil.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the first responders who returned day after day to Ground Zero, looking for signs of life and clearing the rubble, and to the survivors who helped rebuild and transform the city in Lower Manhattan.

Now it is our turn to take care of them. That is why Congress must pass the bipartisan 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act to permanently address the funding shortfalls in the World Trade Center Health Program.

Just like our military veterans, we owe it to the 9/11 survivors and first responders, who are true American patriots, to get this bill across the finish line.

WATER FOR CROPS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we recently had a field hearing in central

California facilitated by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ), chairman of the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, and hosted by the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

We were talking about the water supply issue for the State of California. Why do my colleagues have to hear about water in California? These are the crops that California grows right here on this poster. Somewhere between 90 and 99 percent of them are grown in my home State.

If they aren't grown there, then U.S. consumers will not receive them. They would have to get them from somewhere else, some other country, with whatever quality and supply steadiness issues they might have there. It is important that the water supply in California continue to be directed to agriculture instead of directed to the Pacific Ocean.

We are losing tens of millions of acre-feet because we can't seem to harness the water with the existing dams we have because they let it all out due to dubious supposed environmental needs, whether it is fish, whether it is the smelt, which no longer really exists in the delta, so they find another smelt to call endangered and take more water away.

We need water for agriculture to feed this country.

FULLY FUND THE IDEA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or what we call IDEA, is a landmark civil rights law in our country, offering a promise of equal education for all of our students living with disabilities.

We continue as a country to fall short on this promise, a 50-year-old law that is now chronically underfunded. Teachers and parents in my district repeatedly tell me how we are not doing enough to meet the demands and requirements for IDEA.

The Federal Government promised to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education with the passage of IDEA in 1975. That pledge has never been met. Federal funding covers just under 15 percent, creating a shortfall of billions for many of our districts across the country.

My colleagues have been introducing a bill over and over again for almost 25 years to get it fully funded, and we haven't seen it yet.

We must follow on the promise of IDEA. That is why I cosponsored the IDEA Full Funding Act.

The problems today are real for our children. When we fail to fully fund these services, school districts are stuck and end up providing less than the law requires, cuts are made, and children are turned away.

Mr. Speaker, let's fund the IDEA.

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF PATRICK FINUCANE

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the decision today by the British Government to reopen the inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane, who was brutally murdered in his home in front of his family in February of 1989.

This high-profile murder of a human rights solicitor by loyalist gunmen connected to the British security forces was one of the most controversial and shocking events of the Troubles in the north of Ireland.

Throughout my 35 years in Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of the Finucane family and their tireless effort to get truth and justice. After years of public apologies, we are acknowledging today a state of collusion and numerous roadblocks that were set up.

I welcome the British Secretary of State Hilary Benn's comments and his intention to proceed with reopening this case. Pat's wife, Geraldine, and their family are entitled to the truth in hopes that this decades-long ordeal can finally be put to rest.

As co-chairman of the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus, I will continue to advocate for the Finucane family as this process moves forward in our hopes that it is one more step toward peace, justice, and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INDUCTION OF JIM LEYLAND TO THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

(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 today to honor a man whose legacy now stretches from the ballfields of Perrysburg, Ohio, to the hallowed halls of Cooperstown, New York.

Jim Leyland, a son of northwest Ohio, recently became only the second native of northwest Ohio to be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, following Toledo's own Roger Bresnahan, who was inducted almost 80 years ago in 1945.

What a momentous achievement that reflects not just on Jim's hard-won success as one of the greatest managers in baseball history, but also honors his hard work, humility, and dedication, qualities that define our region.

From his modest beginnings in Perrysburg, he rose through the ranks with perseverance and grit, leading teams to greatness and even winning a World Series. Through all of his accomplishments, Jim remained loyal to his roots, giving back to his community in countless ways and serving as a role model for generations of young athletes.

As he takes his rightful place in baseball's hallowed halls in Cooperstown, Perrysburg and all of northwest Ohio could not be more proud.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jim on this historic, well-deserved honor.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY: THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today is 9/11, and I start our Special Order hour by paying tribute to the 2,977 people who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the thousands of people who were injured that day.

I ask that we observe a minute of silence as we remember the families torn apart, futures stolen and irrevocably changed, and the lives that we lost that day.

As Progressives, we are committed to making our democracy work, repairing the places it is fractured, strengthening the places it is vulnerable, and defending the places it is effective.

In April, the Congressional Progressive Caucus released our platform for 2025. In it, we outlined the work we are committed to, ensuring our democracy is strong.

Today, I have the honor to stand with a number of my colleagues who have been the movers and shakers in protecting our democracy and working toward strengthening our democracy and helping expand our democracy. I am pleased, as we get started with our Special Order hour, to yield to my colleagues who will share the progress that they have made and what Congress must still accomplish to further deliver on the work their communities sent them here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I will start by yielding to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order hour on the most important problem of our time, which is democracy.

Will we have democracy, or will we lapse into some other form of government, like autocracy or theocracy or plutocracy?

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for leading us in that

beautiful and moving moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attack on our country on 9/11.

A true Republican President, the founder of the Republican Party, spoke of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That has been the beautiful, tantalizing vision of America, but we can't say that is how America began. We began as a slave republic of White, male property owners over the age of 21 years old.

It has been through successive waves of popular, political, social struggle and constitutional amendment that we have opened America up and come much closer to forming a more perfect union and reaching the ideal that President Lincoln proclaimed from the battlefield of Gettysburg in 1863.

Still today, Members will come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, and say: We are not a democracy. We are a republic. My colleagues think that they have struck some kind of knockout blow against the overwhelming sentiment of the American people, including President Reagan, who gave a great speech in Europe about American democracy and never once used the word "republic," but constantly invoked democracy.

Yet, there are Members who say: We are not a democracy. We are a republic.

Well, what is a republic? A republic is just a representative democracy because 300 million people can't fit in the U.S. House of Representatives or in a school board meeting. We use republican institutions in order to have the democratic will expressed.

If the Constitution is read the way I read the Constitution, the whole trajectory of American historical and constitutional development has been toward greater democracy.

Look at the amendments we have had since the original Bill of Rights.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery.

The 14th Amendment gave us equal protection and due process.

The 15th Amendment said no race discrimination in voting.

The 17th Amendment shifted the mode of election of U.S. Senators from the legislatures to the people.

The 19th Amendment doubled the franchise in America by giving women the right to vote and establishing their political equality in the country.

The 23rd Amendment gave people in Washington, D.C., at least the right to vote for President of the United States, although not voting representation.

□ 1800

The 24th Amendment abolished poll taxes and the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. The whole movement of our history has been toward incorporating, encompassing, and including people who had been formerly disenfranchised, marginalized, and excluded from equal political participation.

It has been a seesaw struggle throughout our history. There have always been people who have wanted to

revoke other people's voting rights, undermine other people's voting rights, disenfranchise them, strip away their ability to register to vote.

Tocqueville said in "Democracy in America" that he observed that democracy and voting rights in our country are either shrinking and shriveling away or they're growing and expanding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Progressive Caucus for this session because we have got to get democracy back on the growth track in America. We have got to get away from all of the voter suppression and interference tactics that we have seen grow up, at least since 2013 when the Supreme Court rendered its dreadful decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, essentially decapitating the Voting Rights Act, knocking out the preclearance requirement for covered jurisdictions, saying that no longer did they have to submit voting changes to the Department of Justice or to our Federal district court before they could implement those voting changes.

We have since seen more than 100 voter laws passed all over the country, around half of them in the original covered jurisdictions under the Voting Rights Act. We have seen new obstacles to voter registration. We have seen massive closure of precinct voting places, mergers of different precinct voting places.

I just got back from Texas where a group of students came to see me from the University of Texas to say this is going on there right now where the Governor has closed down a polling place and then relocated one in Austin on the campus of the University of Texas away from a well-traveled thoroughfare, a big, bright building to putting it in the basement somewhere else on campus. These kinds of tactics are used all over the country in order to suppress the vote.

We need to be moving forward in terms of voting rights, and I am very eager to hear what my colleagues have to say about that.

Mr. Speaker, I will point just a couple of things out.

We are in 2024. This is the 21st century. It is time for us to be electing the President of the United States the way we elect Governors, Representatives, Senators, mayors, and everybody else. Whoever gets the most votes win. We have had five popular vote losers become President, twice in this century in 2000 and 2016, under the creaky, antiquated, and obsolete mechanisms of the electoral college, which is subject to fraud and manipulation.

As we saw in this very Chamber, the electoral college can get you killed in the 21st century because it offers more opportunities for strategic bad faith actors like former President Donald Trump to try to revisit a result and reopen results in an election.

We need to be moving forward to a national popular vote for election. We spend tens of millions of dollars a year all over the world teaching people

about democracy and the one thing they never come back to us with when they are writing a new Constitution is the idea that, oh, you know that electoral college thing you have? We think we will import that to our country. We never hear that, right? We should be able to learn from our own experience and from the experience of democracies around the world.

Another important ingredient to democracy is statehood. That is how communities that have been formerly disenfranchised and subordinated have been able to lift themselves up. We are in the Nation's Capital, which is the only Nation's Capital on planet Earth which is not represented in their own national legislature. Mr. Speaker, 713,000 taxpaying, draftable U.S. citizens are completely disenfranchised in the House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate. They don't have representation.

If you told the people of Paris they could not be represented in *L'Assemblée nationale* because they breathed the same air that other people's representatives breathed, you would have another French Revolution on your hands.

When we passed it in the 117th Congress, the D.C. statehood legislation, and I was one of the floor leaders for that, I had the honor of telling the people of Washington, D.C., this: Thank you for having a bona fide real political grievance and not coming down here and beating the daylight out of our police officers the way that the MAGA mob did when Donald Trump falsely convinced them that they had won the Presidential election, which Trump had lost by more than 7 million votes, 306-232 in the electoral college.

They didn't come down and storm the Chamber and try to overthrow the Constitution. They did it the right way. They had a Statehood Constitutional Convention. They are asking for admission. We should admit the people of Washington, D.C., as an equal State into the Union using our powers under Article IV of the Constitution.

It is the same thing with 3.5 million American citizens in Puerto Rico. They should be given the opportunity to become a State, as well.

We have got to keep the trajectory of democracy moving forward so we don't lapse into some other form of government. This has been a tough time with challenges to the basic constitutional structure when you have Presidential candidates saying, just set the Constitution aside. We saw a violent insurrection supporting a political coup in this very Chamber. That is the alternative to moving forward with everything that we are going to be talking about tonight in terms of improving representation through ranked choice voting, in terms of campaign finance reform so we don't have money drowning out the voice of the people, filibuster reform, ethics reform at the Supreme Court, all of those things are essential and we need the momentum of

a prodemocracy movement to keep us from becoming like Vladimir Putin's country or Viktor Orban's country, the close buddies of Donald Trump that he invoked in the Presidential debate last night that he conscripted as character witnesses for him in this election.

We have got a very clear choice for America moving forward. I thank the Progressive Caucus for offering so much leadership. We know that it is tough, and it is a struggle.

Frederick Douglas from my State said that if there is no struggle, there is no progress. The struggle may be moral, it may be physical, it may be more unphysical, but there must be struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand.

John Dewey said that there are no ills to democracy that cannot be solved without more democracy. Democracy is the corrective to the impediments to democracies.

What we are suffering from today is the obstacles and the impediments to democracy, but we have got the means, and we have got the will in the country to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for giving me this opportunity.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RASKIN is absolutely right. We are committed to progress. We are committed to moving forward. We are committed to strengthening our voting rights. We are committed to improving representation. We are committed to campaign finance reform. We are committed to fully funded Federal agencies. We are committed to ethics, courts, and filibuster reform.

There is someone who has been doing this work for a very long time and has developed the leadership among other Members to continue this work even after he leaves this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to another gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), a friend, someone that I am inspired by. I am committed to make sure that we carry on this legacy of progress.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for yielding.

I salute the Progressive Congressional Caucus for pulling together this Special Order to talk about the importance of strengthening our democracy.

You are absolutely right to begin the discussion tonight by reminding us that this is the anniversary of September 11, the tragedy that struck our country.

This is a day when, as patriots, we stand up as Americans. We salute the flag. We salute our history. It is very appropriate that it is a day on which we want to speak to the need to strengthen and deepen our resolve when it comes to making sure the democracy of this country, that connected tissue, is as strong as it can possibly be.

The sad reality is that over a period of years now, many Americans have become more cynical because they look at Washington, they look at the places

where laws are made, and they feel that it is more distant from them; that it doesn't fully express their voice, their dreams, their hopes, and aspirations.

A lot of that has to do, as you know, with throwing obstacles in the way of voters as they try to access the ballot box or making it difficult for their priorities to be carried forward because of the insidious influence of dark money and other forces that are behind the curtain.

We have applied ourselves over a period of many Congresses now to try to channel the grievances that our constituents have expressed into pieces of legislation that can begin over time if we can get them passed to restore that fundamental faith in democracy.

These include the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore the protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. By the way, a piece of legislation that at every opportunity for reauthorization, until very recently, was supported in a bipartisan fashion. Republicans and Democrats understood that you needed to have these voting protections in place.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, for reasons difficult to discern sometimes, our Republican colleagues have fallen away from this commitment, and we have had to carry it ourselves.

That is one important piece of legislation that Democrats are supporting that repeatedly we have brought to the floor of this House, and we have passed here. It has been a more difficult prospect on the Senate side, but we have the hope that that opportunity will present itself, as well.

Another critical piece of legislation that I felt privileged to carry and exercise some leadership on is the Freedom to Vote Act. It started out as the For The People Act. It has evolved over a period of two or three Congresses. We have passed it four or five different times out of this Chamber, again, running into the blockade on the Senate side. This is a bill where every provision of it is designed to respond to that cynicism that Americans are feeling. The first 300 pages of the Freedom to Vote Act were penned, were authored by our late colleague, John Lewis, the freedom fighter who inspired so many of us before he came to Congress and during his time in Congress.

He understood that we had to make it possible for people to access the ballot box without having to run an obstacle course every 2 years, to put in place these fundamental reforms that every American and every community can benefit from: automatic voter registration, same-day registration, early voting, mail balloting.

All the things that make it possible when somebody gets up on the morning of that day when they have decided to cast their vote and know that that is not going to be a difficult transaction. They can do that. They can access their democracy in a straightforward

way. That is one centerpiece of the Freedom to Vote Act.

Another grievance we heard from Americans for many, many years is, why should politicians be able to choose their voters instead of the other way around? We have seen what extreme partisan gerrymandering has done across the country. It means that in the House of Representatives, we don't actually have a fair representation of what the vote is out in the country.

This makes average people out there feel disrespected. Voters feel like their voice is not being given the weight and the due that it deserves, so included within the Freedom to Vote Act are provisions that would establish an objective, independent way of determining how districts should be drawn so that we are respectful of the voters. It is another key piece of this reform package.

The last critical dimension of this is what to do about the undue influence, the sinister, insidious influence that money has over the political system.

□ 1815

Your voice consists of two basic components in a democracy. One is that you can cast your vote freely and fairly, but the other dimension of it is if you send people to Washington, if you elect them, if you pull the lever for them, your expectation is when they get there, they will fight for your priorities and won't get hijacked or captured by special interests and big money. The reality is very different, unfortunately, and it leaves people feeling disempowered.

Two key reforms that are included within this legislation are the DISCLOSE Act, which would require that we have transparency in terms of this dark money that is flooded into our system, and another piece, which I know Representative RAMIREZ feels very passionately about, is a small donor matching system that can support candidates' efforts to get out there and run their campaigns free from dependence on big money and deep pockets.

This legislation would create a system where for every dollar you raise from small donations, grassroots donations, you get a 6-to-1 match from something we call the Freedom From Influence Fund.

By the way, that fund would not be taxpayer underwritten. We would put a small surcharge on government settlements with big corporate lawbreakers and high-end tax cheats. That would go into a special fund, and that would underwrite the matching funds to come in to support these candidates.

What I like about that is the people who are leaning on our democracy and trying to break it are going to have to pay to create a system that can lift up our democracy.

All of these things are designed to respond to those grievances that Americans feel. These key pieces of legislation—the John R. Lewis Voting Rights

Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, the Native American Voting Rights Act, the D.C. statehood bill—are very simple in what they are trying to achieve: Give a voice to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Progressive Caucus for pulling us together this evening.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SARBANES for his remarks. He couldn't have said it more perfectly as we are wrapping up here.

I often ask myself what it would look like if money didn't determine elections, if qualifications did, if competency would. What would it look like if we got big money out of politics, which is exactly what we should all be prioritizing?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN). I don't think anyone can speak better about that issue than him.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her leadership and for allowing me to participate in this really important discussion. I thank her for bringing this issue to the forefront of the American people.

There are many who believe we no longer have a democracy. There are many who believe our country is controlled by an oligarchy. Many believe our country is controlled by a few wealthy Americans who act as puppet masters over Members of Congress and who act as puppet masters over elected officials across the country.

We are not engaging in the arena of new ideas. We are not engaging in the arena of shared values. We take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution against enemies, foreign and domestic, but if we allow people with wealth to undermine our Constitution, we are not doing our job.

Yes, I can speak personally to this issue because, in my primary race, I had special interest groups spend more money against me in my primary than has been spent against any Member of Congress in United States history.

My district was bombarded with advertisements, with mailers, with misinformation and disinformation, and with ideas and policies that reflected the values behind the big money that was being poured in.

What made it worse is a lot of this big money came from unknown sources. Because of Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United*, we don't have to publicly know where these dollars are coming from as we engage with super-PACs.

We absolutely need democracy reform, and it starts with getting big money out of politics. One important way to do that is to overturn *Citizens United*. We must overturn *Citizens United*. If you want to support a candidate, your name must be public, period. Not only that, but if you believe those who say, and I do, that our democracy is no longer a democracy because it is controlled by an oligarchy, the wealthy elite, we have to look at

the outcomes that our democracy is currently producing.

Why don't we have universal healthcare? Why don't we have fully funded public schools? Why don't we have paid leave for all? Why don't we have a Green New Deal? Why do one in five children go to bed hungry in our country? Why do we have consistent economic and wealth inequality?

I would argue it is because those in the oligarchy class want things to remain that way. As a result, Members of this body continue to vote in favor of special interests.

We couldn't even raise the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour. If you grow up or live in a red-lined community, redlined by American politicians in this body, your schools are less funded than wealthier communities.

A strong, vibrant, healthy democracy must include every single person in our country voting in every election, but they are being disenfranchised by the big money, and they have lost hope because of the big money.

Again, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her leadership and for allowing me to say a few words. In order for our democracy to be as strong as ever, both on the domestic front but also supporting democracies around the world, we have to get big money out of politics.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for his remarks, and I am committed to working with him here and out of here to ensure that happens.

When we talk about the issues that matter most, as Congressman BOWMAN mentioned, everything from housing to healthcare to education, we understand that when democracy is weakened, our ability to move reforms because of these issues is also impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), someone I have had the opportunity to serve with for the last 21 months, a fierce advocate for our communities, not just in Vermont but all over, making sure that justice, equity, and strengthening democracy is at the forefront.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to serve with Representative RAMIREZ and to speak here tonight about an issue that is incredibly important to me, and that is the health and strength of democracy.

When I ran for Congress, the issue I heard the most about was just that, the health and the strength of the democracy.

Yes, of course, Vermonters care about particular issues for our district—housing, the workforce crisis, the mental health crisis, all of these things—but they said more than anything, they are worried about the health of the democracy.

I came to the job having come up through the Vermont State Senate, and before that, I was a teacher and tried to instill in my students the im-

portance of being involved in the democracy to keep replenishing it with the energy and attention it requires.

What I have noticed over the last few years is that there is, indeed, a cynicism creeping in, as my colleague mentioned earlier, and cynicism has a corrosive effect, not just on the democracy but on our own health and stability and the health of our communities.

It is, in fact, the voice of the status quo. It is about convincing people that you can't actually make change, so why even try, that it is futile.

The stakes are so incredibly high. I will tell you that my family knows firsthand that democracies don't fail overnight. My grandfather was killed in the Holocaust, and I grew up with the understanding that people can be horribly cruel to one another and can perpetuate horrors upon individuals and families when the law does not protect the most vulnerable and when people turn away from each other and demonize each other. I can tell you in earnest that we have seen this in this country in the last few years grow to a fever pitch of dehumanizing and demonizing our fellow Americans.

I see it in my committees, whether it is attacking immigrants or migrants, attacking the LGBTQ community, or attacking the poor.

It is not about coming together as Americans and finding common cause with other Americans. It is often about making people the scapegoats.

Democracies fail little by little as our rights are stripped away from us, as democratic norms are upended, and as people are scapegoated.

My parents never took for granted the rights and privileges provided to us by the U.S. Constitution and that we must be vigilant and take our responsibility of supporting and protecting the Constitution seriously.

I was very concerned, coming up on almost 2 years ago when I started in Congress, because I knew that 139 Members of this body did not vote to certify a free and fair election. Of those 139, 124 ran for reelection, and 118 are still serving in Congress. They serve with us in committees, and we have to see them on the floor, people who did not support a free and fair election and the peaceful transfer of power. This sickens me.

In moments when I am home in Vermont, it is very difficult to convey to my constituents what it feels like sometimes to be here as a public servant supporting the democracy, supporting the ideals that supposedly we all hold so dear, and to serve alongside people who still will not admit that Joe Biden is the rightful winner of the 2020 election. It should outrage all of us.

How can we make the case to our children and to my former students that democracy is something to protect, that it is sacred, that we all have a stake in making sure it is healthy when there are Members of Congress

who still will not admit that Joe Biden is the rightful winner of the 2020 election?

□ 1830

We must commit, all of us, to rising above this dangerous nonsense because we all know the truth. We do. We know the truth. As we head into another election season, I know what I fear. I fear that once again we will be faced with a critical moment of courage, and that some will fail that test.

When I heard that the topic tonight was about strengthening the democracy, I said: Absolutely, I will be there. None of these things—strengthening our voting rights, improving our representation, making sure that we have campaign finance reform, supporting our communities, and on and on—can happen if we do not have a commitment from the people in this Chamber to admit the rightful winner of an election and to stand in this Chamber and certify those election results.

I look forward to seeing some courage, regardless of the outcome. I hope that I am not, once again, deeply, deeply disappointed and disgusted by the lack of courage and fortitude of those who say that they support the Constitution, the rule of law, and this great democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BALINT. Her words could not have been more powerful.

We are at a crossroads right now, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus is committed to strengthening voting rights because our caucus wants to make sure that we protect the right to vote by passing broad and comprehensive voting rights bills that eliminate barriers to voting for U.S. citizens.

We want same-day, automatic, and online voter registration. We are committed to improving representation because we are the party that wants to abolish the electoral college, grant statehood to the District of Columbia, and establish a democratic process for the people of Puerto Rico to determine the island's future political status.

We are committed to bold campaign finance reform. We are the party that wants to end corruption and get big money and corporations out of politics by finally eliminating dark money in elections.

We are committed to fully funding Federal agencies that invest in Americans' health, education, and well-being. We are the party that wants to ensure that Congress funds vital Federal agencies and prevents the privatization of government services.

We are committed to eliminating or reforming the filibuster, and we are the party that wants to allow for the democratic consideration and passage of essential legislation.

We are committed to ethics reform. We are the caucus that wants to ban stock trading and ownership for Members of Congress and the Federal judiciary and impose an enforceable code of conduct on the Supreme Court, includ-

ing instituting accountability measures and restrictions on gifts and requiring judicial disclosures and recusal.

We are committed to reforming the Court. We are the party that wants to expand the number of Justices on the bench, implement term limits, and create new judgeships across the Federal system.

Folks, as you heard from my colleagues here, we are committed because it is important to remember that this week extreme Republicans are attempting to hold the government hostage so they can advance a bill that creates barriers to voting for U.S. citizens.

Bottom line: It is already illegal under current law for noncitizens to register to vote or to vote in Federal elections. Despite numerous recounts, challenges in court, and the deep dives by Conservative think tanks, there has been zero evidence of widespread voter fraud.

Folks, it is a scare tactic, and extreme Republicans are trying to scare Americans—the fear-mongering—into giving up their right to exercise their vote in an accessible and unburdensome election process.

The SAVE Act is voter suppression, plain and simple. Requiring citizens to show documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote places an extreme burden on countless Americans, including military voters, Native voters, people who have changed their names, including tens of millions of American women, the elderly, the young, the poor, and naturalized citizens.

The SAVE Act's burdens on rightful voters are extreme because most Americans would be unable to register to vote using their driver's license or other State-provided identification alone. Even Real IDs do not meet the SAVE Act's requirements.

Millions of Americans, including tens of thousands in each congressional district, would be prevented from registering to vote easily, if at all. Americans would not be able to use military IDs or Tribal IDs alone when registering to vote. U.S. citizens who are putting their life on the line would have to go get a passport and other documents to prove their citizenship.

People who have changed their names, including millions of married women, would not be allowed to use their birth certificates when proving their citizenship.

Registration applications would need to be presented in person, essentially ending mail-in voting and creating barriers for same-day voter registration.

The SAVE Act makes it clear exactly who extreme Republicans believe should have an easy time accessing the right to vote and, more importantly, who they believe should have a difficult time.

It is in this moment, in this context that my colleagues and I come to this Chamber to convene this Special Order hour, to make it crystal clear exactly

who is committed to doing the work of repairing and strengthening democracy.

Repairing, strengthening, and protecting our democracy is one of my greatest priorities in Congress. I have the honor of co-chairing the House Task Force on Strengthening Democracy, where I meet with my colleagues to discuss legislative solutions to act on Americans' desire to fortify the basic building blocks of healthy democracy.

During the August recess, I launched my democracy working groups in Chicago and DuPage County. I convened constituents, grassroots leaders, and organizations to share what they have seen, what they have learned, and what they have felt as they do the work on the ground of building a democracy that works for everyone.

I hosted a teletownhall focused on making government work for Illinois-3 and a Wheaton townhall focused on the topic of defending democracy. Listening to the voices of our communities and ensuring those voices are heard and valued is part of our democracy, and it is what is most important.

What we learned and affirmed is that democracy is a work in progress. It is not perfect, by any means. We have heard that we cannot simply strengthen democracy, simply preserve democracy. We must repair it and expand it where it is not living up to its potential.

We need democracy that truly works for the people, where government is responsive to the needs of its citizens, where we keep big money out of politics, where there is ethics reform both in our Supreme Court and Presidency, where we protect our election workers and our right to vote, where we defend public institutions from privatization and elimination.

That is why I am so proud to cosponsor numerous substantial pieces of legislation across the broad aspects of democracy and good governance, including bills like the Freedom to Vote Act by Congressman SARBANES and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act by Congresswoman SEWELL, which must be among the first bills we take on in the 119th Congress.

As I wrap up our Special Order hour in a few minutes, I do want to talk about some of the movers and shakers that are helping do this work to repair, strengthen, and protect our democracy.

To do so, I want to start by recognizing an organization that serves the State of Illinois led by one of my constituents, Mary Ellen Daneels. She is improving access to information, amplifying the voices of young people, and breaking down barriers to their participation.

Illinois Democracy Schools Network is a vital initiative committed to educating the next generation about the civic process. The growing network of middle and high schools is dedicated to expanding civic learning opportunities across Illinois, particularly in schools

serving students of color to ensure all students are prepared to meaningfully participate in public life.

By creating high-quality learning experiences, the Democracy Schools Network helps foster informed, active, and equitable civic engagement among young people. On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I do want to thank the Illinois Democracy Schools Network for nurturing the foundations of our democracy.

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. It is why I cosponsored and am cosponsoring several pieces of legislation that protect and expand ballot access, as we just talked about.

I do want to go into H.R. 11 a little deeper. Expanding voter registration and voting access prohibits voting roll removal, establishes election day as a Federal holiday, and enacts other voting rights and election reforms.

H.R. 14, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, strengthens voting rights by expanding and strengthening government's ability to respond to voting discrimination.

Defending the right to vote is defending our communities. Let me say that again. Defending the right to vote is defending our communities. Therefore, I will continue resisting and challenging any attempt from extremists in our government to undermine our democracy and erode our rights.

We all have a role to play. I encourage us all to get engaged: register people to vote, serve as election judges, combat misinformation. We have to fight for the democracy that we deserve.

There is an organization that has been doing this work around the clock, defending democracy, and that is Midwest Voting Rights Program of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

This vital initiative focuses on ensuring fair access to the vote and upholding election laws. Through their Election Protection program and litigation, they provide critical resources on election day. They partner with incarcerated and returning community members to expand voting rights. They ensure racial equity in redistricting. They defend civil rights and advocate for equitable election laws in Illinois and Indiana.

A notable leader in this work is Clifford Helm, senior counsel for the program and a proud constituent of Illinois' Third Congressional District. I thank Clifford and Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights for their dedication to eliminating barriers to voting and enhancing civic participation, especially in marginalized communities.

We also need organizations that create and provide citizens tools to hold our officials accountable, and that is why I am proud to recognize Indivisible, a grassroots movement dedicated to strengthening our democracy through education and civic engagement.

Through Indivisible Civics, they provide invaluable resources, training, and tools to empower local groups and activists, including to engage with their local elected officials and hold them accountable.

Since the beginning of 2019, Indivisible members have made 73,625 calls to Congress and have organized over 2,000 grassroots events in all 50 States. Their focus on building civic knowledge and skills helps individuals become effective advocates and informed citizens.

In Illinois' Third Congressional District, active Indivisible chapters in Illinois and civic leaders like Dianne McGuire, Deborah McCoy, Kathy Tholin, Geri Kahn, Patricia Graham, and Denise Poloyac are working tirelessly to engage their neighbors in the civic process. I thank Indivisible for their commitment to fostering a well-informed electorate and a stronger democracy.

While extreme Republicans demonstrate which Americans they believe should have access to vote and who they believe shouldn't, I am honored to recognize the nonprofit Chicago Votes for their efforts in fostering civic engagement among the next generation of leaders in our city.

Their Unlock Civics program works to increase democratic participation from justice-impacted adults, from registering over 5,000 voters in Cook County jail to advocating for legislation to make the jail the first in the Nation to serve as a primary election voting location.

Chicago Votes also works to engage young people in local civic processes, from their regular parade to the polls to creating nonpartisan voting guides to support educators around civic curriculum.

□ 1845

Their fellowships and leadership development opportunities for youth and justice-impacted individuals, including their Democracy Corps, build stronger leaders for a stronger, more informed democracy. I thank Chicago Votes.

I also want to acknowledge the work of organizations like the Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy Forum is doing the work to protect our multicultural, our multiracial democracy from attempts to scapegoat, silence, criminalize, and persecute our Latino and our immigrant communities.

Through their efforts in coalition, the forum has engaged Comunidades Latinas in the civic process of our democracy.

Whether by expanding participation in the Census or access to multilingual and culturally competent educational voter material, the organization is fighting to ensure equitable representation and fair investment in our communities.

The work has been possible thanks to the efforts of its staff and its president and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, Sylvia Puente, who after 16 years of service, announced her well-earned retirement.

Her unwavering leadership has been instrumental in driving positive, meaningful change for our communities.

In the face of the cruel policies that are looking to hurt our communities, I thank Sylvia for inspiring us with her leadership. "Gracias por luchar por nuestra comunidad contra viento y marea." "Thank you for your fight for our community against all odds."

As I wrap up here, I want to thank all my colleagues who join tonight's Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. I want to end with this: I am the product of community organizing. I am the product of a movement that continues to fight for what is right even when the attacks just keep coming and coming and even in the face of fear, even in the face of loss and hardship.

We are and have been a nation at a crossroads. We say we are facing an existential crisis, but the truth is that we have been facing this crisis for a very long time. This country has consistently faced a crossroad to choose fear or to choose hope, to choose love or to choose hate, to choose bigotry or to choose equity, to choose oppression or to choose justice.

We face those all-too-familiar crossroads again. Will we choose democracy or will we submit to dictatorship?

Democracy is a grand experiment of collective experience, and it cannot be taken for granted. It is precious and fragile, and it requires that we strive to be the best of ourselves.

I am encouraged that each time this country faced a crossroads, organizers were there bending the arc of history towards justice; fighting like hell.

We fight like hell for our communities. Our communities have always been the target of injustice. We also know that we fight like hell for our children and the future. We fight like hell against Trump and MAGA Republicans and Project 2025, as they are a fundamental threat to our children.

The people want big money out of politics. The people want us to reform the Supreme Court. The people want us to protect the integrity of our elections. Our democracy will be repaired, strengthened, and preserved when we fight for democracy.

I believe that the people united will never be defeated because we have something to fight for. I fight for my husband, a Dreamer. I fight for my nieces and nephews. I fight for every Latino who aspires to public office. I fight for the movement. The fight ahead is worth it.

There is no greater honor to fight alongside you, to protect, preserve, and expand democracy.

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

FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is always lovely to be lectured about democracy from the party that refused to certify the 2005 and 2017 elections. If this place didn't run on double standards, I don't know what fuel would be there. It is fascinating to literally hear this rhetoric. I am sorry to totally take you off point for just a moment, but, again, if the double standards didn't exist, there would be very little for this place to run on.

As we begin tonight's Special Order, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the 23rd anniversary of the attack on September 11, 2001.

Today, we remember a pivotal moment in our Nation's history and the profound loss our Nation endured, the courage we witnessed, and the resilience that we have shown as a Nation in the face of adversity. Nearly 3,000 lives were taken on 9/11 and countless families were forever changed.

Today, we honor the heroism of the law enforcement officers, servicemembers, firefighters, and medical professionals who answered the call of duty on that fateful day.

Today, we also recognize its lasting impact on our country's foreign policy and national security interests. The events of 9/11 revealed vulnerabilities in our national security apparatus and underscored the necessity for a robust and proactive approach to safeguarding our Nation.

Since the attacks, we have worked to rebuild our national security in a new period of great power competition with countries like China, Russia, and Iran, but since President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office, their failed foreign policy of appeasement has diminished our standing on the world stage and emboldened our adversaries.

It goes without saying that strong foreign policy is the key to a strong nation. House Republicans are advancing several bills this week as part of our "China Week" that will bolster our national security and defend against our adversaries.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee also released their report on the Biden-Harris administration's failures during and after the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. I will speak more on that later.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last month marked 3 years since the Biden-Harris adminis-

tration's catastrophic withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

This administration rushed the withdrawal of troops, playing politics instead of preparing a plan to get Americans and Afghan partners to safety and to ensure stability in the region.

The results were horrific. The Taliban pulled the rug out from under the Biden-Harris administration, quickly taking control of Afghanistan, and undoing the gains Americans and our allies made over years in just a matter of days.

Meanwhile, 13 American servicemembers were killed in the line of duty, Americans and Afghan partners who supported our troops were stranded, and girls and women were swept under the rug.

The President said he owed no apologies.

The American people, our Gold Star families, and veterans beg to differ.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I am working to conduct congressional oversight, demand accountability, and restore America's leadership on the world stage. The world is watching us. Xi Jinping, Kim Jong-un, Vladimir Putin, and the Ayatollah are all watching us, and our allies and partners around the world are watching us. We must promote peace through strength.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her remarks. Peace through strength, that is such a simple concept, and it has evaded us over the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ).

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As we all know, today is September 11, and we all recognize and remember what happened to our Nation on that day. For most Americans, it is the day that terrorism was brought on to our shore, and it was the beginning of America fighting against terrorist attacks.

I want to talk today about what happened on August 26, 2021. That is the day of the unpardonable and disgraceful failure that was the Biden-Harris administration's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

When we look at what happened that day, as a veteran I watched and saw a Commander in Chief abandon America's sons and daughters. That is not a Commander in Chief. A Commander in Chief stands tall and never leaves a soldier behind, never leaves an American citizen behind. Yet, that is exactly what that administration did.

Who is lower than a thief who steals the honor of his countrymen?

Who is more abhorrent than a man who betrays their friends and gives comfort to his enemies?

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS fled a country we freed for two decades and left it in the grasp of merciless terrorists.

Why did we have to lose 13 brave American servicemembers? We didn't.

We lost them because there was no real plan on how to get out of Afghanistan. Any real, true Commander in Chief would know that you must plan accordingly, that you must plan every single step to make sure that there is no one left behind. When you don't have that experience, when you don't understand the conflict that you are in, you will fail like this administration did.

They say that if you want to test the character of a person, give them power. Well, we know the character of our Commander in Chief on that day, and truly the character shows that it was more important to deal with the optics politically than it was to protect the men and women in uniform.

I am here to tell you that I firmly believe, a lot of Americans believe, and a lot of veterans that I know, friends, sons of my fellow brothers and sisters that served, they truly believe that the blood of these Americans is on the hands of the President and Madam Vice President.

I talk to veterans that served in Afghanistan, and they talk about when they saw what was going on, when they saw it on the TV, it was a gut-wrenching thing to see because they had been there for years. They had deployed more than once or twice to stand tall and protect, and to see what happened tore them apart.

It is difficult to encourage the young men and women to serve in our military when we have a Commander in Chief that abandons them.

Billions of American taxpayer dollars in the form of advanced military weapons and equipment fell directly into the hands of terrorists to be used to target our allies and our troops, yet, they don't want to talk about that. They don't want to talk about the billions of dollars that were left behind.

And worse was the fate of our Afghan allies who dedicated their lives to the betterment of their country, only to be brutally murdered when we pulled out, and the Taliban came to power. I know individuals that helped America, and their families were left behind, and they asked me: Why did this occur? How can America allow this to happen?

I wish I had an answer for them, but the only thing I can tell them is it happened because we had a lack of courage.

□ 1900

It happened because we had no foresight. We had no means to understand what we were doing, and so we must change that.

Many of those Afghan allies and their families are dead today, and, once again, we know whom to blame for that. I watched the debate last night, and when the question was asked: Are there any regrets? there was silence on that question.

I am here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I understand why there is silence. It is because they don't have the courage to not only stand in front of those

family members who lost their sons and daughters, look them in the eye, and apologize for the mistake they made.

You see, Mr. Speaker, true leadership recognizes when mistakes are made. True leadership stands tall and makes sure that it never happens again. However, silence leaves everyone wondering: What will they do the next time that situation arises?

I hope that should there ever be another time, that we will have a different Commander in Chief, someone who truly understands how to protect, how to defend, and how to make America proud again when we send our sons and daughters into the battlefield.

Those mistakes will make America look weak on the world stage, and we know that they have. Our credibility with our allies and everyone we have ever made promises to has been severely damaged, emboldening our adversaries around the globe. Shamefully, our chaotic withdrawal has weakened the morale of our servicemembers and rightfully so.

When I served, I wore my uniform with honor. I wore it proudly because I believed in America, and I believed that the Commander in Chief would always have my back.

Today, I question that. I question where the loyalty is of those individuals who made those decisions on that day. You see, Mr. Speaker, those perilous days in August in 2021 will always remain a stain on that administration's legacy for the lack of leadership.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. It is a stain on our flag. It is a stain that we must all endure only because they didn't have the courage and the understanding to do the right thing.

How do you explain to the family members that they lost their loved ones for no real reason?

How do you explain that?

This is why they refuse to even acknowledge the family members, because there is no explanation. President Biden and Vice President HARRIS cannot undo the damage and the pain that they caused, but they could speak honestly to the American people about the facts of this failure.

I urge them in the strongest terms to do that because the American people deserve the real truth.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for his remarks. He is an individual who has had a short time here and is respected in just a few short months. He has been one of the most studious and one of the most thoughtful Members that I have seen in my 3½ years, and I hope to be able to continue to find a way to serve with him. I am sincere about that, and I appreciate his heartfelt comments here tonight.

Again, I thank my colleagues for being here and taking time to speak on some of the most pressing issues facing our Nation.

Yesterday, Speaker Johnson posthumously awarded the Congressional

Gold Medal to the families of the servicemembers killed in a barbaric act of terrorism at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, including Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover from Utah.

President Biden's decision to abandon Bagram Air Base and its equipment forced our troops into the impossible task of securing an urban airport while also conducting an impossibly complex humanitarian operation, all under an unreasonable timeframe and without coordination from our allies. The aftermath gave our enemies a window of opportunity of which they took full advantage. Three years later, the Taliban are in control of Afghanistan and are building stronger diplomatic ties to China, making deeper overtures to Iran, and they have enabled the resurgence of ISIS-K in their backyard.

I may be accused of regurgitating this information too much or we need to move on, and I still remember committing to a memorial service that a marine was lost from Utah to never forget and to always remember. That wasn't just a bad mistake. It had second, third, and fourth order consequences that we are going to be facing for decades to come.

President Biden has often said that our number one priority was to make sure that Afghanistan could never again be used as an operating base from which to plan terrorist attacks on the American homeland. The current situation, however, heavily indicates that we are failing in this objective.

I commend Chairman MCCAUL and his committee for their work on the report released this week that details key failures of the Biden-Harris administration during and after the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan and its aftermath. Americans deserve answers for how this administration mishandled this crisis, and I am grateful for the committee's diligent work.

Additionally, we should all agree that the China challenge is not a partisan issue. Ensuring our competitiveness with China should unite lawmakers from both sides of aisle. This is the all-encompassing policy fight of our generation. It is not just a faraway foreign policy issue, but rather is one that directly impacts our economic prosperity and shapes the livelihoods of every American.

To that end, yesterday I joined Congressman WENSTRUP, Congressman PFLUGER, and Chairman GREEN in releasing a request for information to solicit feedback on policy solutions to strengthen and enhance domestic medical supply chains.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our Nation and ensure our medical supply chains are free from dependency on foreign adversaries.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue and supporting my colleagues who have been sitting on the Select Committee on China and advancing

valuable legislation out of this Chamber.

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

THE PASSING OF SHELTON "SHELLY" GUREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great respect and admiration remembering the life and works of Sheldon "Shelly" Guren, a remarkable man whose legacy will forever be woven into the fabric of our northern Ohio community.

Shelly Guren's 99 years of life were a brilliant tapestry of excellence and service. Using the GI Bill, he had a distinguished career, but that followed his work in law school at Harvard University. He was an esteemed leader in the Cleveland area, and his contributions have been extraordinary.

He was brilliant. His investments in iconic sports franchises and his stewardship of the Great Lakes Towing Company demonstrate his far-reaching impact and deep commitment to his community. Most important, his word was his bond.

Beyond his professional achievements, Shelly was known for his integrity, generosity, and unwavering love for his family and friends. It was a joy to know him. When you met Shelly, Mr. Speaker, you knew you had met someone extraordinary. He taught Sunday school and was an outstanding leader in Cleveland's Jewish community.

His passing leaves a void in the hearts of everyone who knew him, but his legacy of leadership and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

To his beloved wife, Bonnie; his son, Michael; and his entire family, please accept our heartfelt condolences. Shelly's remarkable life and enduring accomplishments will remain a beacon of inspiration for years to come.

May he rest in peace.

SHELTON GUREN OBITUARY

Sheldon "Shelly" Guren, 99, died Aug. 16, 2024. He was born to Nate and Rose Guren on Oct. 25, 1924.

Shelly grew up in Cleveland Heights where he excelled in school and athletics. He graduated high school at age 16 and went on to Western Reserve University, now Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. After World War II, he used the G.I. Bill to go to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Mass.,

where he met his wife Faith Golden, a student at Emerson College in Boston. He and Faith started their life in Cleveland when Shelly joined his uncle Henry Gottfried's law firm.

He practiced law the remainder of his life while also starting a real estate investment trust, investing in several businesses, teaching Sunday school and being a leader in the Cleveland Jewish community.

Shelly was intrigued by the state of Israel, with its "can do" spirit that in some ways matched his energy and optimism. He and his family spent months on a kibbutz where he helped to focus some of its business practices. He remained connected to that experience both emotionally and philanthropically.

He was generous, magnetic, bright and fun. He began a boating life with a 34' boat at Lakeside Yacht Club in Cleveland and parlayed that into a yachting life, mostly in the Bahamas. He thrived on hosting his friends for weekends living his dream.

He moved to Miami in the 1970s and spent the next 45 years commuting back to Cleveland to oversee The Great Lakes Towing Company. He loved the opportunity to be home and spend time with his best friend (his brother Homer), his sister-in-law Lois and the many other friends he cherished. He loved Cleveland.

Shelly leaves behind his wife, Bonnie, and her son Michael (Adrianna) Stein; children, Jon (Mary) Guren, Pam (Ron, deceased) Korotky, Timmy (Michael, deceased) Burnes and Laura (Sylvio) Rodriguez; grandchildren, Sara Burnes (Michael Sanky), Mike (Lauren) Burnes, Leanna and Jacquie Rodriguez, Cylena Morse and Josh, Rachel, Skylar and Luna Stein; his five great-grandchildren; and nephews, Marc (Aliza) Guren and Clifford (Deena) Guren.

TOLEDO POLISH CULTURAL CENTER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wish to highlight the noble efforts of northwest Ohio's Polish Cultural Center to preserve and celebrate Polish-American heritage in Toledo.

As Mr. Tom Pruss, an advisory board member, wisely observed: Every day that goes by, we lose more and more generations of people who know the reason for certain traditions and the reason why they celebrate their heritage.

Family ancestry deepens the meaning of liberty itself.

The center is working diligently to raise funds for a new building in east Toledo to serve as a cultural hub for the community. I know how hard Tom Sorosiak, a professor, has been working on that. As of July, members had already raised over one-half of the funds needed for the project, and former councilman in Toledo, Tom Waniewski, has been absolutely indefatigable in this quest.

In that same spirit of honoring our Polish cultural heritage, today I introduced a resolution alongside my Congressional Poland Caucus co-chairs recognizing this year's 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

This fierce struggle in Poland in the last century serves forever as a cold reminder of the savagery of Nazi and Russian attempts to annihilate Poland's very existence. In the end, at the cost of tens of thousands of lives, Poland lives.

Let us join together from Toledo, Ohio, to the Halls of Congress to ensure

that future generations can connect with their Polish immigrant roots, their struggles and triumphs over travesty, and never forget history. Celebrate our rich heritage at home and back in our native land.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the anticipated departure of Norfolk Southern Railway's chief executive officer, reportedly related to an alleged inappropriate relationship with a subordinate.

One could ask oneself: When did he have time for all of that?

This is just the latest evidence of poor decision making at the highest levels of one of our Nation's largest railroads that has a lot of problems that impact every community through which it travels. Frankly, giant railroad magnates need to be corralled in the public interest. Congress already knows that we cannot trust rail corporate leadership to exercise good judgment and take care of failing overpasses and underpasses in our communities. Particularly when it comes to rail safety, they fail.

In October of 2022, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in my district in Sandusky, Ohio. That is the photo there that I am pointing to. I have been privileged to represent it, but over one dozen cars were left hanging for months over an overpass on the main entry into a town that gets over 5 million visitors a year, spilling paraffin wax all over the roadway dripping down and damaging infrastructure.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

Norfolk Southern, despite endless pleas from the local mayor and government officials did nothing for months. They did nothing to clean up the mess until 4 months after that mess happened, when a Norfolk Southern train that also passed through our district derailed one dozen cars in East Palestine, Ohio. That triggered a massive explosion and fire which contaminated the air, soil, and water with toxic chemicals.

Rail safety bills were swiftly introduced in both Chambers in the wake of this latter disaster, but Congress has yet to pass the legislation.

Where are the committees in this place?

Are there all asleep?

The residents of East Palestine will live with questions about the disaster's effects on their health for the rest of their lives.

For their sakes and for the sake of all the communities in our Nation with freight rail tracks running through them, Congress must act now.

Railroads are not getting safer on their own. According to the Federal Railway Administration, the latest annual rail safety data reflect troubling trends, including a 41.1 percent increase, a nearly 50 percent increase in the rate for the human factor that caused accidents between 2013 and 2022. That is because the railroads aren't hiring enough people to do the job.

It is past time for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to mark up the bipartisan Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2024 and for Congress to make real commitments to rail safety.

It was only after East Palestine happened and we raised questions in the national press that Norfolk Southern sent two people back to the original site of the accident in Sandusky—two people—to begin cleaning up the streets and scrape up all that paraffin and try to prevent it from going into the city sewers and so forth.

I think there are real problems at these railroads, and I can't imagine why the committees of jurisdiction are waiting so long. Frankly, those people in East Palestine deserve a new town. Companies used to build new towns for people, and that is one place in America that deserves it.

□ 1915

STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I now will turn to an important topic: strengthening domestic manufacturing of medical supplies. This poignant true story from my district illustrates the declining quality and access to USA-made medical supplies.

A female patient who is a senior citizen in my district has had to endure a permanent ileostomy for many years. The lifesaving procedure, a very difficult one, requires her to use ostomy supplies daily.

For years, she has had access to high-quality bags made of thin plastic material prescribed by her physician. These original bags were comfortable and suited to her critical medical needs.

She reached out to me with a distressing situation. As the months of her dependence on these critical supplies wore on, she faced a harsh new reality. Her physician informed her that because the new manufacturers had changed the product design, high-quality bags were no longer available. She had to accept less, but what we found out is ownership of the company had changed. A private equity fund sold the product to an offshore foreign investor that changed the design and quality. Indeed, the new bags were cheapened and very harsh for a patient to endure.

The new bags utilized a cheaper, thicker, and stiffer plastic. This design and fabric irritate the patient's skin and, at over 80 years of age, makes it difficult to cut each bag without causing sharp or ragged edges. This has led to more skin irritation, infections, bag leaks, burns, and skin rashes from the astringent she must use to avoid infection.

What about pain to the patient? All caused by the bags' unevenly cut opening and poor quality that damaged her skin. Imagine the discomfort each day and night, dealing with the pain as these bags fail through daily wear.

Unsatisfied, she went to several pharmacies to find the well-made original

thinner bags from a different manufacturer, but her insurance said no. Medicare said no. She could not access the bag most effective for her medical needs. She even wondered if they were still manufactured.

Refusing to accept this painful decline in care, I personally intervened. I found the original thin, flexible bags available, but only online. I ordered a case for her, but this only solves the problem for so long. Eventually, supplies for the preferred bags will run out entirely, and Medicare is not paying attention.

There are thousands and thousands of people like her across this country. This raises a pressing question: If these superior products are available online, why can't they be accessed through the insurance of an American?

This woman is a Medicare recipient. It is imperative that our system supports her and all our seniors who need proper, safe medical care.

This incident underscores the broader issues of our healthcare supply chain. We depend too heavily on foreign manufacturing where these medical products now come from. This exposes our citizens to vulnerabilities in quality and supply. This not only compromises the care of our citizens but also our national preparedness and health security.

In Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for onshoring and reshoring domestic manufacturing, including that of medical products and pharmaceuticals. Why should our citizens be forced to accept inferior, foreign-made knock-offs? It is cruel and, frankly, un-American.

Relying on foreign sources for medical supplies is also stupid, dangerous, and poses a danger if supply is interrupted, as we learned from the pandemic. America must regain our national security by reducing reliance on foreign manufacturers, and we must stimulate our economy by creating high-skill, high-wage jobs and reliable medical products.

Initiatives like those undertaken the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, BARDA, and the Defense Procurement Act are not merely temporary solutions. Overall, our Nation must launch a sustained effort to strengthen our domestic manufacturing capabilities.

Congress must prioritize legislation to empower agencies like Medicare and private insurers to prioritize quality in their coverage policies. We need to ensure that no patient is forced to settle for inferior care due to bureaucratic oversight or inertia, supply chain vulnerabilities, or selfish private equity companies. Our Nation must reshore medical supplies.

Statistics reveal that the use of inferior medical products significantly increases patients' risk of infections and complications. For example, studies have shown that substandard surgical supplies can increase infection rates by 25 percent. This is unacceptable, and I

say to those folks over at Medicare and Medicaid: Check out ileostomy bags. I bet the infection rates are really high.

As citizens become sicker—and lots more are, too—we continue to use inferior products. May the story I shared today serve as a manufacturing and medical call to action. We need a concerted effort to reclaim our independence in manufacturing critical health products and pharmaceuticals.

America must guarantee that every American has access to the best quality medical supplies and medicines without exception. The reputation and capability of our Nation surely depend on it.

COMPLETE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the 2025 Federal fiscal year is supposed to begin October 1, 2024, 20 days from today. Responsible Republicans and responsible Democrats are trying hard to complete the necessary 12 fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills on time as the deadline looms.

Our Nation needs regular order, not more delays, chaos, and goofy legislative tricks. Without reasonable action, uncertainty will prevail at the highest level of institutions on which our Nation depends for security and progress: Defense, Energy, Agriculture, Treasury, Transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, housing, Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and so many more, all jeopardized.

Delay jeopardizes funding America's promises to our veterans, our farmers, our first responders, and our teachers as basic functions of our government. All will be crippled across the board.

What hangs in the lurch is support for the American people, from kids in Head Start to wounded veterans trying to make appointments for their orthopedic exams.

Delay here in Congress cripples our economy. More needless shenanigans in Congress throw a monkey wrench into every Federal instrumentality created to serve the people of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us ask certain Members of Congress who cannot compromise in this Nation that leads the free world: Why do you choose to be obstructionists? Follow the simple rules of orderly government, and get the appropriations bills done on time. Do your job.

Post-COVID, our economy has been improving consistently. Interest rates dropped again today. Jobs are increasing. Wall Street is doing well. Inflation is being reduced. Debt as a share of GDP—hello—is shrinking.

So why would a handful of discontented Members choose harm when a vast majority of people in this Chamber want to make progress for the country? We need steady hands on the wheel. Let us do what our constituents sent us here to do: Govern.

The ramifications of a poisoned, partisan appropriations bill will halt hiring of Border Patrol officers, prevent contracting for Army Corps of Engi-

neers' dredging, close our parks, and stall emergency relief to communities devastated by recent natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I say to some of my friends who can't seem to reach compromise: Do you really realize what you are doing?

Here we are, on the brink of another lapse in funding caused by political brinkmanship and shortsighted partisan antics unworthy of this institution's responsibilities. This is a time for leadership, not mischief. This is a time for succeeding, not retreating. This is a time for unity, not division.

Let us do our work. Let us pass our appropriations bills on time and with dispatch.

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

BORDER CRISES FROM SEPTEMBER 11 TO TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, as I come here to the floor tonight, we all recognize that today is September 11, a date that will never sound the same, a date that now means something totally different than it did prior to 2001.

We have seen the continued recognition of those lives lost. We saw it in New York today. We saw it in Pennsylvania. We saw it at the Pentagon. We saw the flag unfurled.

I give special recognition to my good friend, Senator Brian Birdwell, a State Senator from the State of Texas. A dear friend, Senator Birdwell was perhaps the individual closest to where the airplane hit the Pentagon in 2001, and he survived.

Senator Birdwell was burned across every part of his body. He was hauled out, taken to the hospital. He didn't think he was going to make it. He was praying. Assuming that he was leaving, he was saying good-bye to his family. He survived. He is a great patriot.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a chance, look up his video called "I Am Second." Senator Brian Birdwell tells the story—it is about 7 to 10 minutes, I think—and it is well worth your time.

It is a testament to his faith, and it is a testament to his patriotism. It is a testament to all those who went through those terrible attacks that day.

Those of us who remember them, we remember them personally, closely. We had friends who were affected, and it reminds us, of course, of what happens when we leave our country wide open for attack.

We look back at September 11, and we tend to get wrapped up in the horrors of the collapsing buildings, the horrors of a plane flying into the Pentagon, but we don't spend a whole lot of time talking about the fact that the individuals who carried out that attack overstayed visas to stay in our country

because of our very broken system of border security.

Yes, "border security" I use broadly to include those individuals who we permit to come into our country and are released into our country on a visa or some other way, and they are in our country and then carry out harm.

We remember every year the almost 3,000 Americans who died in that southern part of Manhattan or in a field in Pennsylvania or in Arlington, Virginia, but where was the recognition today for the 75,000 Americans who died from fentanyl last year alone, 25 times the number of people who died on September 11? Where is the recognition of the thousands of persons who have been targeted by criminals released onto the streets of our country?

Just yesterday here in this complex, we had in the House Judiciary Committee the mothers of three Americans killed as a direct consequence of Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, President Joe Biden, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, their coordinated effort, their conspiracy to ignore the laws of the United States and put dangerous individuals on our streets that result in the deaths of Americans in real time as we speak.

Alexis Nungaray is a 27-year-old young Texas woman who chose life 12 years ago when her daughter was born, her daughter, Jocelyn, who was murdered. She was bound, raped, gagged, had her body thrown into a creek in Texas outside of Houston by two Venezuelan men who were released into our country in direct violation of our laws under parole on purpose.

□ 1930

Rachel Morin was murdered in Maryland. Her mother testified yesterday. Kayla Hamilton. We have had other stories like Laken Riley. There are dozens. There are hundreds. There are so many stories that I had my office produce a report that we put out last week titled: "America Invaded."

In that report, if you look at what is listed, you will find two full pages of 54 examples of Americans, headline stories, who have been killed, raped, assaulted, all of these, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Where is the commemoration for those Americans?

In the wake of September 11, what did we do in all of our infinite wisdom? We created a 250,000-person bureaucracy at the Department of Homeland Security. We didn't used to have this massive bureaucracy. Now we do.

Has that made us any safer or more secure?

If you are watching this as an American, do you feel more secure?

If you are an American in Springfield, Ohio, do you feel more secure with 20,000 Haitians who have been dumped into your community?

Do you feel more secure if you are in Buffalo, New York, where just 2 weeks ago, a man was finally apprehended by ICE after having been released into Texas from Peru, and we now know

that he is wanted for 23 murders in Peru. We released him into the United States.

Every one of these examples I am talking about were specifically the result of having individuals released into the United States from other countries who then carried out a vicious attack, a vicious crime, a vicious murder.

We had a witness yesterday testify to the rape and murder of a beautiful, little, 11-year-old girl. I think her name is Maria Gonzalez. If not, I will correct the RECORD, but I believe that is her name. She was killed, again, by someone who was released here into the United States who then preyed on her. Where is the commemoration?

I am going to be very blunt. I appreciate that we commemorate September 11 every September 11. That is a good thing to do. I have heard the bell now ringing for these 23 years.

Who is ringing the bell for Jocelyn Nungaray? This is a serious question.

KAMALA HARRIS was up where the World Trade Center once stood along with a bunch of other people, including former President Trump, current President Biden, former Mayor Bloomberg. Who was commemorating Jocelyn?

Will they be there next June—I think it was June—for the anniversary of her mother's pain when she woke up on Monday morning and her daughter wasn't in the house, and she ran down to the convenience store where there were police sirens and tape to find out that her little girl had been murdered? Who is commemorating that?

Who is paying attention to that? She is a devastated young mother.

Like September 11, where we failed, where we allowed visa overstays to stay in this country and then grab planes and fly into buildings, Jocelyn Nungaray is dead today because of KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden and radical, progressive Democrats who don't give a whit about whether your streets are safe, America.

Wake up. Wake up and know what the elections are about. Wake up and know what is happening in your country because your leaders in this country are failing you. Worse than failing you, they are purposefully endangering you. There is no other way to put it.

I am tired of listening to this garbage. Come up here to Washington. They say: Oh, why can't you just sit here and get along and go across to the other side of the aisle and shake hands and say: Why can't you guys just come together and solve problems? I will tell you why. I have done bipartisan bills. I have them right now, and I have friends on the other side of the aisle.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, almost to a man and a woman, don't give a damn about the borders being wide open because, if they did, they would do something about it. That is the truth.

We should start acting like that is the truth. We should stop pretending that we don't have such a wide gulf between that side of the aisle and this side of the aisle.

We have a choice right now. What world view are you choosing for your kids and your grandkids?

Again, continued tough love for my colleagues on this side of the aisle. For decades, we have been complicit by allowing the chamber of commerce to use cheap labor as their excuse for wide-open borders, which set the stage for what we are dealing with right now.

Well, those days are over. When all of the corporate whores around this town come begging for their tax breaks, I want them to come explain to the American people why we should do it when their boardrooms are chock full of radical, progressive Democrats and liberals who want ESG and want their quarterly reports to do well so their stock portfolios grow, and they come in here begging for tax cuts so they can get richer while America gets screwed.

If you are living in Springfield, Ohio, right now, you don't give a damn about the guys in the corporate boardroom over in New York City, in Manhattan, or maybe in the tall buildings in Cleveland. You don't care about how rich they are getting, but you care that there are now 20,000 Haitian migrants sitting in your community, that your grandfathers and your grandmothers and your moms and your dads worked hard to build and now is being trashed.

I could promise you, if you are like those young women who were testifying at the Judiciary Committee yesterday, who were migrants themselves—a young woman talking about her dad who came here from Mexico and fought and worked hard and didn't take government handouts. He said he was going to do it the right way and that the American Dream wasn't about being given something from government. Then he had to sit here and watch his granddaughter get murdered because of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, every single one of them, own it.

Every single one of them should march their happy rear ends down to Texas and beg for forgiveness. Beg for forgiveness from Alexis Nungaray and Alexis Nungaray's father because Jocelyn Nungaray got raped, bound, gagged, murdered, by the people released by Democrats in the White House.

Let's not pretend that there isn't a mile of difference between Republicans and Conservatives and Democrats and radical Progressives. There is a mile of difference.

I am not going to sit here and pretend, let's all get in a room and talk to each other nicely, pat each other on the back and say: Oh, man, can't we just have these halcyon days of old, have a beer like Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan?

Not if you don't believe in America. Not if you don't believe in sovereignty. Not if you don't believe in the rule of law. Not if you believe it is okay to release 5½ million people into our country, utterly disregarding how many criminals you are releasing and allowing Americans to get slaughtered.

Why don't you get in the car, drive up here to Aberdeen, Maryland, and talk to Kayla Hamilton or Rachel Morin's family.

Why don't you beg for forgiveness, get on your knees in the House Chamber and say: I am sorry that I was so focused on my own political well-being that I would endanger the American people, because that is what you are doing.

Finally, my colleagues on this side of the aisle, in getting H.R. 2 passed, has finally forsaken the chamber of commerce's death grip on the Republican Party saying: we need our cheap labor.

We haven't even scratched the surface.

We haven't even begun to do what is necessary to take our country back because, when President Trump talks about mass deportations, he means it. I mean it. I hope to hell Republicans on this side of the aisle mean it because 5½ million people dumped into the United States without vetting, without knowledge of who the hell they are. We have the House Judiciary Committee recognizing 99 people on the terrorist watch list released into the United States, and 35,000 Chinese nationals this year, and the year is not even over.

Who are these people?

I flew out to Aurora, Colorado, last week. I went to an apartment complex area, met with the people who were there, talked to one of the residents of the building, talked to the tenant who put a camera on her door; she is not lying. Yet, we have Colorado Democrats who are trying to say it is a lie that Venezuelan gangs are running those apartment complexes. They get on Twitter, and they say: Not true. It is a figment of their imagination.

That is why I flew to Aurora, talked to the woman. She walked me through the fact that the manager of the apartment complex isn't there anymore.

The manager of the apartment complex left and fled and feared for his life. For 2 months, there was no manager there. They put the cameras up. The cameras then showed what the entire world has now seen, which is armed thugs running around the apartment complex. We are told they smashed doors down, changed the locks on the building.

We had a businessman who was there who helped the woman move out and said he basically stepped into the Third World for a number of hours while he was helping her move out.

This is coming to every street in America. Wake up.

We play up here, playing Tiddledy Winks, talking about CRs, and nobody even knows where the hell they are. We go around talking about all these different things. Let's get together and pass a resolution and a messaging thing this week.

What are we going to do to finally just say no?

You don't have to take this, you know?

We are supposed to be a free people. We are supposedly endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We established this government in the very preamble of the Constitution.

What does it say? It lays out the purpose of the government being to secure the blessings of liberty. It is not to give crap away. As I have said before on the House floor, we are not supposed to be the United States House of free stuff. We are not the United States Congress here to give you a check. We are killing the American Dream.

Congress, the administration, are actively killing the American Dream in real time. We voted on another bill for another program that spends more money that we don't have. We rack up more debt. We increase the interest. At no point are we actually securing the country.

We have been at war for a quarter of a century in some form or fashion. I don't even know how many trillions: 8, 9? I have lost count on how many trillions we have spent engaged in conflict, directly in Iraq and Afghanistan, only to tuck tail and run when Biden and the current brass bailed and left those 13 heroes stranded to die.

How many trillions? How many American men and women were injured, lost their legs, lost an eye, PTSD: 80,000, 100,000, or more with PTSD?

How many suicides a day?

We have been at war for a quarter of a century.

In this town, we can't even fight for you, the American people, to actually secure you with a secure border, with secure communities, and with an economy that isn't blown to hell by irresponsible government spending.

Do you want to know why? In the false name of defense and in the false name of securing this country because the defense world tells me every year, if I don't vote for one of these bloated spending bills, we won't get a new submarine.

□ 1945

We won't get a new carrier. What the hell are we trying to defend? What is left of the United States to defend? A school where I can't send my child to pray to God without spending \$20,000 a year on top of the taxes I pay. A school that my friend sends her sixth grader to with a trans music teacher asking her kid to do some dance in class. Yes, it is a true story.

Is that what we are defending with carriers and missiles and endless wars? Are we defending a country where Jocelyn Nungaray gets raped and murdered, or Rachel Morin gets raped and murdered because we release dangerous migrants into the streets of America?

Since I literally released this 40-page report last week, I can't even keep up with the news stories since we put it out.

In Virginia, just 30 miles from here, a teenage girl was abducted by a Peru-

vian illegal immigrant, arrested, who had been released into the interior by this administration. A Palestinian migrant accused of beating a Jewish New York man, released into America because he claimed he wouldn't be safe.

We had two of the people in Aurora, Colorado, where I said I went to that were apprehended by ICE after they had been released into the country, arrested, released on bond because we can't detain them because our entire policies have been turned on their head.

We sit here in September, and we have this grand debate about whether we are going to do a continuing resolution for 75 days or 6 months or a year. Will we include the SAVE Act to ensure that American citizens vote? Heaven forbid that we stand up and say, only American citizens should vote in American elections. It is an 80 percent issue.

We have legislation that would fix it. We had a hearing yesterday in which Secretaries of State, experts on the matter, all acknowledged you need the law to guarantee that only American citizens vote in American elections.

Now, we are having a debate about that. What can we put forward on the floor? With all due respect to some of my conservative colleagues that gag on an add. I can't support a CR because 12 appropriations bills must be passed. Okay. Five have been passed. Now, what?

We actually have to figure out how to proceed. I think maybe we could just fund the government for a few months and try to make sure elections are secure, or let's pick a different fight.

Why don't we actually stand up and do something to make this country better? If we do get a CR to December and if Republicans do win the elections in November, what the hell are we going to do with it? Will we fight? I would like to go to the American people over the next 60 days and say, yes, we are going to fight, and you can believe us this time.

I would like to say that Republicans will be bold enough to do what our Democratic colleagues have done repeated times in the last two decades, which is risk your precious, risk your election certificate.

Stop starting off every Congress saying, well, if we do this, we risk our majority makers. What good is it to be in Congress if you don't do something with your election certificate and then go sell it to the people you represent as being the right thing to do?

I have been in tight districts. I have done that. Every single constituent that I represent are fed up. They are fed up with a country that they no longer recognize. They love their country, but the government that they have entrusted to maintain that country, that their fathers and grandfathers fought, bled, and died for has been turned into something they no longer recognize.

I am glad that we have people today on September 11 commemorating those

lost. I am glad that we show patriotism. I am glad that we put the flag on the Pentagon, but until we recognize that every single day because of our policies in this Chamber and in the other Chamber and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, Americans are suffering with high inflation, with houses that they can't afford, and with their own people getting murdered and slaughtered on the streets or in their homes.

I cannot imagine just 2 months ago, Alexis Nungaray waking up and her 12-year-old daughter not being in the house, only to find out she is dead after having been raped while the mom was sleeping in the house. This has all happened because KAMALA HARRIS and all of her cronies in the administration chose and still choose, as I speak, to release dangerous individuals on the streets of our country.

I am sure I am going to get some sort of admonition for directing some of my venom to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue; but the fact is, the leaders of this country need to be warned. We better get busy fixing this country or the American people are not going to take it anymore, and I will be right there supporting them.

I am sick and tired of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle not showing up and not doing what we said we would do. I am particularly sick of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle daring to lie to the American people that they somehow believe in securing the border when they put forward legislation that would have codified the very parole policies that have, since they introduced the dang bill, been used to slaughter and kill innocent American citizens.

This is not a negotiation. You don't negotiate for your safety and your security. You just get busy doing it. I can promise you that whatever happens with this election, I am going to be a loud voice for the State of Texas to stick their middle finger up at this godforsaken city and say we are going to secure our State. All of the other people in all of the other States be damned because we have an obligation to do it.

When our people are dying and our people are hurting and we are spending \$13 billion of our own money, where the hell is this Congress and this Senate backing up the people of Texas? When we joined this Union, we were promised something, and we are being denied it.

On behalf of every single one of those moms that come to my office in tears because their kids died from fentanyl or because their little girl was raped and murdered, and for every one of those tombstones that I drive by in Arlington coming to office every day, who either gave or risked the last full measure of devotion, they didn't do it for this. They didn't risk it for this.

They risked it to live free and secure and have opportunity in a country that is sovereign and safe. It is time for us to do our job, and it is time for the

American people to do their job this fall and make sure that the right leaders are running this country.

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

DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE PROPOSED FLORIDA STATE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT 4

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the proposed Florida State Constitution amendment No. 4.

Amendment 4 is a dangerous and ill-advised amendment that will make women and newborns less safe. Amendment 4 will overturn multiple State laws and regulations meant to protect the health and safety of women and children.

As a medical doctor, I know how dangerous abortion procedures can be. The Florida State legislature has wisely placed safeguards that protect the health and safety of women and babies in our State.

These include a requirement for a physician to perform the procedure, sanitation standards, and follow-up care requirements. None of these safeguards are included in amendment 4.

Additionally, the vague viability standard outlined in amendment 4 invites litigation and controversy, and I am personally opposed to it.

I have witnessed firsthand as medicine has evolved to allow babies born earlier and earlier in pregnancy to survive. If amendment 4 passes, babies who can survive outside the womb will be left unprotected.

In fact, I, myself, have performed a number of in utero surgeries on unborn babies as young as 18 weeks. These fragile lives are worth saving and modern medicine has made it possible.

I am unapologetically pro-life, and amendment 4 is a step in the wrong direction. This dangerous amendment will jeopardize the health and safety of women and babies across the State and lead to unsafe and even full-term abortions.

I will be voting "no" on amendment 4, and I urge all Floridians to oppose it. I also urge all Americans across the country to oppose similar ballot measures in their State.

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

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. 1076.—An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, 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. 1608.—An act to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 12, 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-5269. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Procedures for the Active and Inactive Vessel Register [Docket No.: 191203-0099] (RIN: 0648-BH48) received August 20, 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-5270. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019-2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 180625576-8999-02] (RIN: 0648-BH93) received August 20, 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-5271. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Interim 2020 Recreational Measures [Docket No.: 200214-0057] (RIN: 0648-BJ57) received August 20, 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-5272. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures

for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Fishing Year 2018 [Docket No.: 180220193-8488-02] (RIN: 0648-BH79) received August 20, 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-5273. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 58 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2019; Correction [Docket No.: 200110-0007; RTID 0648-XX008] received August 20, 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-5274. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan; 2024 Annual Management Measures [Docket No.: 240229-0065; RTID 0648-XD690] received August 20, 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-5275. A letter from the Acting Director, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 180117042-8884-02] (RTID: 0648-XT033) received August 20, 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-5276. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category January Through March Fishery for 2024 [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD658] received August 20, 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-5277. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category and Harpoon Category Retention Limit Adjustments [Docket No.: 220919-0193] (RTID: 0648-XD944) received August 20, 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-5278. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 230306-0065; RTID 0648-XD264] received August 20, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TURNER: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 8512. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-662). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROY, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 9534. A bill to enforce the rights protected by the Second and Fourteenth Amendments against the States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 9535. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 South Patterson Avenue in Santa Barbara, California, as the "Brigadier General Frederick R. Lopez Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 9536. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with respect to vehicle roadside accidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 9537. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Federal Real Anti-fraud Unified Directorate, to require agencies implement anti-fraud controls for programs susceptible to significant improper payments and high-priority programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 9538. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish certain requirements for meat, poultry, fruit, and vegetable purchases by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 9539. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse public employee retirement systems for accidental disability retirements and accidental deaths resulting from the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. FRY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 9540. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require regulated persons to identify tabletting machines and encapsulating machines by serial number; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 9541. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 9542. A bill to suspend compliance of reporting requirements related to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 9543. A bill to establish a commission to study the creation of a national sovereign wealth fund by the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr.

TRONE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 9544. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9545. A bill to provide for the electronic submission of domestic violence information and communications with visa applicants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms.

WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SELF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 9546. A bill to promote democracy in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Rules, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9547. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on firefighter rapid intervention team training and equipment at Department of Defense facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9548. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on high-impact tutoring in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms.

SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. CASAR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. FROST, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CHU, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 1437. A resolution designating the week beginning on September 9, 2024, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H. Res. 1438. A resolution condemning the horrific shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, recognizing the victims, and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H. Res. 1439. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 7, 2024, as “Liturgical Dance Day” and the International Dance Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1440. A resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. JAMES, and Mr. RYAN):

H. Res. 1441. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2024, as “Patriot Week”; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H. Res. 1442. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week beginning on September 8, 2024, as “Celebrate Community Week”; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

garding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 9534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

2nd Amendment

The single subject of this legislation is:

2nd Amendment

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 9535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Postal legislation

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 9536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl.1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Public Works

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 9537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S.C.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill addresses issues of fraud and improper payments, including by establishing the Federal Real Antifraud Unified Directorate within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 9538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to ensure that USDA uses its immense purchasing power to support local and regional food systems and to create market opportunities for small and mid-sized farms.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 9539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would allow FEMA to reimburse the State and City pension systems for the loss in pension payments due to the unanticipated deaths of those who responded the terrorist attacks and who participated in the clean-up in the weeks following the attacks.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 9540.

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 Controlled Substances Act to require regulated persons to identify tableting machines and encapsulating machines by serial number

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 9541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is disaster response.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 9542.

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 suspend compliance of reporting requirements related to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 9543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fiscal Policy

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 9544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 Enumerated Powers, Clause 7 Post Offices.

The Congress shall have Power To establish Post Offices and post Roads.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building.”

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Streamlining Visas

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Venezuela Sanctions

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:

Studying DoD firefighter training and equipment to better protect military firefighters

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:

Supporting military families by expanding access to high-impact tutoring programs at DoDEA schools

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 53: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. STRONG, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. D’ESPOSITO.

H.R. 87: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 92: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 333: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 1015: Mr. BRECHEN.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted re-

- H.R. 1139: Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 1239: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1277: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1491: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1507: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1572: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1608: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1666: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1705: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1770: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1822: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 1826: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1833: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 2413: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2474: Mr. PENCE and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2501: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2584: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2620: Mr. ZINKE, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BOST, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 2700: Mr. HILL and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2743: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 2748: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2818: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2889: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.
H.R. 2909: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 2971: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 3110: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3206: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 3378: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3398: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3413: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 3432: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3606: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3694: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 3730: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 3811: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3851: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3868: Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 3909: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3933: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3966: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 4006: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4020: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4034: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4118: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4157: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. BRECHEN.
H.R. 4268: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4333: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4335: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 4340: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 4343: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 4432: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. AMO, Mr. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4741: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 4974: Mr. RYAN and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5035: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5077: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 5103: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 5198: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5199: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 5312: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5451: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 5488: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 5502: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5563: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5578: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5614: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5625: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 5664: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5765: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5929: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 6013: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 6031: Mr. FROST, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 6205: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 6225: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 6242: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 6347: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 6371: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 6382: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 6411: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 6451: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 6687: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 6773: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6892: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 6951: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 6957: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 7002: Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 7042: Mr. STAUBER and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 7050: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 7059: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 7142: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 7195: Mr. WALTZ and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 7293: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 7297: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 7384: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 7450: Mr. STRONG and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 7479: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 7563: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 7569: Ms. LEE of Florida and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 7599: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 7634: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 7735: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 7752: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 7764: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 7793: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 7811: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 7829: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 8018: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 8061: Ms. MANNING, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. MALOY, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 8066: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 8147: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 8164: Ms. MENG and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 8193: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 8231: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 8331: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 8340: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 8371: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 8383: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 8398: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 8404: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 8412: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 8419: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 8446: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 8481: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 8514: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 8568: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 8641: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 8702: Mr. FROST, Mr. ELLZEY, and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 8715: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 8758: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 8777: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 8796: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 8836: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 8915: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 8928: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 8977: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 9014: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9035: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 9060: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 9093: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 9096: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 9101: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9125: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 9129: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 9137: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 9151: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CARL, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 9182: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 9218: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 9255: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 9260: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 9274: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 9319: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9340: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 9448: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9462: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 9472: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 9479: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 9486: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9495: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 9516: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 9523: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 9525: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 9527: Mr. ESTES.
H.J. Res. 8: Mr. BARR.
H.J. Res. 144: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.J. Res. 164: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.J. Res. 167: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.J. Res. 193: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 128: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H. Res. 566: Mrs. DINGELL.
H. Res. 1131: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H. Res. 1286: Mrs. PELTOLA and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H. Res. 1338: Mr. PFLUGER.
H. Res. 1422: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 1423: Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMERE, and Mr. MULLIN.
H. Res. 1432: Mr. RASKIN.
H. Res. 1435: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H. Res. 1436: Ms. TLAI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. DELUZIO.



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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our shelter and shield, today we remember 9/11. As we recall the tragedy, infamy, and heroism of that day, we better understand that freedom isn't free.

We remember how the pain united us so that we knew we were not hyphenated Americans but one people. Infuse us in these challenging times with a similar spirit of oneness, inspiring us to work for the well-being of all people.

Lord, we are grateful for the protection You have provided us for the 23 years since that calamitous day. May we continue to trust You to be our refuge for the future of this land we love. Continue to use our lawmakers as instruments of Your peace.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 23 years ago today, forces of evil brought their war on the United States to American soil. They filled a clear blue

sky with smoke, fire, and the shattered lives of 2,977 innocent people.

Before the dust had settled, the world witnessed the extraordinary heroism of first responders, the compassion of neighbors and volunteers, and the will of a proud nation not to let this savagery go unanswered.

The terrorists had started this war, but America resolved to finish it. At times, that resolve has wavered. Over the years since September 11, 2001, I have counseled administrations of both parties not to shortchange, hamstring, or abandon our fight against the terrorists or let up on the adversaries who support them. I have urged colleagues in Congress not to make the job of the warfighter harder by taking essential counterterrorism authorities off the table, and I will continue to do so as our colleagues consider our recent vote on section 702 and the one we will take in less than 2 years to further extend this vital intelligence collection authority.

The Biden-Harris administration pretends the War on Terrorism is over. The Vice President herself claimed last night that "there is not one member of the United States military who is in active duty in a combat zone . . . [for] the first time this century."

Well, this, of course, would be news to U.S. servicemembers who conducted operations against ISIS in Iraq last week and to the sailors intercepting Houthi rockets in the Red Sea and to the families of servicemembers killed and injured in the attack on Tower 22 near Jordan's border with Syria earlier this year.

Our current Commander in Chief and the Biden-Harris administration are not the first to chase the tail of shutting down terrorist detention at Guantanamo Bay. They are not the first to indulge in the idea of a pivot away from a region full of important U.S. interests. They are not the first to suggest that America gets to decide unilaterally when threats from Afghanistan end, but they were the ones who

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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followed through with the disastrous retreat that torched American credibility and left 13 servicemembers dead.

The administration pinned its hopes on the mistaken idea that because the U.S.-led coalition had made tremendous progress in keeping terrorist threats under control, we could continue to do so from over the horizon. So how is that going? Despite assurances from the Secretary of Defense that over-the-horizon operations would not suffer from a lack of human intelligence after the U.S. withdrawal, the administration hasn't conducted a single strike—not one—against ISIS-K, the terrorists responsible for the Abbey Gate bombing, among other atrocities, since 2001. Of course, that is not because the terrorists have been quiet. In fact, by one analysis this year, ISIS-K planned 21 external plots or attacks in 9 countries in the previous 12 months alone, compared to just 3 between 2018 and the spring of 2022.

The ODNI annual threat assessment was forced to acknowledge that “terrorists will maintain an interest in conducting attacks . . . against U.S. persons, allies, and interests worldwide.” Indeed, America's retreat from Afghanistan has invited violence elsewhere, from the resurgence of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, to the AQAP in Yemen, to al-Qaida affiliates across the Sahel. And then there is Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah and the Houthis and Iraqi terrorist groups, all of whom have been trained and equipped, aided and abetted, by the world's most active state sponsor of terror—Iran.

Hamas's attack on October 7 is described as Israel's September 11. Relative to population, it was actually September 11 15 times over. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, and it wouldn't have been possible without the involvement of Tehran.

The chaos stemming from this genocidal assault and the violent choreography by the IRGC of attacks on Israel and U.S. interests across the region are evidence of the failure of this administration's passive, accommodating approach to Iran and its terrorist proxies.

America's weakness and hesitation will not deter our adversaries. Withholding critical assistance from partners on the frontlines will not defeat them. This is true in Israel just as it is true in Ukraine.

There is no doubt that allies, partners, and adversaries in Asia and elsewhere are watching a tentative America pull its punches. They are questioning our resolve and our commitment to our friends.

If we are unwilling to change Iran's calculus and compel an end to attacks on American forces in Iraq and Syria or international vessels on the high seas and if we are unwilling to stand with partners like Israel or Ukraine, can we be trusted to stand up to the PRC?

Twenty-three years ago, a dangerous world struck America here at home.

We must not wait for today's threats to do the same.

BIDENOMICS

Mr. President, on another matter, since President Biden took office, consumer prices have increased more than 20 percent. That is the hard truth of the monthly inflation report, and it is worth remembering where it came from.

Vice President HARRIS has said:

“We are very proud of Bidenomics.”

Well, she should be. After all, it was the Vice President herself whose vote here in the Senate helped send our economy into a historic inflationary spiral. Back in March 2021, she cast the tie-breaking vote on the motion to proceed to the so-called American Rescue Plan, and in August 2022, she did the same for passage of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

Sure enough, the Vice President is rather proud of this record. The way she tells it, “Through all our work, President Biden and I are building an economy that works for working people.” But does it really? Does it really work for working people? If you ask some of the folks I talked to last month, you would likely hear a different story.

Two years on, high prices in the wake of the Inflation Reduction Act are still forcing working Americans to make tough choices. A mother in North Carolina told a reporter recently:

Sometimes I have to choose whether I am going to pay the light bill or pay all the rent or buy food or not let my son do a sport.

Surging prices are especially challenging for seniors on a fixed income. One Pennsylvania retiree observed recently that she was “down to eating ramen for lunch, which I never ate in my life until recently. If it is not marked down, I just don't eat it. I haven't eaten beef since I don't know when. I can't afford it.”

This is the economy that Vice President HARRIS has said is working for working people. This is Bidenomics in action—or perhaps it is time to give the economy the Vice President is so proud of a new name.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to take a moment to acknowledge what today is: 23 years ago, terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and 23 years since a heroic group of Americans prevented even greater tragedy by bringing down a fourth hijacked plane

before it could crash into another target.

As on every September 11 since that black day, we remember the heroes who rose up—at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in that bare field near Shanksville, PA—and we mourn all those who were lost.

My prayers, as always, are with the families of all those who still grieve their fallen loved ones and with all those whose calling is to respond to danger and stand between us and terror.

2024 ELECTIONS

Mr. President, there has been a dizzying amount of change in the Democrat Party over the past couple of months. First, and obviously, there was the replacement of President Biden with KAMALA HARRIS on the ticket. Democrat voters who had gone to the polls in the primaries and cast a vote for President Biden were informed that, in fact, the delegates they had chosen would be supporting Vice President HARRIS instead.

That was a big change but not the only one. There is also the new Democrat nominee's attempt to reinvent herself. It began 5 short years ago since KAMALA HARRIS was running for President in the Democrat primary as a leftist. She endorsed, among other things, a ban on fracking, taxpayer-funded gender reassignment surgeries for detained immigrants, decriminalizing drug possession, decriminalizing illegal border crossings, mandatory buybacks of certain guns—and I could go on.

Of course, none of that was a big surprise. After all, then-Senator HARRIS—a supporter of a government takeover of healthcare and the budget-busting Green New Deal—regularly made lists of most liberal Senators. But what is surprising is the apparent 180-degree flip she has made in the past—well, let's say, 7 weeks or so in this campaign.

She opposed a border wall; now she apparently supports one. She supported a ban on fracking; well, now she opposes one. She supported Medicare for All—the Federal takeover of healthcare—and now says she won't push for it if she is President. She supported mandatory gun buybacks; now she won't push for them. She supported an electric vehicle mandate; and now, apparently, she doesn't.

I could go on, on that list. It is amazing what a brief 7 weeks or so can do or perhaps I should say it is amazing what getting nominated for President can do. But it seems that despite her apparent move to the center, progressive voters should not be alarmed.

A far-left compatriot of the Vice President, the senior Senator from Vermont, whose Medicare for All government healthcare takeover she co-sponsored, was asked on “Meet the Press” last weekend whether he thought Vice President HARRIS was abandoning her progressive ideals. “No,” he answered, “I don't think she's abandoning her ideals. I think she's

trying to be pragmatic in doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election."

"I think she is trying to be pragmatic and doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election."

Well, nothing like saying the quiet part out loud. I suspect he is right, and I suspect that one of the Senate's most liberal Senators could quickly become one of the Nation's most liberal Presidents.

I think it is fair to say we have gotten a taste over the last 4 years as to what government under KAMALA HARRIS looks like, and so far it mostly looks like a historic inflation crisis, a raging border crisis, and uncertainty on the global stage.

When I say the past 4 years have looked like a historic inflation crisis and a raging border crisis, I do mean the past 4 years. Inflation started spiking within 2 months of President Biden and Vice President HARRIS taking office, thanks in large part to Democrats' American Rescue Plan's spending spree, a spending spree, I might add, for which KAMALA HARRIS cast the deciding vote. And almost 4 years later, inflation is still above the Federal Reserve's target inflation rate. Americans are now paying a staggering \$13,000 more a year just to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office—\$13,000.

Vice President HARRIS recently said in her speech at the Democratic National Convention that her administration would work on lowering the cost of everyday needs like groceries. Well, why hasn't she tried that already? She is not an outsider coming into office. She has been in office for the past 4 years. If there was something she thought she could do to bring down prices, why hasn't she done it already?

And Democrats' nearly 4-year inflation crisis has been matched by the Biden-Harris border crisis. Border numbers started spiking almost immediately after President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office after they sent the message on day one that border security was at the bottom of their priority list. The ensuing crisis has raged for almost the entirety of the Biden-Harris administration until fears of losing reelection prompted President Biden to at least take some too-little-too-late action this summer.

I could go on and talk about the Biden-Harris administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan or the deep uncertainty on the world stage that has characterized their tenure. I could also talk about the ways that they are putting us on track for an energy crisis, but I will stop here. Suffice it to say, after the past 4 years, no one has to wonder what Democrat governance would look like, and I hope our country and American families will be spared another 4 years of it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I watched the debate last night. It was

memorable. It was not a good evening for the former President of the United States. I have had more than one person tell me that the people who were watching laughed out loud when he started his rant about immigrants eating dogs and cats. It is an indication, I am afraid, that the former President Donald Trump, when it comes to the issue of immigration, is unhinged. You never know what he is going to say next.

But I think that Vice President KAMALA HARRIS made it clear in her explanation that it was within the grasp and power of former President Donald Trump to do something about the border crisis and the immigration crisis and that he not only failed but he designed a strategy to sabotage efforts on a bipartisan basis to do something.

Specifically, I can recall—and you can as well—that we were told that there was a bipartisan effort underway to write a border bill. Senator LANKFORD, a conservative Republican from the State of Oklahoma, joined with Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut, a Democrat, to put together, with months of effort, such a bill. We were told hands off. Step away. Let them do this. Let them put something on the floor that is meaningful and is bipartisan and has a chance of passing both the Senate and the House. We were underway, and such a piece of legislation was constructed.

But what happened at the last minute? At the last minute, Donald Trump, very publicly, stepped forward and said: I want to stop this bill from passing. I want the bipartisan bill not to pass, and you can blame it on me, he said. You can blame it on me. He stopped the bipartisan effort to pass a bill that would have been helpful to the border in reducing the number of people who have been coming across that border.

The Border Patrol Agency—men and women who risk their lives every day in service of this country on the border—endorsed this bipartisan bill. It was an indication that we finally—after 30 years of trying—may be on the right track when it comes to immigration, at least when it comes to the border crisis. And who stopped it? Donald Trump stopped the immigration reform bill—the bipartisan effort—and publicly admitted it and took credit for it. You didn't hear that last night, did you? No, but there was a lot of complaining about the immigration issue and the border.

The simple reality is this: President Trump singlehandedly, personally, threatened those who were going to vote for such a bill. If I remember, only seven Republicans finally did. I wish more had. It wasn't a bill I would have written, but I was prepared to accept it as a final effort for a bipartisan compromise.

So I would say to those who watched the debate and wanted to have raised the issue of immigration, they still need an answer as to why Donald Trump stopped the only bipartisan ef-

fort in recent memory in the U.S. Senate.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. President, today marks the 23rd year since one of the darkest days in our country's history, the attacks of September 11, 2001.

I can vividly recall that day. I was in this building—just a few feet away—in a room for a morning meeting. We happened to notice on the television set that was playing in the room there that there was some news about a tower—tall building—in New York being struck by an airplane. We didn't know much more about it. Then the second plane went into an adjoining tower, and we knew that something was wrong, dreadfully wrong. Then we looked out on the Mall, down the Mall from the Capitol Building, and saw black billowing smoke coming from the Pentagon. That image is seared into my mind, and that day will forever be imprinted on our Nation's collective memory.

Twenty-three years after that devastating day, we still mourn the 2,977 innocent lives lost at the World Trade Center in New York, at the Pentagon in Virginia, and in a field near Shanksville, PA. That includes 343 heroic members of the New York City Fire Department, 71 law enforcement officers who died at the World Trade Center, and 55 military personnel who died at the Pentagon.

Last weekend, the "60 Minutes" television show rebroadcast the show on the fire department heroes from the city of New York. There were personal interviews of men who were at the scene and watched their comrades—dedicated firefighters—not only risk their lives but willingly give their lives to try to rescue the victims of September 11. It is a heartbreaking episode and one every American should see if you want to know what heroism looks like. It was an extraordinary effort by all involved and many others who weren't part of that program.

We continue to reflect on how these acts of pure evil have forever altered our sense of security and safety and how we must remain faithful to the Constitution while protecting the American people.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on a separate topic, we are 3 weeks away from our annual deadline to fund the government, one of the most essential tasks of Congress. It is hard to imagine just weeks before the Presidential election that the Republican Speaker of the House would risk a government shutdown and really guarantee an image of chaos in his service to this country.

Here in the Senate, under the leadership of Appropriations Committee Chair PATTY MURRAY of Washington and Ranking Member SUSAN COLLINS, a Republican of Maine, we passed 11 out

of the 12 spending bills out of the committee on a bipartisan basis. We are doing our jobs in the Senate. Unfortunately, recent history is repeating itself in the House under the leadership of Speaker Johnson. Instead of coming to the negotiating table with their Democratic colleagues—the only way to pass meaningful legislation in a divided Congress—or following the budget deal signed into law last year, they have been crafting partisan bills full of cuts and poison pills.

Now, rather than take the Senate's lead in prioritizing responsible funding bills that can actually become law, House Republicans are once again trying to delay long-term funding agreements at the expense of the American people. House Republicans introduced a continuing resolution to push our job to fund the government until March of next year, a 6-month delay from our annual deadline of September 30.

As if this weren't already a blow to our Nation, which relies on critical programs that depend on this funding, the Speaker is once again hitching his already misguided government funding wagon to an outrageous and partisan provision. This time, it is the so-called SAVE Act. The so-called Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, would make it more difficult for American citizens to register to vote and would inevitably lead to eligible registered voters being purged from the voter rolls.

Two things; first, it is already against the law in every State for non-citizens to vote; second, noncitizens rarely, if ever, vote. In the extremely rare scenario when a noncitizen votes—listen to this—that individual can be federally prosecuted and sentenced for up to 5 years in prison, 5 years for a noncitizen voting.

Put simply, there is no need for additional criminal penalties to deter non-citizen voting. The reality is that the SAVE Act would create problematic barriers for American citizens who are legally eligible to vote. Instead, we should be working together on bipartisan legislation to address real threats to our elections, such as AI technologies that can be used to spread disinformation to voters.

The American people are tired of partisan bickering. They want us to do our jobs on a bipartisan basis. I encourage Speaker Johnson and House Republicans to put politics aside. Like the Senate, take your duty seriously to fund the government and avoid an unnecessary and damaging shutdown.

To the Speaker, like it or not, this requires working with the other side of the aisle to find common ground. The American people expect that of us. Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the need to get our Nation and our economy back on track.

We learned this morning the new numbers have come out on inflation. Prices are higher today than they were the day that the Biden-Harris administration took over—by over 20 percent. I hear about it in Wyoming every weekend; I heard about it this past weekend, how high prices have become and the crushing effect that that has had on families in my State in Wyoming and all around the country. This has been going on now for over 3 years. Prices have continued to go up. And this crisis of high prices has been cumulative. The impact on families—cumulative. And it is, regrettably, causing very hard choices for families to make. It shouldn't be this way.

Here is a recent headline from CBS News. It said: "More Americans are having to choose between food and energy bills." Clearly, this is a reflection on the Biden-Harris administration.

Now, one of those folks who talked about that—the quote is from Stacey Freeman. Ms. Freeman says her energy bills each month cost her hundreds of dollars. She told CBS News: "Sometimes I have to choose," she says, "whether I'm going to pay the light bill or . . . pay all the rent or buy food or not let my son do a sport."

That is what has happened under the Biden-Harris administration—the impact of the high prices caused by the massive amounts of government spending passed without a single Republican vote that stimulated an amount of increase in prices—the highest in 40 years.

Ms. Freeman's story is, sadly, all too common. Many Americans are feeling the high cost and the high anxiety related to the high cost of goods and services in their lives. Nearly 4 out of 10—2 out of 5—Americans say they worry about their ability to pay their own bills. Since 2019, utilities cost the average American almost \$300 more each month—not \$300 a month, \$300 more each month—than what they were paying before. These are the costly and cumulative consequences of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS's war on affordable and reliable American energy.

Mr. President, you ask people anywhere around the country, and they know this is an administration that has strongly come out against American energy. They froze Federal oil and gas leases. They discouraged new energy production. They issued regulations to ban gas-powered vehicles—the kind of vehicles most Americans drive. So it is not a surprise that high energy prices continue to bother and cause pain for American families.

Month after month, year after year, Americans watch their costs go up and, regrettably, see their savings, if they have savings, go down.

The Biden-Harris administration has offered no solutions to our Nation's cost-of-living crisis. Democrats, instead, tell the American people: Don't believe the pricetags at the grocery stores or the price at the gas pump. They want you to believe everything is OK. Americans know that isn't so.

We learned last month that the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is supposed to keep accurate unemployment data—well, they reported faulty numbers. A million jobs touted by the Biden-Harris administration do not actually exist. They never existed. They never were created. Yet the Biden-Harris administration claimed credit for jobs that do not exist.

Meanwhile, we have had 2 straight months where job growth was lower than expected.

America, today, has fewer manufacturing jobs than we did last year. In Michigan, autoworkers are getting laid off. Last month, the carmaker Stellantis announced plans to lay off more than 2,000 American workers from its plants in Detroit. This is the same carmaker that received hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies—a tidal wave of electric vehicle grants—from the Biden-Harris administration, and they are laying off people. Take the money from the government—from the Biden administration, from the Harris administration—and lay off workers.

It is no surprise that last night in the debate, KAMALA HARRIS couldn't even answer the first question when they asked: Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago—are the American people better off now than they were 4 years ago? She could not defend herself, could not say yes, because people are not better off now than they were 4 years ago.

These recent layoffs—they come as they switch their assembly lines from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. Thousands of American workers will soon be put in the unemployment line as a result of what HARRIS and Biden and the Democrats are continuing to promote.

Democrat regulations, Democrat rhetoric—a rhetoric of impending climate doom—are crushing American jobs. It is no wonder that Biden and HARRIS are now running from their record, and it is a record of ruin for the economy. Their flip-flops, walk-backs, the coverups—all too apparent.

The American people know that the policies of Vice President HARRIS have had a chilling impact on our American economy. When then-Senator HARRIS was rated the most liberal Member of the U.S. Senate, Americans listened. When Vice President HARRIS said recently that her values had not changed, people listened again. Americans are struggling, and Biden-Harris policies and the Democrat policies are to blame.

Remember how we got here: Democrats passed trillions of dollars in reckless, radical, runaway spending. It was

so unpopular, not a single Republican voted for it. It had to pass with a tie-breaking vote. Who broke the vote? Well, the Vice President of the United States comes to the Senate to cast the tie-breaking vote, and that would be KAMALA HARRIS, now the candidate of the Democrats for President of the United States. Vice President HARRIS came to this Chamber, sat in that chair, and cast the vote that broke the tie that brought us record-high inflation, 40-year-high inflation.

Americans cannot afford 4 more years of failure. Americans need a break from the damaging policies of Vice President HARRIS. What HARRIS is proposing is more wasteful Washington spending. HARRIS wants to raise taxes on the middle-class, impose socialist-style price controls. She supports banning fracking. She supports banning gas-powered vehicles. She wants to make energy more expensive. That is how she voted, that is what her rhetoric has been, and, as she said, her values haven't changed. Vice President HARRIS would continue the nightmare of high prices and high taxes.

Let's remember, it was different 3½ years ago under the Trump administration. Back then, paychecks were going up. Inflation was nonexistent. Americans were breaking free of poverty. Americans were energy dominant. Our southern border was safe and secure. Not anymore. People want to go back to those days of American prosperity again.

So it is time to turn the page from the disastrous policies of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS. Republicans will work to lower prices, to unleash American energy, and to get this Nation back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of the nomination of Heather Cahoon to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Udall Foundation.

Congress created the Udall Foundation in 1992 as an independent executive branch Agency to honor Morris K. Udall, affectionately known as "Mo," who had a terrific and enduring impact on our Nation's environment, and his commitment to supporting the rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

In April of this year, President Biden nominated Ms. Cahoon, Heather Cahoon, to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Udall Founda-

tion. Ms. Cahoon is a highly qualified nominee. She has devoted her professional career to the study of Federal Tribal law and policy. She is an associate professor of Native American studies at the University of Montana.

At the University of Montana, she cofounded the American Indian Governance and Policy Institute, a Native-led independent think tank that provides Tribal nations in Montana with in-depth research and analysis of Tribal-level policies. She would be a valuable—a valuable—addition to the Udall Foundation Board.

Over a decade ago, the Congress created the privileged nomination process to speed the confirmation of nominees to fill approximately 280 positions on Boards and on Commissions, including nominees to the Udall Foundation Board of Trustees.

Ms. Cahoon's nomination moved to the Executive Calendar on May 16, and we should have considered her nomination on the floor soon thereafter. It is disappointing to me—and I know to others—that her nomination has languished for over 16 weeks, with no word of any objections from either side of the aisle. Inexplicable delays undermine the improvements we have made to Senate procedures to improve non-controversial nominees and to do so quickly. Today, I have come to the floor myself to see if we have an agreement to confirm Ms. Cahoon.

NOMINATIONS OF HEATHER M. CAHOON, EN BLOC

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 666 and 667, for Heather M. Cahoon, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2024, and for a subsequent full 6-year term; also, that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Heather M. Cahoon, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2024; and Heather M. Cahoon, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2030. (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, could I have another minute or 2 to make some personal comments, if I could?

I had the privilege of serving as Governor before I came to serve 24 years ago as a Senator. Before I was a Gov-

ernor, I was a Congressman for some 10 years. One of the people I served with in the House of Representatives was Morris Udall—Mo Udall—who was a giant in the House and a giant in the country, a great environmentalist, great conservationist, and a wonderful human being, a wonderful servant. People are probably saying, what is this Udall Foundation? The Udall family—not only Mo Udall but also our colleagues who served here in the Senate, and one of them, if I am not mistaken, may still serve as our U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand. I think of them and I think of the Udall family and what they have meant to this country, to this body over many, many years.

I am pleased to be here to put in a good word for Ms. Cahoon, who I think is well-qualified. And I am pleased we will be able to act on that nomination today.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from West Virginia.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, as the Presiding Officer knows, today marks 23 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on our Nation.

Although we are now over two decades removed from one of the greatest tragedies in our Nation's history, the memories remain in our minds as if it had just happened yesterday. Those horrific events in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, PA, forever changed national security in the United States of America. It also changed many of our families, our fellow Americans' families. Our Nation banded together—we supported one another, and we rebuilt and recovered—but we will never forget.

Many of us were here on that day. I was here in Washington, DC, in my office building on the House side. I certainly will never forget that awful and tragic day.

AUGUST WORK PERIOD

Madam President, I rise today to talk about another topic—or a few topics, for that matter, which are of the many issues that I heard from my constituents back home during my visits across West Virginia—from Weirton to Morgantown to Parsons to Ranson to Huntington and all other points in between in West Virginia. As the Presiding Officer and many of our colleagues did, I spent the last 5 weeks traveling every corner of my State—touring businesses, celebrating wins for our State, and meeting with local leaders, business owners and constituents.

Most importantly, this was a time for me to hear about the issues that are directly impacting them, the solutions that are working for them, and also the challenges that they face. I heard a lot, but there were common

themes I heard over and over again: No. 1, inflation; the border crisis; crime across our country; the chaos that we are witnessing abroad and our country's weakness on the world stage; workforce shortages—I heard that everywhere I went; the inadequacy of permitting as we are an energy state; and of the concerns—many concerns—in our agricultural communities. Many West Virginians I spoke with feel that the current administration's agenda is just not working for them, and I can see why. So let's take a look at this.

Well, we can start with what is top of mind for folks all across the country, and that is the rising costs of goods and services.

Every day, men and women go to work and take their kids to school, expecting the predictability that filling up their cars will cost a certain amount, that their trip to the grocery store will be in the same range. But what do they find? Well, thanks to inflation fueled, in part, by excessive government spending to the tune of trillions of dollars because of this administration, Americans are paying higher prices for many things that they cannot do without. West Virginians are spending an average of \$880 more a month on food, shelter, and energy prices than they were before the Biden-Harris administration began.

Over the past year, consumer prices have risen 3 percent. Oh, that is not so much. But since 2021, they have increased over 20 percent between the time President Biden and Vice President HARRIS came into office. So, if you are saving up now to buy a new or a used car and you keep saving, you have got to keep saving because it just costs more.

Headed out to the grocery store? Prepare to see a larger number at the bottom of your receipt thanks to this administration. West Virginians are spending an average of \$103 more per month on food.

Making your monthly rent payment or your mortgage payment? If it seems to be higher than it was last year, that is because it is. The national median rent is up 22 percent since President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office. To add to that, mortgage rates have skyrocketed. Overall, a 30-year fixed rate mortgage is at an average of almost 6.5 percent. In my State, the average is 6.6 percent. They were in the upper twos and early threes just a year ago.

Small businesses are suffering. For example, the construction industry is very busy in West Virginia. More companies and people want to come to our State. The high cost of operating businesses already—with already slim margins—is much, much higher. Contractors working under the constraints of already very slim margins are acutely feeling these failed economic policies. They are paying for more goods and services. They are putting more gas into their tanks. They are having to wait longer and longer because the sup-

ply chain is disrupted. The numbers just don't lie.

I heard it frequently all around the State that the savings many people have worked so hard for whether they want to save up for a vacation, save up for a bigger and better place to live, or to afford to send their children to college—that the savings that they worked hard for, that they sacrificed to accumulate, are dwindling right in front of their eyes due to the skyrocketing costs of living during the last 3½ years.

Another issue I heard about is the workforce shortage. When I attended the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce business summit, this topic came up again and again and again but also, particularly, from one of my manufacturers in the southern part of my State. Specifically, this manufacturer was trying to set up an apprenticeship program so they could have a pipeline of a workforce. They would start with high school seniors, put them in the apprenticeship program, and then they would come and work at the manufacturer. Specifically, they have been trying to set this up, but the U.S. Department of Labor under this Biden-Harris administration threw a wrench in their plans and slowed the process down. The bureaucracy that the company has faced during the process hindered their ability to follow through with this apprenticeship program.

A 21st century economy requires innovative approaches to workforce development and education, and apprenticeships are one way to do that, but you have to do it the way the administration wants. You can't tailor it for your own—not just business but also where you live would demand different kinds of apprenticeship opportunities. Businesses can help advance job training and employment opportunities or—something that I think I would be very supportive of—to try to keep that workforce busy—and not just busy but also increasing their capabilities. There are policies to employ and regulations to cut that would improve our economic standing, but, instead, the economic policies of the Biden-Harris administration have severely jeopardized the American dream for millions of Americans.

The border crisis is another issue that came up repeatedly during my visits back home. You might ask yourself: Well, West Virginia isn't a border State, so why do West Virginians really care about the crisis at the southern border? West Virginians care about this because it impacts directly into our State and beyond other border States. Under the Biden-Harris administration, every State is a border State.

So let's take the opioid crisis as an example. Deadly drugs, fentanyl in particular, continue to flow across our southern border, making their way into our communities. The overdose crisis has taken thousands of lives—of sons and daughters, mothers and fathers. As someone who represents a

State that is one of the hardest hit States, I have begged—begged—the Biden-Harris administration to do something different or, better yet, just to do something to stop this, but they have proven from day one that they have no genuine interest in closing our southern border or closing down the trafficking of all of the drugs. When you have all of these people, you have to devote your manpower to the people who are coming across, and the drugs slip in.

Crime is another topic that came up frequently during our travels. West Virginians can see what is happening across our country, and it is no wonder they are alarmed. Democrats have championed a soft-on-crime agenda that has contributed to some soaring crime rates. According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association, when compared to midyear 2019—prepandemic levels—homicides are up nearly 26 percent and aggravated assaults are up 23 percent in the United States. This is not just unacceptable; it is terrifying. We see it here on the city streets of Washington.

Repeated calls from the Democrats to defund the police, for open borders, to defund ICE, and for reduced sentencing or bail requirements has led to a crime increase so overwhelming that Americans' fear regarding crime in their communities is at an alltime 50-year high. They are afraid. We are afraid.

Though President Biden and Vice President HARRIS bear the responsibility here in many ways, they are following the direction of their party. We have seen a lack of leadership from the White House, an overly politicized Department of Justice, and district attorneys who refuse to prosecute crimes. The Biden administration has insisted on nominating radical, soft-on-crime advocates to our Federal judgeships. While this utter disregard for law and order is concerning, it is just another trend for this administration.

Then there is the chaos unfolding around the world. A constituent recently told me: It is now obvious on the world stage, especially to our enemies, that we have an extremely weak Commander in Chief for the first time in my life—and I am 74 years old. I don't go to bed feeling that I will be safe when I wake up in the morning.

The indecision and ill-advised policies of the Biden-Harris administration have signaled unreliability to our allies and weakness to those who would do us harm. We are living in a time when our Nation faces the most dangerous global threats that we have in decades, but there has been wavering support during these tumultuous times from this administration, whether it is the display of weakness on our withdrawal from Afghanistan or how the Biden-Harris administration has basically slow-walked the ability for Ukraine to actually maximize the help that we have given them and other nations have given them to be able to

stop the Russians or whether Iran is giving its militias weapons to attack our troops, resulting in the deaths of three Army soldiers in Jordan and injuries to dozens more.

The response? The administration is so afraid of “escalation” that they only authorize minimal responses. And, in the Middle East, that doesn’t work.

Now we see what is going on in Israel and that the administration is acting as if Israel is the problem. They forget about October 7. We have been absolutely clear-eyed that there is no moral equivalency between Hamas and Israel in this war, and it shouldn’t be hard to say.

Another issue that I heard about—and I mentioned it in the beginning—is agriculture. We are very concerned—our agriculture communities are very concerned—about our inability to pass a farm bill. Why is the leadership in this majority here in the Senate not helping our farmers get the relief they need?

West Virginia farmers depend on the farm bill, as do farmers all over the country, and the stability of a 5-year reauthorization. We did one 1-year extension. It looks like we are going to do another one, and this just really sends the wrong signal to a huge sector but also the food security sector for our country.

Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas has been traveling the country, listening to farmers all over and the ag community all over the country. I am glad he came to West Virginia to hear what our farmers are worried about: dumping of products from other countries and their ability, as smaller farms, to be able to exist.

So we did have some positives that went on over the last several months and in August. I traveled and met with the mayors in Charles Town and Harpers Ferry about some of their funding needs and wastewater, dedicated the new Heritage Center in Wheeling, and received updates on a major water system in Weirton. These are just a few examples of where I listened to their needs and was able to help them through congressional-directed spending to solve some of their problems.

There are certainly concerns on folks’ minds. But exciting things are happening in our State, and the spirit was powerfully felt at the business summit.

I was very pleased to bring the Canadian Ambassador as my guest to talk about the over \$2 billion of West Virginia products that Canada buys and how trade is so very important.

I went to see where we are going to complete Corridor H, hopefully, and fix that Market Street Bridge in the Northern Panhandle.

But I was really pleased to go to Marshall University and see their cyber security program. They are bringing up an Institute for Cyber Security for critical infrastructure, and I was honored to bring the CISA Director, Jen Easterly, to Huntington to see the po-

tential for not just our security but also for the workforce this is going to be providing to cyber security.

So I had productive visits in our State. It is always great to be out and be around and talk with folks.

I talked at length about the people individually or as a group. Regardless, Americans want us to do our jobs. They don’t want us to do show votes. They don’t want us to sit around and nominate people. They want us to get our government spending done, our national defense authorization, our farm bill—all of these things on our plate. Yet we are sitting around wasting time, doing votes that really don’t have as big an impact on individuals as many of the things that we should be doing.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Americans shouldn’t be forced to choose between paying rent, paying for food, or filling up their gas tank. They shouldn’t turn on the TV and see our southern border in chaos and our cities flooded with crime. And they shouldn’t have to harbor such doubt about our international standing. We can do this better. We can do this better, and we should.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise to join my colleague from West Virginia, talking about some of the important issues that we worked on over the past month. I am really pleased that she talked about the importance of getting a farm bill. It is just incredibly important.

In my State of North Dakota, we are No. 1 as an ag powerhouse and then also an energy powerhouse. In the energy realm, we produced more than 1.2 million barrels of oil a day. That is as much as some of the OPEC countries for the whole country. And then we supply electricity to coal-fired and other sources of electricity that are probably in each region. So we are really an energy powerhouse, and that is a big part of our economy.

But ag is still No. 1 for us. We produce probably more than 40 different crops, as diverse as—we are the No. 1 State for producing honey, and we produce a lot of sugar. But then we have got all the row crops—corn and soybeans and all those kinds of things. We have got wheat. We have got the pulse crops. We actually have more cattle than people—millions of head of cattle. So we are very diversified in the ag world.

Needless to say, a farm bill is incredibly important to us, and it is incredibly important to our country. When I talk about farmers and ranchers and the farm bill, I like to start by saying that every single American benefits every single day from our farmers and ranchers, who produce the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. So when we talk about good farm policy, we are talking about something that benefits every single American every single day.

Americans spend less of their budget on food. They have the best food. They have the best choice, the best quality. And we spend less of our budget on food than virtually any other developed country. All that is brought to us every single day by our farmers and ranchers.

I want to take a few minutes today to talk about how important it is that we get a farm bill done. It is not just important for our farmers and ranchers but, as I say, for every single American.

During the recent work period, I was out, and I, of course, visited with farmers and ranchers across our State and continued to get their input. But, also, they really are seeing challenges out there in farm country.

They don’t control the weather, obviously. They don’t control trade, and they don’t control the price. But they have to deal with all three every year. So what we are seeing right now is a decline in commodity prices, which is putting real pressure on farmers and ranchers across this country.

As part of my efforts, I also convened a field hearing of the Senate Ag Appropriations Subcommittee near, actually, Fargo, ND, to discuss the future of ag research and also ag development.

We are one of the leaders in precision agriculture. The technology in farming and ranching now is unbelievable. At North Dakota State University, combined with our world-class farmers and ranchers, we are really leading that effort forward with a new concept called Grand Farm, where we are displaying, on a national basis, the incredible advancements in technology that are an important part of precision agriculture there.

I was pleased to be joined by colleagues on a bipartisan basis. Senator BOOZMAN was there, as well as Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator SMITH—so bipartisan, all members of the Ag Committee with me. We had a very robust and substantive discussion about precision agriculture.

But while we focused on the future of agriculture research and all those kinds of things, we also heard from witnesses on the need to pass a farm bill and what needs to be in that farm bill in order to make sure that it works. That means a strong commodity title. That called for updating crop insurance and making sure we update the reference prices, meaning we update the countercyclical safety net. Those two tools—our crop insurance and the countercyclical safety net—that is how our farmers manage risk in a world where they don’t control prices, they don’t control weather, and they don’t control trade.

We produce fuel and fiber not just for this country but for the world, and the farmers don’t have any control over those things, which is why it is so important that we have the right kind of farm policy. That is reinforced this week by more than 300 commodity groups—farmers and ranchers—coming from across the country, who are here

this week in support of getting this farm bill done.

We are already operating under a 1-year extension. So we are already 1 year past due getting a new 5-year farm bill in place.

As I say, farmers and ranchers from across the country are here talking to policymakers about the need to get this done rather than facing yet another yearlong extension.

Again, the message is very, very clear: We need to update the countercyclical safety net and crop insurance. That is the heart and soul. That is how our farmers manage risk. That is the key to getting a farm bill done.

As I mentioned, economic conditions in farm country continue to worsen. Last week, the farm income forecast from the USDA came out and indicated that lower commodity prices, high input costs, and elevated interest rates continue to create a real challenge for our producers.

For 2024, USDA is projecting net farm income, which is a broad measure of farm income, at \$140 billion, which is a decrease of \$6.5 billion from 2023.

Adjusted for inflation, the 2024 net cash farm income projections for crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat—important not only to my State but throughout the Midwest and beyond—represent the worst numbers that we have seen since the USDA began collecting this data for the past 15 years.

We have the opportunity to address that through the farm bill, and we need to do it. We need to get it done.

Senator BOOZMAN, who, as I mentioned, joined me in North Dakota several weeks ago, has put forward a framework for that farm bill. I think it does exactly what it needs to do: It provides that support that farmers and ranchers need.

Also in the House, the House Ag Committee chairman, GT THOMPSON, also has moved through their full Ag Committee a bill that I think works as well. So the framework in the Senate is there. The bill that has come out of committee in the House is there. The bill in the House needs some tweaks, but it is going in the right direction.

The reality is that we are in position to get it done, but we need to come together on a bipartisan basis and address updates to the reference prices in the countercyclical safety net, as well as the updates for the crop insurance we need, which I have put in a marker bill that lays out very clearly what needs to happen. We need to come to agreement on it. We need to get this farm bill done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, my home of Nebraska is home to an array of people, places, and pursuits. It is home to Husker football and the College World Series, our beautiful State capitol building in Lincoln, and our world-famous zoo in Omaha. Nebraska is home to plains and prairies and cities and small towns and to the breath-

taking natural beauty of the Nebraska Sandhills.

That unique beauty of the Nebraska Sandhills, where we raised our three sons, is where I began my travels last month during the August State work period. In total, I visited over 35 communities with over 100 stops, from Kimball to Blair and Red Cloud to Norfolk.

One visit especially near and dear to me was the Valentine Community Schools. Years ago, I served on the Valentine School Board, where I saw these schools up close and advocated for their improvements. The Valentine Community Schools are still doing great, educating bright kids who will go on to lead our State.

Farther west, I toured the Scottsbluff and Bridgeport schools. The Scottsbluff school system follows a career academy-focused curriculum, and I was impressed to see the creativity and innovation that educators are applying to that work. It is a testament to Nebraskans' dedication to progress in our local communities.

Along with the schools and educators across the State, I visited healthcare facilities and the doctors and nurses and medical professionals who keep them going.

When I toured CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney, NB, I heard about their incredible life flight capabilities. Rural Americans—well, they often live hours away from the nearest hospital, and in emergencies, that can be deadly. Good Samaritan is responding to those risks by life-fighting patients all across Nebraska and even into South Dakota at times.

While in Central Nebraska, I visited Kearney Police Department and the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department. These two departments share a really unique setup in the same building where they can collaborate and use a larger range of resources. By linking together Kearney and Buffalo County law enforcement, they are more efficient, and they do an excellent job in protecting their communities.

The August work period every year brings me fresh motivation and gratitude. I saw the ways that Federal legislation is creating real change in my home State. I saw progress all across Nebraska—in education, in healthcare, in law enforcement, in manufacturing, in agriculture, in economic development, and countless other sectors.

Most of all, I saw Nebraskans in their local communities dedicating their lives and dedicating their careers to investing in the people around them. Those are the people whom I represent here in the U.S. Senate. And just as they are dedicated to investing in Nebraska, I am dedicated to advocating for Nebraskans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Missouri, Senator SCHMITT,

and I each be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, today is the 23rd anniversary of the tragic deaths of about 3,000 Americans at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon, as well as in Shanksville, PA. It is a sobering and solemn day. And 9/11 is one of those occasions that you remember during your life because you remember where you were and what you were doing when the terrible tragedy came on the news. I remember I was on the telephone talking to my Governor, and my wife said: You need to see this. And I turned to watch the TV as the second plane hit the World Trade Center. We had no idea what was going on.

As I have often said, this day is a dividing line in our history. There is before 9/11, and then there is after 9/11. It is a reminder of our commitment as a country to carry out the promise that we made in the wake of the attack to never forget.

So, today, we remember the first responders who ran toward the danger, the families who lost loved ones, and the commitment of the U.S. Armed Forces to combat terrorism around the globe each and every day.

AUGUST WORK PERIOD

Madam President, on another matter, since the Senate gavelled out nearly 6 weeks ago, I, like the rest of my colleagues, have traveled all around our State. My State is a little bit bigger than the average State. We have 30 million people, 254 counties. I don't claim to have gone to all of them, but I tried my best to cover as much ground as I could.

Of course, it is a great opportunity to get outside the bubble of Washington, DC. And this is indeed a bubble. This is not the real world. I tell my constituents who come to Washington, DC—I say: This is like Disneyland. It is not real. It is fascinating, it is intriguing, and important things happen here, but it is not real.

What happens outside of this bubble, that is real. For example, at Memorial High School in Houston, TX, I joined online safety experts, education leaders, advocates, and parents to discuss more ways that we can help protect our children from online threats. This includes the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, both of which passed the Senate with huge margins before we broke in August. I hope the House will take these nonpartisan, noncontroversial bills up soon.

I remember thinking—as I met with the principals and talked to some of the parents about what our young people are exposed to on their cell phones and online on a daily basis—that I am glad my daughters are grown because growing up is hard enough without

being under constant attack by people who want to entice you to do things that you should not do or share with you information you would just as soon not see.

Then I went to Austin, where I met with my former colleague on the Texas Supreme Court, Nathan Hecht, and Travis County District Judge Julie Kocurek. Judge Kocurek is actually a survivor of an assassination attempt. She was a district judge in Austin, TX, Travis County, and somebody who was a criminal defendant on her docket decided he wanted to assassinate her.

We met with her as well as other local leaders in a roundtable to try to figure out what we can do to try to keep our judges, our court personnel, and the public that needs to have access to our courts—how we can keep them safe. This includes my Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act, which passed the Senate in June and would establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center to provide technical assistance, training, and threat monitoring for State and local judges and court personnel.

We all know the Federal Government only handles a small fraction of what the judicial branch handles, and most of that is handled by the judiciary at the State level. So it is really important to provide best practices and resources to our judges, court personnel, and the public that needs to have access to courts and access to justice around our country.

I was then glad to join our good friend Senator JOHN BOOZMAN from Arkansas, who is the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, in the Rio Grande Valley. That is the southernmost tip in the middle of Texas, and it is one of the most prolific regions for agriculture in our State. We heard from farmers and ranchers about the importance of passing a timely and strong farm bill, and in particular we heard about the challenges they face because Mexico continues to withhold water that it owes the United States under a 1944 water treaty.

Then, in Round Rock, just outside of Austin, I visited with business leaders and community members on economic issues important to Central Texas, including the looming deadline to fund the Federal Government.

Then I had a chance to travel to Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX. Parkland Hospital is famous because that is where John F. Kennedy was treated after he was shot, tragically, in Dallas. It is a huge, huge healthcare enterprise. I joined healthcare leaders, law enforcement, as well as two mothers who tragically lost their daughters to fentanyl poisoning, to discuss the impact of my Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act, which would have a positive impact on our efforts to eradicate this silent killer from our communities. I introduced this bipartisan legislation last month to make it easier for law enforcement to take action against

criminal cartels' use of illicit pill presses by requiring that those presses be engraved with serial numbers so that law enforcement can better track them.

While I am glad the online safety bills and my Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act have advanced out of this Chamber, there is still a lot of work that Senator SCHUMER, who sets the schedule in the Senate, has left until the last minute.

As I heard from my constituents about some of these events in the State, Texans are rightly concerned about the Senate's inaction on critical priorities like the farm bill and like additional legislation to combat the scourge of fentanyl poisoning. Fentanyl actually now is responsible and the main leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 years old. Then, they are also worried about whether the government is going to remain open and be appropriately funded, and they understand the impact of short-term funding bills and its negative impact on our military and on our national security.

So that is why I don't understand why Senator SCHUMER continues to waste our time on show votes and ignore predictable deadlines that lead to inevitable drama about a potential shutdown when none of that is necessary. So I hope Senator SCHUMER will take advantage of the next 10 days that remain this month to do something about it rather than just kick the can down the road once again.

I yield to my colleague from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Missouri.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,
ATTACKS

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, before I get into my remarks, I would just like to say a few words on this 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Twenty-three years ago, America and the world changed forever. We will never forget those who lost their lives, including the first responders who rushed into danger that day to save many lives. At a time when first responders are running into buildings and people are running out, we appreciate their sacrifice and their service.

May God bless and continue to bless this beautiful Nation and all that she stands for, now and forever.

AUGUST WORK PERIOD

Madam President, this August, I made a point to meet with and hear from Missourians across the State. These conversations are always valuable in my work here in Washington. They certainly influence the decisions and the votes cast right here on the Senate floor.

I was proud to host a roundtable with industry leaders in geospatial technologies and unveil my plan to attract more talent to St. Louis and transform the gateway city into the defense tech capital of the United States. Our

roundtable included representatives from a wide array of companies, universities, geospatial agencies—among them, NGA, TGI, Scale AI, and many others.

Geospatial technologies are critical to so many different industries, both civilian and military. Their application to defense technologies and GPS mapping cannot be overstated.

St. Louis is already home to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which is building a new campus and working to revitalize North St. Louis, private investment through the Taylor Geospatial Institute, and other private and public geospatial and artificial intelligence assets. There is no reason St. Louis can't become the defense tech hub of our country, and that is why I am working to continue accomplishing that exact goal.

I was in Jefferson City to hear directly from advocates of those living with disabilities—stakeholders including the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Special Olympics Missouri, and many other groups and individuals—on how we as lawmakers can better advocate for those with disabilities here in Washington.

This community has played an important role in my life over the years. I ran for office to help people like my son, Stephen, who has special needs. I earned political office to improve the lives of Missourians in our State, and that especially includes our most vulnerable citizens, whom I will never stop fighting for here in the U.S. Senate.

I also visited and toured Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital and their state-of-the-art facility, discussing all the advancements they were making in care services for children in the broader St. Louis community. This incredible facility is accomplishing great things for children and their families as they make the transition from the hospital to their homes.

I also spoke with the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership in Waynesville, MO, on the incredible work they do at Fort Leonard Wood and the surrounding community and not just for Missouri in that regard but for our country. Home to over 5,000 Active military members, many of whom collectively train nearly 80,000 service-members and civilians each year, Fort Leonard Wood is a proud military community that is absolutely vital to our Nation's military training, architecture, and our national security.

It is because of these great warriors that we remain a bright, shining beacon to the world of freedom and we can live and thrive in the greatest country there ever was. Places like Fort Leonard Wood has served as a critical role of training the next generation of American soldiers as they confront newer threats and never-ending threats abroad, among those, the Chinese Communist Party, North Korea, and Iran, because without strong leadership here at home, these hostile regimes will

continue to undermine and test America's limits, making all of us less safe.

It is incumbent upon those here today that we continue the important work of ensuring that our soldiers have the support and resources necessary to continue keeping America safe.

Summer wouldn't be the same without the Missouri State Fair, a great opportunity to meet with and listen to Missourians from across our State. There was truly a lot of fun and food in Sedalia. I get asked that question: What is your favorite thing about the State fair? It has got to be the food, from the Cattlemen's Beef House to the Pork Palace and everywhere in between that has things like fried Oreos and everything else you can imagine that is fried. We were also proud to host our inaugural "Pork Steaks and Policy" at the State fair.

Safe to say, it was a success. A lot of food was eaten. But more importantly, we had a lot of great conversations, hearing directly from farmers and ranchers across Missouri on how I can continue to advocate for them here in the Senate.

Of course, there were also some fun moments from August, including visiting with Coach Eli Drinkwitz, the head football coach at Mizzou, the No. 6-ranked Mizzou Tigers, and the campus's new athletic director, Laird Veatch, and touring their new facilities.

Lastly, I was proud to join a group of bipartisan Senators on a congressional delegation to Asia, particularly Japan and South Korea, to better understand how the United States could continue to work with our partners in the Indo-Pacific, particularly as China continues to become an increasing threat to those countries and our country.

Meeting with leaders in Japan and South Korea gave us all a frontline view of what is needed in the region and how the United States, and especially Missouri, can continue to be a strong ally in the Indo-Pacific.

When I asked Missourians for their vote not even 2 years ago, I promised that I would fight for them. The most important part of my job will always be serving the people of my State. It was great to be back home in August, and I look forward to taking those conversations I had with Missourians and addressing their concerns right here in Washington.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 780, Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United

States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Helmy	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Butler	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Ernst	Mullin
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Rounds	Vance
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Kay

Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the confirmation of four pending U.S. attorney nominations.

Currently, in the United States, we have 85 U.S. attorneys. There are several from my State, and depending on your population, it really indicates how many numbers you have. Those U.S. attorney nominations are filled by the incumbent President of the United States. Recommendations are made to the U.S. Senate, and we advise and consent on those nominations. After examinations of their backgrounds, we vote on these individuals to become U.S. attorneys.

Now, we have an agreement that has endured for a number of Presidents over a number of years which says that these will be fairly routine—in fact, very routine. The fact is that each one of the U.S. attorney nominations goes through a review by the Senate Judiciary Committee, by both Democrats and Republicans, and if they pass that review without controversy, they move to the floor for a vote.

To give you an idea of how that works for the Members on the other side who are relatively new to the Senate, when President Donald Trump made nominations of U.S. attorneys, he made 85 nominations. Each one of those nominations came to the floor of the U.S. Senate, and they were approved by voice vote, unanimous consent. In other words, not even a rollcall was required. It was the routine approval of U.S. attorneys' nominations in a situation where a body like the Senate would have a majority of Democrats but approve a nomination from a Republican President by voice vote—no controversy moving forward.

Why is it even important to fill these vacancies? Because these 85 U.S. attorneys are literally the people who implement the policies of the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice of the United States decides that we are going to have a serious effort under a President to go after fentanyl, for example, or narcotics, for example, or some crimewave in another area, it is the U.S. attorney who runs the play. He is the quarterback in that U.S. attorney's district. So these turn out to be fairly critical.

Some of us stayed up late last night to watch the debate, and in that debate, there was a discussion of crime in the United States and what we were going to do to stop it. Well, both of the candidates—regardless of party—would be in favor of reducing crime. I am assuming that every one of my colleagues who is on the floor now and wishes to speak would put themselves in the same category. We want to stop crime in our States and in our country,

and we rely on the Department of Justice to do that. The one who leads the effort in each and every State is the U.S. attorney.

In this circumstance, we have four nominees for U.S. attorney who have been waiting patiently for the approval of the U.S. Senate. On seven previous occasions, I have requested unanimous consent—the same process that was followed with every single one of Donald Trump's U.S. attorneys. I requested unanimous consent of the Senate to take up and confirm law enforcement nominees nominated by President Joseph Biden. Each and every time, the junior Senator from Ohio—now running for Vice President of the United States—has objected.

I asked him on many occasions when we came to the floor and raised this question: What objection do you have to this U.S. attorney nominee?

He said at the time: I don't have any objection to this nominee. I object to the Department of Justice, and I want to stop U.S. attorneys from being appointed nationwide.

Communities across America desperately need their top Federal prosecutors in place. U.S. attorneys lead the Nation's effort to prosecute violent criminals and protect our communities from violent crime, child exploitation, terrorism, and much more. The U.S. Attorney's Offices in the four districts I am talking about today are no exception.

I just left a meeting this morning. We gathered about 40 or 50 leaders from across the United States to talk about child trafficking. Child trafficking, of course, is a Federal crime, prosecuted by the Department of Justice in each and every one of our States where it happens. I can't think of a more awful situation for a person to live through as those this morning who talked about what they lived through before the prosecution took place and the person was removed from the State. I would not want to play political games with those nominations.

Those U.S. attorneys do critical work in each and every State. We felt that way under President Trump, and that is why we allowed his U.S. attorney nominees to move forward by voice vote. I think President Biden is entitled to the same treatment.

The entire Nation has been impacted by the opioid epidemic. Ohio is one of the States that has been hit the hardest. In 2023, nearly 4,500 Ohio residents died from accidental drug overdoses. This story can be told over and over in State after State. The U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio can focus her attention on combating this drug crisis with the DEA's Operation Overdrive. This operation is set up at a location in Toledo due to the city's "copious violent crimes, including homicides, shootings, assaults, and drug overdoses."

We are talking about serious prosecutions and a team of effective professionals to fight them, not just in Ohio

or in Illinois but around the Nation. Instead, this nomination—one of them today which I am suggesting, the nomination of Rebecca Lutzko—has languished for more than a year because of the objection of the junior Senator from Ohio. It may have helped that Senator to make that decision for some other reason, but it certainly doesn't help the fighting of crime in his home State to have a vacancy in this office. He is harming Americans and undermining public safety across the country for reasons I can't explain.

The Senate has a long history of confirming U.S. attorney nominees as I said. We have done it by unanimous consent. We have made it fairly routine, as it should be. All 85 of President Donald Trump's nominees for U.S. attorney were filled by unanimous consent. The Senate has a long history of following that practice. Before President Biden took office, the last time the Senate required a rollcall on a U.S. attorney was in 1975—49 years ago. You have to go back 49 years to find an objection to a U.S. attorney nominee.

At the beginning of a new Presidential administration, it is customary for the U.S. attorney to step down and for the new President to select replacements. That is why, during the Trump administration, we moved so many so quickly. Senate Democrats allowed every single one of President Trump's nominees to be confirmed by unanimous consent, many of whom we would not have personally selected, but it is just as a courtesy to a new President to fill the vacancy. It wouldn't have been fair or realistic to force the Senate to debate and vote on every single one of these nominees. Each one of these votes is a process which eats up several days of the calendar. We already do that for nominations for the Federal bench. It would not have been fair or realistic to expect it for U.S. attorneys. So we respected the then-President. We respected our colleagues, and we respected the need for the Senate to have confirmed leadership in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

We put public safety and the needs of law enforcement ahead of politics. We have done it always when it has come to U.S. attorneys until now. The Senator from Indiana and some of his colleagues have set an unfortunate standard. They are putting us on a path to require cloture and confirmation votes on every U.S. attorney nominee. Talk about a waste of time. That would be a terrible waste of time. This is entirely unsustainable, which is something everyone here knows.

Without Senate-confirmed leadership for U.S. attorneys, public safety will suffer across the United States. Candidates cannot vote to delay these nominations and then stand up and say they are for law and order, and they want to fight crime. We shouldn't be playing politics. I don't know the reason behind this—I believe it is entirely political—but I hope my colleagues will think twice about it. What we do

to one another will likely be revisited and become a precedent in the Senate to the detriment of everyone.

These highly qualified nominees that I nominate today—the four of them—have the strong support of their home State Senators, including of several members of the Republican caucus. If President Biden has been accused of misuse of the Justice Department, we shouldn't take that out on these individuals who are competent and qualified to keep us safe.

Until we confirm them, law enforcement agencies in Iowa, Massachusetts, and Ohio will be stymied in their ability to fight crime.

Don't be giving a speech that says "I want to have a real assault on crime in my State or my district" and then turn around and stop the prosecutor from being appointed who has that job. Otherwise, that would be a temporary appointment, and the effort cannot be as effective as it might be. That is a loss to the Nation, and it creates a danger to the people living in that particular State.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 544, 545, 604, and 605—those are the nominations of Matthew Gannon to serve as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, Rebecca Lutzko to serve as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Joshua Levy to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and David Waterman to serve as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without any intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, these are Biden-Harris Department of Justice nominees. What is the Biden-Harris Department of Justice focused on right now? Multiple prosecutions of former President Donald J. Trump.

Never before in history has a major American Presidential candidate been criminally charged, much less by his campaign opponent's Department of Justice. Yet, in the middle of this Presidential election, the Biden-Harris Justice Department has brought two different prosecutions against their Presidential election opponent. Other Democrat prosecutors have brought three other sets of charges. These cases have been timed to peak during the election.

So right now, President Biden's election opponent is on trial in five separate jurisdictions—all by partisan Democrat prosecutors, all on different charges, and all peaking right in the middle of this Presidential campaign.

This begs a simple question: Is this coordinated election interference or is this merely a coincidence?

It is beyond credulity that these charges would have been brought against anyone but President Trump—especially five different prosecutions all brought during the Presidential election. The contortions of fact and law underlying these prosecutions testify to that.

So do the political campaign promises and Presidential commands behind the prosecutions underscore this? Of course they do.

The New York Times reported in April of 2022 that President Biden told advisers that he wanted his Justice Department to prosecute President Trump. Shortly thereafter, his Justice Department dutifully appointed Jack Smith to prosecute President Trump.

When Alvin Bragg ran for district attorney, he campaigned on getting Trump. He did just that, using a made-up, never-before-pursued theory.

When Letitia James ran for New York attorney general, she said that her entire campaign was about getting President Trump. Even Democrat Representative DAN GOLDMAN called it “an individualized political vendetta.” Five years later, in the middle of the campaign, she brought a baseless case for a \$454 million fine—unheard of. This is a case of “show me the man, and I will show you the crime.” It is also blatant election interference. It is outrageous to many Americans. It violates our basic principles of blind justice and the rule of law.

I am not going to consent to the expeditious confirmation of any more Biden Department of Justice nominees until the American people get a chance to reject this politicized administration of justice.

I will say this: If these nominees were truly important to Senate Democrats, they would schedule votes on them. Senate Democrats held me for 30 hours of cloture when I came through this process. They are not doing the same here.

Therefore, I would like to reserve the right to object, and I want to withhold my objection to allow the junior Senator from Missouri to be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, before I get started on this, I thank my colleague from Tennessee.

I also want to note to my friend from Illinois that we are not doing anything else on this floor. We are certainly not moving an appropriations process. We could be doing appropriations bills in September, but CHUCK SCHUMER doesn't want to do any of that. So all we are doing is nominations. If you feel so strongly about these individuals, go through the process.

Also, it is curious to mention precedent being raised here in this. I, in my first term here in the Senate, just witnessed for the first time in American history—first time ever—an Articles of

Impeachment coming over to this Chamber, and we didn't have a trial. So forgive me if I don't want to be lectured about precedence. There is a process to get this done. We will never have an opportunity to have a trial on Mayorkas like we should have had.

But I digress. My objection here today is not specific to the qualifications of the individuals who have been nominated. My objection instead is to the fact that we live in a time right now—and as a lawyer, this is deeply saddening—where the Department of Justice and other government Agencies are being politicized and weaponized. This is angering the American people, and it should.

American history has no shortage of important moments marked by statesmen making difficult decisions which balance the outrages of the moment with the long-term stability of our Republic.

Throughout this last year, many of us have denounced here the weaponization of the Justice Department by Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS. What many in the political establishment don't care to acknowledge is that this is resonating even more with American working folks who believe that there is a two-tiered system of justice in our country, and it is being unlawfully applied.

From Hillary Clinton's “mis-handling” of classified information to President Joe Biden doing the same, the American public has watched certain people be immune from consequences for their actions.

Biden-Harris are attempting to throw their political opponent, Donald Trump, in jail for the rest of his life. It is wrong. They are trying to interfere with this election, and that is why we stand here on the floor today.

So if you are not part of the exclusive club or if you dare to fight back against its monopoly on power, you are held to a different standard. Those brave enough to fight the system are not only expected to play by the rules but also subject to capricious, legal, and inconsistent lawfare—banana republic stuff. If this were happening in another country, our State Department would be warning us about it. It is happening right here under our noses.

These political attacks undermine the American people's faith in their government—a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. We all are one people, and we must only have one standard of which we are judged in our courts. We must immediately halt our creep toward tyranny.

So until the Justice Department resumes its focus on applying equal justice under the law instead of engaging in partisan lawfare against President Trump, I will join my colleagues here today.

I withhold my objection to allow the senior Senator from Alabama to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I rise today to join my colleagues in objecting to the fast-tracking of Biden-Harris's U.S. attorney nominations. This is a commitment we publicly made in June because of President Biden and HARRIS's unprecedented attacks on Donald Trump. It didn't have to be this way, but the Biden-Harris administration chose to target its political opponent in an election year. This is the direct result of the weaponization of a justice system they created.

This administration has shown time and time again that it is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain power. Whether it is lawfare against President Trump or allowing illegals to vote in elections, this administration is hell-bent on election interference.

If we don't return to the principles of our Constitution, we will be no better than Venezuela or communist China.

As long as this administration remains weaponized against the will of the American people, my answer is no. This is why I am objecting to unanimous consent of these U.S. attorney nominees today. It is not my intent to attack these nominees individually; rather, it is my intent to use my right as a Senator to restore the faith in the rule of law in the United States of America. It won't end well if we continue down this path.

I, for one, will never stop fighting against this weaponization of the Federal Government, I don't care who it is. By continuing to stand up for what is right, I believe Americans' faith in our institutions will be restored.

I withhold my objection to allow the junior Senator from Tennessee to be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues from Missouri, from Alabama, and my colleague from Ohio who has led this effort.

For the reasons I stated earlier, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Did you hear that? The Department of Justice is too partisan. The Department of Justice is too partisan. It is interesting to note that two of the prosecutions of Donald Trump are not even starting at the Department of Justice. They come from State prosecutions in the States of Georgia and New York, not Washington.

So these nominees for U.S. attorney are being held up because of decisions made by some other prosecutor in another State? Apparently, that is the case in this situation.

I just have to say that at least in one of the prosecutions in New York, they have been successful in bringing a case against the former President and convicting him of felony counts—34, if I

am not mistaken. So there is some merit to it that goes beyond any question of intrigue in Washington, DC.

Let me also add that, as far as I can tell, this Department of Justice has tried to take a reasonable position to avoid conflicts of interest. In this circumstance, we have a special attorney who is appointed to prosecute the President's own son—the President's own son—this Department of Justice, which is being accused of being partisan in this situation. There is no precedent for that in history. It is a clear effort by the Biden administration to deal fairly with a painful situation personally.

Well, you look at this and you say: Well, what point have colleagues made today? They have made the point that in these four places in the United States—Iowa on two occasions, Massachusetts, and in Ohio—that the competent professionals for prosecutor—that these competent positions will not be filled with individuals who they admitted on the floor they have no objection to.

What is the net result of this? It means that crimes that are being committed or allegedly being committed in these States are not going to be prosecuted as aggressively as they should.

Don't give me a speech about wanting law and order and safety in community and then turn around and say: To make a political point, we are going to stop sending prosecutors to these areas. It is inconsistent, it doesn't follow, and it is unfortunate.

I am sorry, for these four individuals who are worthy candidates to be U.S. attorneys, that this happened today. It has happened before.

It is a sad day if this is going to be a new precedent, that any President coming in a new term is going to face this kind of an obstacle course for the routine appointment of individuals to enforce the law across the United States. We will not be a safer nation because of this political strategy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. If the Senator from Illinois would allow, I would just like to respond to two points regarding the politicization of the Justice Department.

One of them is the fact that Mr. Colangelo from the Department of Justice was moved to the State of New York to undertake subsequent State-level prosecutions. That is certainly deep involvement by this Department of Justice in the State-level prosecutions that has taken place here.

The other is the reference to the son of the sitting President and his prosecution. I will point out that this Department of Justice allowed and made certain that the statute of limitations on far more serious charges expired. That is politicization in the Department of Justice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
ATTACK

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, as all of us know and the Nation today commemorates, 23 years ago we experienced the unthinkable. Our Nation went through an unspeakable, massive terrorist attack on our own soil for the first time in our history.

The attacks on September 11 reshaped the world as we know it even today and changed our country to its core. Nearly 3,000 innocent lives were lost, and countless more were forever impacted as families and loved ones carry their memory. Thousands survived the attacks, but they were forever changed as well—physically, emotionally, and in many other ways.

No matter how many years go by, the survivors and victims of the September 11 attacks and their families will always be in our hearts. And many of them live in Connecticut, and we remember them and their loved ones today.

As all of us know, this unimaginable loss shook our Nation to its core, and now, more than two decades later, we remain committed to honoring the survivors and the fallen. We remember the people we lost, but we should also remember the survivors; the loved ones of the fallen; the first responders, who continue to bear the wounds of that day and the successive days; the veterans, who bear the visible and invisible wounds of war because the ripple effects of that attack on September 11 continue to haunt us. And we should remember not just the horror of that day but also the heroism, because in the days and weeks afterward as well as on that day, that heroism helped to bring us together as a nation as never before or since.

We were as one in those days. And all of us have memories—especially in Connecticut and other States impacted directly in our losses—of the vigils, the conversations, and the acts of kindness and generosity, most of them totally unrecorded and many of them now perhaps unremembered.

But in remembering the great heroes whom we lost, in their honor, we should also remember the loved ones who survived them. That is the reason that we have the Victim Compensation Fund, and that is the reason that we are fighting for justice, for them, so that their rights are vindicated. Whether it is in court or through diplomatic channels, they deserve justice against all who were complicit in the unspeakable, horrific acts of that day, all who supported them and who enabled them.

That is the reason why, in Congress, I have helped to lead efforts to keep the courthouse doors open to their legal action, along with a bipartisan group that, in fact, overrode the veto of a President on JASTA. So, justice for the loved ones.

And the wounds of that day will never completely heal because we suffered losses that we will never forget—

our friends who lost lives. In Connecticut, we gather every year in one of our most beautiful parks, Sherwood Island in Westport, where there is a memorial. Every year, many of those loved ones come for a ceremony that is both solemn and exquisitely beautiful, and every year we lay flowers at that memorial as part of our remembering.

But we also know that on that day, first responders rushed toward danger. They ran into burning buildings. And many of the firemen and police from Connecticut spent weeks breathing in toxic chemicals from burning jet fuel and concrete filled with asbestos that has led thousands of them to develop chronic medical conditions that require ongoing medical treatment and consistent monitoring for the delayed onset of illnesses such as cancer.

That is why, in 2010, Congress created the World Trade Center Health Program to provide healthcare services with no out-of-pocket costs—none—to those directly impacted. This program treats first responders and survivors for many chronic illnesses and respiratory diseases, including asthma, sinusitis, obstructive pulmonary disease, and other kinds of health issues directly associated with the 9/11 attacks that continue to grow and evolve.

Over the years, there have been efforts to cut funding for this crucial program. To be clear, let us resolve on this day that defunding the World Trade Center Health Program would be an unforgivable betrayal of the thousands of individuals who risked their lives in the 9/11 attack. I will continue fighting against any attempt to strip even one first responder or survivor of the healthcare they deserve.

In Connecticut, as of June 2024, 1,365 individuals were enrolled in this program. They deserve that we continue this support, and that is also why I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act. It ensures that the World Trade Center Health Program receives permanent and mandatory funding while updating the outdated funding formula to prevent a shortfall that would put survivors and first responders at risk of losing access to healthcare.

We cannot afford, in terms of conscience and conviction, this betrayal of our solemn obligation to those first responders and their families—and likewise to veterans—thousands of them—who now bear the invisible wounds of war, from PTS to the cancer or hypertension or other kinds of medical conditions resulting from their exposure to the poisons and toxic chemicals in burn pits and elsewhere during their fight for our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to keep faith with them.

The PACT Act should be fully funded, robustly supported by Congress, and never abandoned. I will continue to fight to support the PACT Act but also to support outreach so that more veterans are aware of these benefits and

the care that is offered by the Veterans Administration—the screening that can help save them from diseases that will be less severe if they are stopped earlier. Again, cancer is one of the great enemies.

We vow again today: Never forget. Those two words are probably repeated on this day, year after year, more often than any other time: Never forget. But never forgetting is more than just words. It is a commitment to honor the memories of the fallen with action—the fallen on 9/11, the fallen who died afterward from diseases that resulted from 9/11, the fallen among our veterans who gave their lives or now suffer medical conditions resulting from their service. We will never forget in action as well as in words—in deed, as well as in rhetoric. That has to be the promise that we keep today.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority leader is recognized.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning, I stood at Ground Zero in New York, joining President Biden, Vice President HARRIS, New York leaders, and thousands of New Yorkers to mark the 23rd anniversary of 9/11. So many of those who lost loved ones were there remembering. It has been 23 years.

Every day, I wear this flag pin in my lapel as a reminder of our sacred promise to never forget. Today, the pin is a little heavier. I called the day after 9/11—9/12—I called on Americans to wear the flag, to display it out their windows or wear it on their clothing as a show of solidarity and a show of our anguish over so many who were lost and, at that time, missing. I have worn the flag every day since—every day since—because I never forget.

I knew people who were lost: a guy I played basketball with in high school; a businessman who helped me on the way up; a firefighter I went around the city with, urging people to donate blood. And so it is a tough day.

It has been 23 years since 9/11, but I remember it like yesterday—the smell of the pile, the images of destruction that New Yorkers had never seen before. I remember the chilling and other-worldly images of people lining up on the sidewalks, hundreds of them with pictures because no one knew who was dead or who wasn't. Unfortunately, very few survived.

But the pictures: "Have you seen my daughter Mary?" "Have you seen my brother John?" I will never forget them. And I had some of those pictures donated to the 9/11 museum.

I remember people I knew, as I said, who died in the attack. But I also remember the heroism: first responders disregarding their own safety and running toward danger to save others. I remember New Yorkers going out of their way to help each other; complete

strangers joining to pray together, grieve together, and work together to rebuild and heal.

Many had run down those stairs to escape the conflagration in the towers and left their shoes behind. And right a block away was a guy with a shoestore just handing out shoes to people. That is the kind of people New Yorkers are and Americans are.

Twenty-three years later, our sacred obligation to care for the survivors and their families continues. In the last 2 years, I secured nearly \$1.7 billion in funding for the World Trade Center Health Program, which helps first responders and survivors treat cancers and respiratory sicknesses and mental health and more. I thank Senator GILLIBRAND, who has been a great partner on this, and the New York delegation in the House—bipartisan.

Earlier this year, we introduced legislation to make funding for this program permanent so that our 9/11 heroes and families don't have to keep coming down to Washington to ask and advocate for the care they deserve.

In the last Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues to pass the Fairness for 9/11 Families Act, which finally compensated those who were wrongly left out of the Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

That is what "never forget" means. It is not a passive promise. It is an active commitment to work every day to ensure that survivors of those terrible days are provided for. It is a prayer that America may find the strength and grace to always endure; to always weather the storm; to always come back from adversity stronger, more united than before, and never turn on each other but to be unified in our strength and our camaraderie.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on the CR, a few hours ago, Speaker JOHNSON announced he delayed a vote scheduled for today on his partisan, insufficient, and deeply flawed CR proposal. Frankly, no one should be surprised that Speaker JOHNSON is having trouble with his bill. It is not a serious effort at keeping the government open. It is a political document, not a substantive one.

The Speaker's proposal suffers from many fatal flaws. Above all, it emits and shortchanges so many critical programs that Americans rely on every day. For one, the Speaker's proposal underfunds the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$12 billion. That means veterans exposed to burn pits and who develop cancers and other diseases would struggle to get the care they need.

The Speaker's proposal would also be a disaster for our Armed Forces. You can't run a military with a 6-month funding patch. The Secretary of Defense warned it would hurt defense readiness, hamstringing recruitment, risk crucial investments in our defense industrial base, and delay repairs and weapon modernization.

Again, you can't run a military at a 6-month patch at a time. They have to

have contracts. They have to do research. They have to do planning.

The Speaker's proposal is also a non-starter for border security and immigration and law enforcement. His bill would effectively end a crucial law enforcement effort to stop drug smuggling, cartels, and money laundering. It fails to extend funding for E-Verify, H-2B visas, and programs that have stopped drugs like fentanyl. All this from a Republican proposal, the party that supposedly loves to talk about border security. But talk is all it is if you take this stuff out of the bill.

And, of course, if you are one of the tens of millions of Americans who rely on Social Security or disability benefits, watch out. The Speaker's proposal contains no additional funding for the Social Security Administration's operating budget, which would lead to delayed benefits, understaffed or closed field offices, and longer wait times for applications.

The Speaker's CR fails on healthcare. It would endanger Federal funding for telehealth services, which is one of the most important ways rural Americans get access to the care they need.

The CR also fails to extend funding for community health centers, which is often the only resource for millions of Americans who live in poverty or near poverty but fall in that gray zone right above the Medicaid line. And with the community health centers, they get good healthcare. Those will be gone.

And the Speaker's plan fails to do anything on the farm bill, which if it expires would send farmers over the dairy cliff in December, risking closure of farms and sending costs of products like milk and cheese through the roof. So it would cost the average consumer.

Now, we all know the endgame here for the hard right, a 6-month stopgap measure means we have a funding fight all over again in March, at the beginning of a new administration. It is pretty transparent that the hard right wants to delay this fight until then in hopes of being able to pass the bulk of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda.

And we all know what 2025 is about, the hard right wants to turn our country inside out and institute the most conservative agenda America has seen in modern history. Project 2025 would mean the end of the Department of Education. It would eliminate Head Start Programs, which help millions of kids in poverty get a good start on their education.

It would wipe out funding that helps kids get free and reduced lunch at school. It would send the cost of childcare shooting up, leaving parents exasperated and making it harder for them to make a living.

Project 2025 would also betray our veterans. It would lead to cuts to disability benefits by shrinking medical conditions that qualify. It would revive a Trump-era commission that would defund VA hospitals, including the only VA hospital on Long Island, the Northport VA. How cruel can you get?

How in the world can you think this is an OK thing to do to the brave Americans who wore the uniform?

Project 2025 would lay the groundwork for the nightmare scenario of a national abortion ban. It would effectively clear the way for States to monitor women's pregnancies and threaten Federal health funding if they don't comply.

This is all outlandishly sinister. Yet it is precisely what the hard right is promising the American people if Donald Trump returns to office. And make no mistake, there is no better opportunity for Republicans to ram these cruel policies down Americans' throats than in a government funding fight early next March.

A 6-month CR, particularly one that fails to fund important programs, some of which I have outlined a few minutes ago, is therefore not the answer for avoiding a shutdown later this month.

Speaker JOHNSON ought not bother with merely delaying his vote; he should scrap it, scrap his plan and start over. Speaker JOHNSON, scrap your plan. Don't just delay the vote, find a better one that can pass in a bipartisan way.

Leader JEFFRIES, the President, and I will gladly and readily work with the Speaker to keep the government open, just as we worked with him earlier this year on funding levels that honored our agreement from the debt ceiling debate.

I hope, I pray, Speaker JOHNSON will soon acknowledge the inevitable: We need a bipartisan plan to keep the government open.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I have come to the Senate floor time and again and said to my colleagues that disaster relief funding is absolutely urgently needed. Today, the future of government funding is imperiled right now in the House, and the future of disaster funding is still unknown in the Senate.

And let me be clear, there are families across America, in Vermont, and in communities impacted by natural disasters all across our country that need us to help, and they can't recover without us. FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund is running out of money, forcing FEMA to function on what is essentially reserve funding.

This is no fault of FEMA's. It is all a result of the catastrophic weather events that have been occurring rapidly, frequently, throughout our country and in Vermont.

This past year and a half has brought brutal floods in Vermont and terrible fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes across our country.

Louisiana right now is bracing for the worst as Hurricane Francine moves onshore, and our prayers in Vermont are with the people of Louisiana. We know their heartbreak and their pain right now.

These communities—and it is especially the case with rural communities—cannot weather these storms alone. Some of those that are hardest hit are being financially destroyed. It is a function of the effects of climate change, and those communities don't have the resources to dig out, make repairs, and rebuild in the resilient way required for the future.

They can't handle a 100-year flood, and many in Vermont have had two 100-year floods in a year, in some towns even three in 12 or 13 months.

It is very important that disaster aid be flexible. We can't expect our communities—and it is from Vermont to Mississippi to Hawaii—we can't expect that those who are ravaged by disaster to fight this fight alone. The entire country has been hammered by climate change and by these weather events.

We need, in addition to the supplemental funding for the Disaster Relief Fund for FEMA, we need flexible funding which is available through the Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. The CDBGDR Program is a great example of how aid can be controlled by communities because there is so much more flexibility with that fund.

Our Senator SCHATZ of Hawaii, as chair of our Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, is leading the push for this funding, and I join him in that effort.

Also, the experience I have had visiting communities, visiting farms, visiting businesses, and visiting Vermont homeowners immediately following our State's flooding has given me, No. 1, enormous respect for Administrator Criswell. She was right there after the flood along with her wonderful FEMA staff doing everything they could to help communities.

But once the immediate event has come and gone and the repair and recovery has to start, it is going to take, oftentimes, a year or more for communities to repair bridges, for families to get an answer on whether they do or don't get a buyout, for farms to get what meager relief may be available. And what we have seen is that at that point, the centralization of decision-making authority and responsibility with various FEMA offices located around the country and the FEMA office in charge of Vermont that has to make these decisions about yes or no on moving forward on a bridge or a buyout—things that are really crucially important to Vermonters, to our local governments, to our homeowners—is in Puerto Rico.

And what I have seen is that the energy and the effort and the resources and the talent is at the local level. So if you are on the selectboard in Lyndonville, you have got the responsibility to your voters to get that bridge fixed. You actually know who the best contractors are. You know how to get it done. But the way it works right now, those decisions about moving forward on a recovery project are made in a distant location.

I have talked to many of my colleagues about a similar aftermath of the original event: The immediate aid is provided, but then when you are talking about a contract, you are talking about implementation, the reality is we have to have, in my view, much more local control, much more local responsibility, and much more local capacity with the resources that are available through FEMA. It means the decisions will be made sooner, the work will be done in a more cost-effective and efficient way.

I raise that because I am talking to colleagues who have had similar experiences, some in States that are Republican-led, some Democratic-led. It really doesn't matter. It is about trying to get that authority at the local level so that the local people—whether it is Mississippi or Vermont—have much more authority, responsibility, and capacity to carry out those very, very needed repairs.

So that will be something I will be inviting my colleagues to work with me on.

This last summer, I spent a good deal of time traveling to the flooded communities—and there are too many of them in Vermont—to see what has happened to our homes, our small businesses and farms, to roads and bridges that were washed out. And folks across Vermont—in places like Moretown and Plainfield and Barre and Barnet, St. Johnsbury, Peacham, Lyndonville, and Hardwick—are all reeling from what has happened. They are pulling together; they are coming back. Neighbors are helping neighbors, but it is not going to get done unless we provide the supplemental funding with the disaster relief fund that is essential to the well-being of Vermonters, as well as the well-being of folks who have suffered from these catastrophic weather events across the country.

Vermont will hang in, but we do need help. And we are ready, as we always have been, to help others.

NOMINATION OF MARY KAY LANTHIER

Madam President, before I conclude, I just would like to make a remark about a word of support for the judicial nominee for the Vermont district Federal court whose nomination the Senate will be voting on shortly. And I am going to be—we are going to be hearing from my senior Senator colleague Senator SANDERS, but I just briefly wanted to add my own acknowledgment of the extraordinary person that Mary Kay Lanthier is.

She has got a lifetime commitment to public service. She comes from a

very small town in Fair Haven, VT. Her dad was a roofer—slate, worked in a slate quarry, did slate on roofs. Her mom has been a lifelong head of—she is the Postmaster in Fair Haven. And Mary Kay grew up in this small town and has smalltown values of service, modesty, humility, and she is incredibly accomplished as a person.

I believe she will be an excellent judge serving the State of Vermont.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I am proud and excited to say a few words to urge my colleagues to support Mary Kay Lanthier as the next district court judge for the District of Vermont.

Ms. Lanthier is a native Vermonter who has spent her entire career in her home State, including working as a public defender in Rutland for 15 years. She grew up in a hard-working Vermont family, where the parents emphasized the importance of serving her community.

Ms. Lanthier learned that lesson well and has dedicated her career to being a public defender. In that role, she has fought for her clients to have a fair chance at justice in her courtroom. And if she is confirmed, I am confident that she will make sure that all of the people who appear in front of her are treated fairly and get the justice that they are due.

Ms. Lanthier began her legal career as a judicial law clerk for the trial courts in Chittenden and Addison Counties, where she developed a deep love and dedication for the work taking place in Vermont courtrooms.

Early in her career, Ms. Lanthier worked in private practice and public defense, working on family law, workers' compensation, and criminal cases. Since 2007, she has served as the supervising attorney at the Rutland County Public Defender's Office.

In that role and throughout her career, she has developed a reputation as a respectful and skilled attorney. Judges have praised her preparation, and opposing lawyers have written letters in support of her nomination. As one of those letters says, "Ms. Lanthier's compassion is a virtue that improved the administration of justice."

Last November, I was pleased to be joined by Senator WELCH, with input from Congresswoman BALINT, in forming a nonpartisan judicial nomination advisory panel to fill this vacancy on the Federal bench in Vermont. The panel was impressed by Mary Kay's career in public defense, her stellar reputation in the legal community, and her warmth and empathy.

I was also impressed after interviewing her. One thing that struck me was not only her deep love of the law but her deep love of Rutland, VT, where this judgeship is based.

For Mary Kay, I know that there is particular pride in doing this very important work in her hometown and for being a role model for the young people growing up there today about what is possible.

Along with Senator WELCH, I was pleased to recommend that President Biden nominate her for this position. She will be an excellent district court judge for Rutland and for the State of Vermont. I am confident that she will treat everyone in her courtroom with the compassion, respect, and dignity that they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

NOMINATION OF LAURA MARGARETE PROVINZINO

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise in support of Laura Provinzino's nomination to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for the District of Minnesota.

I want to thank Senators Durbin and Graham for working with me and both of them for supporting her and to move her nomination through the Judiciary Committee. I want to thank Leader SCHUMER for making the time and Leader MCCONNELL for the Senate to consider her nomination and also to thank my friend and colleague Senator SMITH for her work in support of this nomination.

We jointly had a committee made up of esteemed members of the bar that made recommendations to the White House. Ms. Provinzino is a distinguished public servant who has served the people of Minnesota as a Federal prosecutor. As an assistant U.S. attorney, she has led efforts to prosecute violent crime, human trafficking, child trafficking, and crimes against Native American women.

Through her devotion to justice and the rule of law, she has earned the respect and support of attorneys and law enforcement across our State. That is why she received a bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee and why I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support her.

Public service runs deep in her family, and her family roots stretch across all corners of our State, from the Iron Range up north to the small rural town of Melrose, where her great-grandparents ran the local paper, to the Twin Cities metro area.

Like her father, she was born and raised in St. Cloud, MN. After graduating from St. Cloud Technical High School, she earned her B.A. at Lewis & Clark College and was a Rhodes Scholar. She then went on to receive her J.D. at Yale.

She then returned home to Minnesota to clerk for Judge Diana Murphy on the Eighth Circuit and joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2010.

As an assistant U.S. attorney, she has prosecuted over 500 cases and has

served as the Deputy Chief of Violent and Major Crimes. Her work has earned the respect and support of law enforcement. The largest police organization in Minnesota wrote in strong support of her confirmation and praised her "exceptional legal skills, unwavering integrity, and commitment to upholding the rule of law."

She has also received support from former law enforcement officials who worked closely with her. These officers and case agents wrote that she "is highly respected in the law enforcement community."

And 19 former colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including President Trump's U.S. attorney, Erica MacDonald, have likewise praised her for her "sharp legal mind, integrity, professionalism, dedication to service, and devotion to enforcing the law."

Given her extensive experience, it is no surprise that she has received commendations and awards from groups such as the Duluth Police Department to Women in Federal Law Enforcement, who honored her with the 2023 Top Prosecutor Award.

The U.S. Department of Justice honored her with the David Margolis Award for Exceptional Service. This is the Justice Department's highest recognition for service, and she earned it for her work dismantling a massive international sex trafficking criminal organization that forced hundreds of women to engage in commercial sex across the United States.

Her efforts in this case are considered a model for prosecutors across the country and are used to train Federal and State law enforcement on how to pursue international sex trafficking and money laundering investigations. Given her leadership on this issue, human trafficking prevention groups have strongly supported her confirmation.

Her work goes beyond women and children and her nationally recognized human trafficking work. She has also led the work of our State's U.S. Attorney's Office on the Project Safe Childhood Program, which is the Justice Department's effort to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse.

And, today, she serves as one of only five "missing and murdered indigenous persons" U.S. attorneys nationwide as part of the Justice Department's efforts to prevent the kidnapping, murder, and trafficking of indigenous people. Her area of responsibility covers 22 States. She is ready to serve on the bench. The ABA served her with its highest ranking of "well qualified." I know she will make an outstanding Federal district court judge for the District of Minnesota.

I ask my colleagues to support her confirmation. Again, I thank Senator DURBIN for his leadership of the committee and all who worked to support her.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MARY KAY LANTHIER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm

Ms. Mary Kay Lanthier to the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

Born in Orwell, VT, Ms. Lanthier earned her B.A. at Amherst College in 1993 and her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in 1996. After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk in the court administrator's office for the Chittenden County District Court and Addison County Courts.

Ms. Lanthier then worked on family law, workers' compensation, and criminal defense cases as an associate at Keiner & Dumont, P.C. between 1998 and 2000. After that, from 2000 to 2003, she served as a staff attorney at the Addison County Public Defender's Office. Ms. Lanthier later worked as an associate from 2003 to 2004 and partner from 2005 to 2007 at Marsh & Wagner, P.C. There, her practice centered on family law, real estate law, and criminal defense.

Since 2007, Ms. Lanthier has served as a staff attorney and supervising attorney in the Rutland County Public Defender's Office. Over the course of her career, she has tried approximately 50 criminal cases to a jury verdict.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Lanthier as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SANDERS and Mr. WELCH.

With 20 years of experience as a public defender, Ms. Lanthier's litigation background and deep commitment to equal justice has prepared her to serve with distinction on the Federal bench in Vermont. Her nomination has received support from a range of individuals and organizations, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and the Vermont Bar Association.

I am proud to join them in supporting her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON LANTHIER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lanthier nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Carper	Gillibrand
Bennet	Casey	Graham
Blumenthal	Collins	Hassan
Booker	Coons	Heinrich
Brown	Cortez Masto	Helmy
Butler	Duckworth	Hickenlooper
Cantwell	Durbin	Hirono
Cardin	Fetterman	Kaine

Kelly	Padilla	Tester
King	Peters	Tillis
Klobuchar	Reed	Van Hollen
Lujan	Rosen	Warner
Manchin	Sanders	Warnock
Markey	Schatz	Warren
Merkley	Schumer	Welch
Murkowski	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Murphy	Sinema	Wyden
Murray	Smith	
Ossoff	Stabenow	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Ernst	Mullin
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Rounds	Vance
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The nomination was confirmed.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 781, Laura Margarette Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Laura Margarette Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MAR-

SHALL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Helmy	Sanders
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Cramer	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Hagerty	Marshall	Tuberville
Kennedy	Rounds	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Laura Margarette Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 6 years ago, I sent all of my colleagues in the Senate this binder of economic warnings about climate change. Here it is. The warning signs were flashing, so I shared all of those different reports. When I assumed the role of Senate Budget Committee chair, I provided an updated version of that binder to my committee members. As you can see, it had gotten a lot thicker. The warning signs had kept piling up, imploring us to act now before it is too late. And what is happening now? The events warned of are coming to pass.

Over 19 Budget Committee hearings, we heard from serious experts about the looming economic, financial, and fiscal risks of climate change. We had economists, actuaries, industry analysts, scientists, healthcare providers,

farmers, academics, national security leaders; even some conservative political leaders shared the warnings. The witnesses and the topics differed, but the message was the same: Look out. Climate change presents an economic threat, and ignoring it poses severe, even systemic economic risks. We ignore it at our economic and fiscal peril.

Ignoring it is, unfortunately, the path my Republican colleagues have chosen to follow, but ignoring climate change does not stop climate change from hitting our economies even in red and purple States. The changes are happening in every corner of the country; and day after day, news reports only confirm the warnings.

We held hearings on communities facing coastal flooding risk and wildfire risk and how those risks affect insurance and mortgage markets and, ultimately, property values. A mortgage issuer looks forward 30 years—the term of the mortgage—and climate-driven sea level rise, extreme precipitation, hurricane damage, and river flooding will add big risks to residential properties over the next 30 years. I am a Rhode Islander, so the flood risk is close to home, but more than half of all U.S. properties face a wildfire risk, and that is also getting worse with climate change.

Insurers are taking notice. When climate-driven losses increase, premiums increase; and when climate-driven losses become too hard to predict, insurers pull out. Insurance becomes not only not affordable but not even available. Since our hearings, insurance and housing markets in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and California—States highly exposed to climate-driven hurricane, flooding, and wildfire risks—are in full crises.

In May of last year, State Farm announced it was no longer offering new policies in California. Then in June, Allstate followed suit. That July, Farmers announced it was pulling out of the Florida market entirely. Just last week, Progressive Insurance announced that the company was “temporarily restricting” new homeowners business in Texas.

After Texas got a double whammy—historic wildfires through February and March and then the Hurricane Beryl flooding in July, knocking out power to nearly 3 million Texans and leading to “the most tornado warnings issued in the U.S. in a single July day since records began”—people sat in flooded homes, without air conditioning, in 90-plus-degree heat, with mold growing, and Texas politicians still denied climate change.

Well, homeowner’s insurance companies don’t deny climate change. Nationally, average homeowner’s insurance premiums increased 33 percent between 2020 and 2023. In Florida, already high premiums more than doubled. Average insurance premiums in Florida are now more than \$10,000 per year—average. Over in New Orleans, average premiums are closing on \$10,000 per

year. In Miami, they average almost \$17,000 per year. This is fossil fuel-driven climateflation, and it presents an affordability crunch for American families.

Don’t just take it from me; take it from Federal Reserve Chairman Powell, who testified that rising insurance premiums have been a significant driver of inflation. He warned that “in the longer term, companies are withdrawing from writing insurance in some coastal areas. It’s a significant issue.”

It even came into the Presidential debate last night, when Vice President HARRIS said what we know about climate change is that it is very real. You ask anyone who lives in a State who has experienced these extreme weather occurrences who now is either being denied home insurance or is being jacked up on insurance rates.

There is a cascade effect here: The crisis in coastal homeowner’s insurance bleeds over into mortgage markets. And when mortgage markets suffer, that affects property values—a cascade that poses what economists call a “systemic” threat to our economy.

If your property can’t get insurance, good luck getting a mortgage. Without mortgages, your only buyers are those able to pay cash, and that drives down your property values.

The chief economist of Freddie Mac actually warned of a coastal property values crash that would damage the entire economy, “systemic” damage, just like we saw in the 2008 financial crisis and great recession. Florida and parts of Texas are already in that spiral, as unsold condominiums pile up in those markets and values fall.

We face a national affordable housing challenge, so it is an added piece of bad news from housing nonprofits that the insurance rates squeeze “could threaten to end affordable housing development as we know it.”

Back to wildfires. New York City saw this orange skyline, a phenomenon San Franciscans got to know too well in 2020’s wildfire season. That is because extreme wildfires have more than doubled over the past two decades, with the six worst wildfire seasons occurring in the last 7 years. That makes wildfire risk the evil twin of flood risk for insurance, mortgages, and property values.

To quote our witness, Benjamin Keys, a professor of finance at Wharton:

This should be ringing alarm bells for housing markets all over the country.

April’s Economist magazine—I have got a bigger version for folks watching us on C-SPAN. April’s Economist magazine—not exactly a green publication—went Dr. Keys one better, warning that the whole world should be concerned about climate change, putting \$25 trillion of global real estate at risk, threatening a global financial meltdown—cover article. Read it yourself.

Insurance, of course, isn’t the only cost being driven higher by

climateflation. Just go to the grocery store. At one hearing last year, we actually had bipartisan agreement that climate change is damaging crop yields and driving up prices. And those trends continue this year.

Just look at breakfast. The price of orange juice is at an alltime high, driven by the lowest harvest in Florida in 90 years and a 24-percent decline in yield in Brazil, which supplies about 70 percent of the world’s orange juice—climateflation.

Brazil and Vietnam supply more than half of the world’s coffee beans. In both countries, drought drove coffee prices up. Vietnam just reported that its July coffee exports declined nearly 30 percent year over year, and worse was June, which declined 50 percent year over year—more climateflation.

India and Thailand are the two largest exporters of sugar behind Brazil. Severe droughts in both of these countries have pushed the global cost of sugar to its highest level since 2011.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. consumers saw the price of sugar and sweets rise by 8.9 percent in 2023. USDA expects prices to increase another 5.6 percent this year. And cocoa production is also hit, with April prices up 235 percent in less than 6 months.

Olive oil, a kitchen staple, saw prices jump over 130 percent due to last year’s Mediterranean drought. The International Olive Council expects even less production this year as droughts persists. In Spain, bottles of olive oil are now one of the most shoplifted items.

Climate change bodes ill for wine, too. A recent reveal of more than 200 studies predict that “70% of current wine-producing regions face a substantial risk of losing their suitability for wine-growing if global temperatures increase more than 2 degrees Celsius.” That is a danger threshold we are coming closer and closer to, giving new meaning to “in vino veritas.”

When we wonder why grocery prices remain high, look at climate-driven disruptions, climateflation, not just to agriculture, as I have been describing, but also to the supply chains that move those products around.

Last October, a witness of ours warned the committee that “the direct impact to extreme weather events can cascade through supply chains, affecting the flow of commodities and goods to regions and sectors leading to increased costs to business and to the broader economy”—more climateflation.

And while we were listening to that testimony, a historic drought had reduced Panama Canal vessel traffic to 24 crossings per day. So vessels resorted to the Suez Canal or went around South Africa to avoid the delays of canal travel. And those longer routes came at a higher shipping cost, ultimately passed on to consumers in higher prices—more climateflation.

Climate change is even beating up the infrastructure that underpins our

supply chains. As a witness told us last year, “Physical impacts have been widely observed for everything from extreme heat waves to flood events compromising roads, tarmacs, pipelines, and rail lines, with direct repair and delay costs being felt throughout the economy. Annual direct damage costs for road and rail impacts alone are estimated to be just under \$20 billion a year by 2050.”

This past July, New York had to close the Third Avenue Bridge from the Bronx to Manhattan because 95-degree heat caused the steel to expand.

Severe flooding struck Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota in June and led to the collapse of a railroad bridge, the near failure of a dam, and the destruction of hundreds of homes.

A bridge in Lewiston, ME, recently closed because its pavement started to buckle in high temperatures. One expert told the New York Times that extreme heat and flooding are accelerating the deterioration of bridges, causing them to “fall apart like tinkertoys.” And this will get worse: Extreme temperatures could cause one in four steel bridges to collapse by 2050.

Americans aren’t just paying the cost of fossil fuel emissions through climateflation; they are paying it through direct Big Oil price-gouging. The oil and gas market, so-called, is actually controlled by an international cartel. And when OPEC jacks those prices, Big Oil in the United States happily rides along, loading up the biggest corporate profits in history. That, too, drives inflation.

One last thing. Last year, I came to the Senate floor and talked about what was then the hottest June on record, followed by the hottest July on record, followed by the hottest August on record, and then the hottest September on record. Well, this July, the world experienced the hottest day in at least 100,000 years.

We have talked a lot about costs and costs matter. The point of this speech is the economic harms of climate change, but that heat kills.

Our hearing on public health warned how climate change acts as a “threat multiplier with health impacts happening through a variety of mechanisms, including worsening temperature extremes.”

Shortly after that hearing, Phoenix, AZ, experienced 31 straight days of 110-plus-degree temperatures, shattering the previous record. This year, the Phoenix hot streak continued, with temperatures breaking 100 degrees from late May for more than 100 straight days.

In Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located, at least 150 people have died from heat, and hundreds more deaths are still under investigation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 1,200 people are killed by extreme heat in the United States every year. Heat deaths in 2023 were the highest in 45 years.

In just 1 month—just 1 month, July 2023—the death count was near the annual average. One month nearly matched the annual average. An estimated 1,130 U.S. residents died of heat. And as work from Brown University and others have shown, that is likely an undercount.

In spite of all of this danger and its severe fiscal implications, some of my Republican colleagues complain that the Budget Committee is giving climate change too much attention. To them, it is not enough of a risk to our Federal budget, never mind that at least \$10 trillion of our national debt stems from economic shocks—“exogenous” they would call it in economics—economic shocks; specifically, the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID pandemic.

Well, climate change portends the biggest systemic shock of all. That is the lesson of all of these economic reports and studies, the lesson of the cover article from *The Economist*, and the lesson of our testimony in the Budget Committee hearings.

For homeowners in Florida, those dangers are already on their doorstep. They are suffering through sea level rise, extreme precipitation that floods homes and cars, intense hurricanes that batter families and communities, and the soaring insurance premiums that result, leading into the cascade from the insurance market to the mortgage market, to the property values market that Freddie Mac’s chief economist warned about.

To all of this, what is Florida Republicans’ answer? To try to silence conversation about the climate crisis, to forbid State employees from discussing climate change, even when it is an affordability crisis for their own constituents.

There is really no doubt the dangers are growing worse and more widespread. The economic shadow of those dangers is looming. Folks with fiduciary responsibilities told us in the Budget Committee: We have to address the dangers. Folks with business responsibilities told us in the Budget Committee how they have to adjust to these new dangers. And I have been telling you for a while now, and I hate to say “I told you so,” but it is here now, and dammit, I told you so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASAN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 208, the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 209, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 210, on the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 211, the motion to invoke cloture on the Motion to Proceed to S. 4554.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 212, On the Point of Order Is the Point of Order Well Taken Re: To the Privilege Status of S.J. Res. 89.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 213, on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARY MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, on September 5, 1924, a new hospital opened its doors in my hometown of Caribou, ME, and admitted its very first patient. Today, I join people throughout the region in celebrating a century of expert, compassionate care at Cary Medical Center.

It is fitting that this 100th anniversary coincides with Cary being named as one of the Nation’s Top 100 Great Community Hospitals by Becker’s Hospital Review. This latest addition to the long and impressive list of national awards and recognitions underscores what CEO Kris Doody said when that announcement was made this summer: “Working at Cary Medical Center is not just a job. It’s a calling.”

From the start, Cary has been a community hospital with the emphasis on “community.” It was built on the foundation laid by Dr. Jefferson Cary, a physician as devoted to the people of northern Maine as he was to the practice of medicine. He came to Caribou in 1877, a time when house calls, even in the frigid winter, were made by horse and buggy, medical supplies were scarce, and payment for services was often made with farm products and firewood rather than cash. His skill as a physician was matched, as a friend put it, by his “untiring devotion to the cause of humanity.”

When Dr. Cary died in 1912, he left the bulk of his estate to Caribou. His

bequest enabled the construction of the original hospital and created a legacy of generosity and support that the people of Caribou and the neighboring communities continue today.

The new Cary Medical Center, built in 1978, offered greatly expanded facilities and new technology, but the focus on patient-centered care remained unchanged.

Cary Medical Center is a nationally recognized leader in providing quality healthcare to rural veterans. Maine has one of the highest percentage of veterans in the country, and we Mainers are proud of our State's commitment to protecting our Nation. We also are proud of our State's care for the brave men and women who have served in uniform, and Cary has led the way.

One of the most significant milestones in Cary's storied history came in 1987, when our Nation's first community based outpatient clinic for veterans was established in Caribou. That pioneering work has been of great benefit to America's 3.5 million rural veterans who now receive care close to home at nearly 730 CBOCs throughout the country. The commitment by Cary Medical Center, the Veterans Administration, local veterans, and the entire community transformed healthcare for the men and women who defend our freedom.

Based on that success, Cary was selected in 2011 as one of just five sites nationwide for the Access Received Closer to Home pilot program. Maine's successful ARCH program paved the way for the Veterans Community Care Program that enables rural veterans to access the care they need in their communities. Veterans throughout America are grateful for Cary's leadership.

From professional education to diabetes care, oncology, and women and children's health, Cary Medical Center offers an ever-expanding array of services. These expansions are made possible by generous community support, led by the active and dedicated professionals and volunteers. The Cary team of physicians, nurses, technicians, staff, and volunteers are joined by grateful and supportive people throughout Aroostook County.

Through its partnership with Tufts Medical School's Maine Track Program and Cary's partnership with Pines Health Services, Cary Medical Center is a leader in strengthening rural healthcare. The selection of Cary as a pilot site for the Maine Medical Center and Dartmouth Institute Healthcare Improvement Project further demonstrates Cary's commitment to excellence.

My family, like so many others in Aroostook County, has close ties to Cary. My father served as chairman of the board of directors and actually signed the mortgage when the new hospital was built. Decades later, my brother Gregg chaired the board, and today, my niece Clara is a board member. For many years, my uncle Doug Collins, an internist, practiced medi-

cine in Caribou and at Cary. The wonderfully compassionate and skilled healthcare providers at Cary cared for both of my parents during the final days of their lives. I am personally grateful for the leadership of all who have served in this outstanding community hospital.

More than a century has passed since Dr. Jefferson Cary practiced medicine, and he could not have foreseen the dramatic advances in healthcare since that time. But he had a vision that his generous gift to the community would benefit future generations. Thanks to the efforts of so many, that vision is a reality.

My congratulations to Cary Medical Center for 100 years of going above and beyond, and my best wishes for the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING VAN DENOVER JEWELRY

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Van Denover Jewelry of Oelwein, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1962, Jim Van Denover bought the watch and jewelry business known as Davis Jewelry. In order to purchase the store, Jim was required by the local bank to attend specific certifications to qualify for a loan. He took the opportunity to move his family to Quincy, IL, where he completed watch, clock, and jewelry repair courses at Gem City College.

Upon completing his courses in 1962, Jim secured and founded what is now known as Van Denover Jewelry. For over 25 years, Jim established Van Denover Jewelry as a household name in Oelwein and throughout Iowa, known for reasonable prices. He collaborated with 14 local jewelry store owners to create the Regional Jewelry Organization, a central hub for fair-priced jewelry. The organization went on to become the largest retail jewelry organization in Iowa, which serves more than 1,000 members under its new name, Retail Jewelers Organization.

As a family-owned and operated business, Jim's daughter Linda purchased the company from her dad in 1988. She grew the business further until her son, Chad Benter, assumed full ownership of the company in 2019. As a certified master bench jeweler, Chad brought his expertise in diamond and gemstone grading to the business which ensured the highest standard towards craftsmanship. He improved the store's packaging and oversaw a significant renovation, the first transformation since 1968 when a tornado hit the city. This resulted in Chad being recognized by the

Oelwein Chamber of Commerce in 2021 with the Expansion/Most Improved Business of the Year award. Today, Chad serves on the board of directors for Oelwein Chamber & Area Development, Inc., and is an active member of the city's chamber of commerce.

Today, Van Denover Jewelry is a full-service jewelry store that offers a diverse range of products, from diamond rings to custom timepieces—all high-quality crafted jewelry with the option to customize each piece.

Van Denover Jewelry remains active in the Oelwein community through their support of donation events such as Hazelton's Haze Day, Oelwein Plentiful Pantry, and the Fine Arts Guild. Van Denover Jewelry will celebrate its 62nd business anniversary this year.

I want to congratulate the Van Denover family for their persistence in providing the Oelwein community with high-quality jewelry and exceptional services. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO TEKA JENKINS

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise today to commend Teka Jenkins, executive director of Columbia County Community Connections, for her service to the community.

Mrs. Jenkins has dedicated herself to the well-being and upliftment of the people of Columbia County. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to community service have made a profound impact on countless lives. For 19 years, Columbia County Community Connections has been providing afterschool programs and opportunities for youth to become engaged, productive citizens of Columbia County.

Mrs. Jenkins' dedication to youth empowerment has been particularly noteworthy. She has worked diligently to create safe and nurturing environments where young people can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Her passion for education and mentorship has inspired many and has helped shape the future leaders of our community.

As a Georgia U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend Teka Jenkins for her outstanding contributions to Columbia County, for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community, and for her enduring commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE SINGLETARY

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend a public servant whose service helps keep children and families safe in Brooks County and southwest Georgia.

Natalie Singletary serves as executive director of Brooks County Family Connection, one of Georgia Family Connection's local partners working toward better outcomes for our children, families, and communities. Brooks County Family Connection

works to develop programs to support school readiness, improve literacy, and decrease youth substance use.

As executive director, Mrs. Singletary has initiated and led several important local programs, including Heaven's Sleigh, a Christmas giveaway where more than 1,070 children received toys, food, and books last year; the Mercer University Health Reporter System in Brooks and Cook Counties to decrease health inequities for rural families; and the Feeding and Reading project through the recently completed Community Transformation Grant from Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning, which helped collect and distribute food and supplies to those in need.

Mrs. Singletary also leads the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, which funds efforts to prevent youth substance abuse.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Natalie Singletary for her service as executive director of Brooks County Family Connection and for her work to help our kids learn, grow, and thrive.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. AMY STEVENS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend Dr. Amy Stevens, Ed.D., for her remarkable contributions to the State of Georgia, the United States of America, and for her unwavering dedication to honoring the service of our veterans.

A native of Augusta, ME, who now lives in Marietta, GA, Dr. Stevens is the founder of the Facebook social network group "Georgia Military Women," which has over 5,000 members. Georgia Military Women helps provide a unique insight to the issues faced by women in the military, highlights the often-overlooked sacrifices and achievements of these brave individuals, and has helped countless women get the benefits they have earned.

Dr. Stevens earned her undergraduate degree from Lynchburg Baptist College and master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Citadel. She also earned her doctorate from Argosy University in counseling psychology.

Dr. Stevens served on Active Duty in the U.S. Navy from 1979–1990, including multiple temporary duty assignments (TDY) to Korea from her duty station in Yokosuka from 1981–1983. She has been Navy-wide Officer Recruiter of the Year, a boot camp division officer, and her final duty station was director of education and training for Navy Telecommunications Headquarters.

After Dr. Stevens' military service, she worked for the U.S. Department of Labor. Retiring in 2004, she later became a licensed professional counselor, opening a small private practice and also served as the director of psychological health with the Georgia National Guard from 2009–2012. She currently serves as a military family life

consultant with Department of Defense contractors, and as a professional volunteer, she is a disaster mental health manager for the American Red Cross with 25 years of deployment experience.

Dr. Stevens' dedication and work has earned her numerous accolades. In 2021, she received the Nikki J. Randal Servant Leadership Award from the State of Georgia Women's Legislative Caucus. She was also the recipient of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Distinguished Citizen Medal; two awards of the Navy Commendation Medal; the Korea Defense Service Medal; the National Defense Medal; and various others.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Dr. Amy Stevens for her extraordinary career and contributions to our State and our Nation, and I thank her for her service.●

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend and celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, widely known as "The Church with Helping Hands."

In 1914, Piney Grove Church was organized and founded in a three-room house at 101 Bell Street in northeast Atlanta. A small band of worshipers first met on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Its distinct, initial location was nestled alongside great historical churches such as Wheat Street Baptist Church, Big Bethel A.M.E, and Ebenezer Baptist Church.

In 1917, 3 years after Greater Piney Grove's founding, the Fourth Ward community suffered one of the worst devastations the city had ever seen, the Great Fire of Atlanta. Thousands of Fourth Ward residents' homes and personal property were destroyed, including some members of this newly formed church. Piney Grove joined other churches and communities in helping to aid those dislocated by the fire.

In 1939, the church moved from 101 Bell Street to 101 Boulevard, providing a larger facility, more stability among the congregation, and better resources with which to aid the membership and the surrounding community.

In 1956, Piney Grove called its fourth pastor, the Rev. Frank Jones, whose tenure as pastor was the longest tenure of any of the pastors of Piney Grove and who changed the name of Piney Grove Church to its current name, the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, to envision the church as greater in all aspects of ministry and community services.

After Reverend Jones passed away in September 1989, Rev. Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr., was named senior pastor. Under Reverend Dr. Flippin, Sr.'s leadership, the church has inaugurated a family life center, a 1500-seat worship

center, a community resource center, and the Grove's Gardens at East Lake Senior Living Community.

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church formally celebrated its 110th anniversary.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend and congratulate Reverend Dr. Flippin, Sr., First Lady Sylvia T. Flippin, Rev. Dr. Richard C. Flippin, the deacons, administrative staff and ministry leaders, and the entire community of "The Grove" on this historic milestone.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to celebrate and commemorate the 100th anniversary of Booker T. Washington High School, a historic institution in the heart of Atlanta, GA, that has fostered excellence in education and empowered generations of students over the last century.

Established in September 1924 as the first public high school for African-American students in the State of Georgia, Booker T. Washington High School has played a crucial role in advancing educational opportunities for young men and women in our State.

Throughout its 100 years, Booker T. Washington High School has produced a distinguished roster of alumni who have gone on to make profound contributions in fields ranging from civil rights and public service to arts, science, and business. Among its most notable graduates is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose leadership in the civil rights movement changed the course of our Nation's history.

The school's commitment to academic rigor and social responsibility is reflected in its programs, which have inspired students to become lifelong learners and community leaders. Today, as we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the efforts of the faculty, staff, and administrators who have nurtured a rich legacy of scholarship and service.

I join local leaders in celebrating Booker T. Washington High School for its 100 years of excellence and its unwavering commitment to educational equity and empowerment.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLA BADER

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Daniella Bader, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Daniella is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Daniella, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GAVIN MICHAEL CHUHAK

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Gavin Michael Chuhak, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Gavin is currently a student at Cornell University, pursuing a major in government. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Gavin, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY ADRIAN CHERVENKOV

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Anthony Adrian Chervenkoy, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Anthony is currently a student at Crooms Academy of Information Technology, as well as dually enrolled at both Seminole State College and the University of Central Florida. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Anthony, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIN FUCHS

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Erin Fuchs, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Erin is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a major in political science with a minor degree in leadership studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Erin, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JASMINE HERRING

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Jasmine Herring, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Jasmine is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Jasmine, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA MANTILLA

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Kayla Mantilla, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the

good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Kayla is currently a student at Timber Creek High School. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Kayla, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ISABEL MARANGONI

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Isabel Marangoni, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Isabel is currently a student at Lake Highland Preparatory School. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Isabel, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLEN MATHEWS

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Kellen Mathews, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Kellen is currently a student at Rollins College, pursuing a major in biochemistry as well as a minor degree in English. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Kellen, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ARIANNA MURSALIN

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Arianna Nesha Mursalin, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Arianna is currently a student at American University, pursuing a major in justice, law, and criminology. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Arianna, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STACEY WAHINYA MWANGI

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Stacey Wahinya Mwangi, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Stacey is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a major in political science with two minor degrees in health services administration and legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Stacey, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KATJA OTTINGER

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Katja Ottinger, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Katja is currently a student at the University of Miami, where she is majoring in political science and completing two minor degrees in psychology and international relations. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Katja, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR PRYOR

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Taylor Pryor, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Taylor is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a major in psychology, clinical track. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Taylor, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MIRAYA RANAWAT

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Miraya Ranawat, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Miraya is currently a student at Lake Highland Preparatory School. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Miraya, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW SEQUEIRA

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Andrew Sequeira, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Andrew is currently a student at Florida State University, pursuing a major in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Andrew, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GAL SHEM-TOV

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Gal Shem-Tov, a summer 2024

intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Gal is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in history and pursuing an international business minor. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Gal, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TOMAS IGNACIO USECHE-CANCRO

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Tomas Ignacio Useche-Cancro, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Tomas is currently a student at St. Olaf College, pursuing a major in political science with a minor degree in international relations. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Tomas, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING LAKE MARY LITTLE LEAGUE

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Lake Mary Little League, the winners of the 2024 Little League World Series held in South Williamsport, PA, on August 25, 2024.

The Lake Mary Little League baseball team, led by Coach Jonathan Anderson, reached the Little League World Series with a perfect 13-0 record and finished their season with an overall record of 20-1. The team achieved victory in the southeast regional tournament, winning all four games with a combined score of 35-8 and qualifying for the worldwide baseball tournament.

To make it to the 2024 Little League World Series, Lake Mary defeated the Little League team from Goodlettsville, TN, in the regional championship game by a score of 11-0. During the tournament, Lake Mary also emerged victorious against teams from South Dakota, Washington, New York, Hawaii, Nevada, and Texas.

In the championship game against Taoyuan City, Taipei, Lake Mary managed to tie the game in the sixth inning after trailing 1-0, leading the game into extra innings for the third time in championship history. After a scoreless seventh inning, the eighth inning began with a runner at second base. Taipei failed to score in the top of the eighth inning.

On the first pitch of the bottom of the eighth inning, Hunter Alexander executed a bunt to the right. Taipei's pitcher grabbed the ball but his throw to first base flew into right field after no one was at the bag, allowing the runner from second base to make it to home plate and win the game for Lake

Mary. This was a thrilling victory for the Lake Mary team and for all Floridians.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Coach Jonathan Anderson, Chase Anderson, Christopher Chikodroff, Lathan Norton, Hunter Alexander, JJ Feliciano, Jacob Bibaud, Liam Morrissey, Luis Calo, Landon Bono, Garrett Rohozen, DeMarcos Mieses, and Teraj Alexander. I look forward to hearing of their continued success in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING MATTIE STEPANEK

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor and reflect on the remarkable life of Mattie Stepanek, a beloved member of our Rockville, MD, community, on the 20th anniversary of his passing. Despite his brief 14 years on this earth, Mattie's extraordinary achievements and tenacious spirit have left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and uplift us all.

Mattie was born with a rare form of muscular dystrophy, a debilitating disease that presented tremendous challenges throughout his life. Yet Mattie faced these challenges with courage, grace, and an unyielding determination to spread a message of hope, peace, and love. His poignant poetry and heartfelt words touched the hearts of millions. His message transcended barriers and brought people together through a shared vision of a more compassionate world.

Mattie's literary talents were evident at a young age. He authored several best-selling books of poetry in which the essence of his dreams and aspirations were captured in verses that resonated deeply with readers of all ages and backgrounds. Mattie was wise beyond his years, and his words are a powerful reminder of the beauty and strength that can emerge from even the most difficult circumstances.

Mattie was a fervent advocate for peace. He envisioned a world where kindness and understanding would prevail. He worked tirelessly to promote his vision. Mattie once said "Unity is strength . . . when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." His efforts to establish a National Peace Day have gained significant momentum and respect for his mission. Mattie's dream of a day devoted to peace should serve as both an inspiration and a call to action.

As we honor Mattie's life and legacy, I also want to recognize the incredible dedication of his mother Jeni Stepanek and the support of our community members, including Susan Farag. I commend their unrelenting commitment to honoring Mattie's legacy.

Although Mattie Stepanek's life was tragically cut short, it was filled with profound meaning and impact. His story is a testament of the power of resilience, love, and the human spirit. As we mark the 20th anniversary of his passing, let us reaffirm our commit-

ment to his vision of a world where peace and kindness flourish.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1608. An act to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1076. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 8282. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 11, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1608. An act to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*John Bradford Wiegmann, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 5017. A bill to improve the retirement security of American families by increasing Social Security benefits for current and future beneficiaries while making Social Security stronger for future generations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 5018. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and preserve the breadth of the protections under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5019. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5020. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish certain requirements for meat, poultry, fruit, and vegetable purchases by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5021. A bill to ensure the accessibility of drugs furnished through the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 5022. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "John Mercer Langston Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5023. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve falls prevention research and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 5024. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on establishing a geospatial workforce development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HELMY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5025. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to make available under the assistance to firefighters grant program the establishment of cancer prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5026. A bill to establish programs to reduce rates of sepsis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 5027. A bill to increase access to affordable housing, reduce regulatory barriers, increase oversight, and assist the most vulnerable; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5028. A bill to require Federal contractors to implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 808. A resolution congratulating and expressing gratitude to Commander Jeremy Robertson and the crew of the USS Carney for the exemplary and historic performance during their 235-day deployment to the United States Naval Forces Europe-Africa and the United States Naval Forces Central Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 809. A resolution supporting the designation of September 13, 2024, as "National Sepsis Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 810. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2024, as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. Res. 811. A resolution condemning the horrific shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, recognizing the victims, and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 103

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 103, a bill to modify the minimum required weight of orange juice soluble solids.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve ac-

cess to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1185

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1185, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 1262

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1262, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require Federal employee health benefit plans to include assisted reproductive treatment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1390

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1390, a bill to repeal the sunset provision of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1794

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

of S. 1794, a bill to waive time limitations in order to allow the Medal of Honor to be awarded to Gary Lee McKiddy, of Miamisburg, Ohio, for acts of valor while a helicopter crew chief and door gunner with the 1st Calvary Division during the Vietnam War.

S. 1960

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1960, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2176

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2176, a bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2245, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2407, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2934

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2934, a bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for contributory liability for certain electronic commerce platforms for use of a counterfeit mark by a third party on such platforms, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3105

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3105, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 3402

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3402, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on the failure of certain hedge funds owning excess single-family residences to dispose of such residences, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow companies associated with foreign adversaries from receiving the advanced manufacturing production credit.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 3940

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3940, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a first-time homebuyer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 4650

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4650, a bill to establish a rental assistance program for low-income veteran families, and for other purposes.

S. 4791

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4791, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the consideration of continuity of health care in determining best medical interest under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes.

S. 4914

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4914, a bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 4963

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4963, a bill to support Federal, State, and Tribal coordination and management efforts relating to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease surveillance and ongoing and potential wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4988, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals who fought for or with the United States against the armed forces of Imperial Japan in the Pacific theater and the impacted Sashinax people on Attu, whose lives, culture, and community were irrevocably changed from December 8, 1941, to August 15, 1945.

S. 5007

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5007, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 5012

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5012, a bill to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 96

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 96, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance".

S. RES. 804

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 804, a resolution recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the President-elect of Venezuela.

AMENDMENT NO. 2167

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2167 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2717

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2717 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3234

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3234 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5026. A bill to establish programs to reduce rates of sepsis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 5026

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 “Securing Enhanced Programs, Systems, and Initiatives for Sepsis Act” or the “SEPSIS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) 1,700,000 individuals in the United States are infected by sepsis annually and 350,000 individuals in the United States are killed by sepsis each year.

(2) Sepsis affects different groups of people unevenly, with Black Americans twice as likely to die from it than non-Hispanic white Americans.

(3) Disparities in the incidence and severity of, and mortality attributable to, sepsis persist across race and socioeconomic status.

(4) There is a need for increased Federal investment in research related to sepsis to build on research supported by the National Institutes of Health, including research with a pediatric focus supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

(5) The infectious disease workforce, which plays a key role in reducing the burden of sepsis, needs additional support to recruit and retain health care professionals engaged in infection prevention and related patient care.

(6) Sepsis is one of the most expensive conditions to treat in hospitals in the United States, with high spending compounded by frequent hospital re-admissions, including 1 in 5 patient re-admissions within 30 days of discharge and 1 in 3 patient re-admissions within 180 days of discharge.

(7) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 80 percent of sepsis cases begin outside of the hospital.

(8) Most sepsis fatalities are preventable with early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment.

(9) The sepsis protocols for hospitals in New York State, called “Rory’s Regulations” for Rory Staunton who died from preventable, treatable sepsis at 12 years of age, have been proven to save lives through rapid identification and treatment of sepsis.

(10) Providers and public health experts should study and learn from Rory’s Regulations to find ways to end preventable deaths from sepsis on a national scale.

SEC. 3. SEPSIS PROGRAMS.

Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317V the following:

“SEC. 317W. SEPSIS PROGRAMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’), shall maintain a sepsis team for purposes of—

“(1) leading an education campaign on best practices for addressing sepsis in hospitals, such as the practices outlined in the Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

“(2) improving data collection on pediatric sepsis;

“(3) sharing information with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to inform the development and implementation of sepsis quality measures to improve outcomes for patients;

“(4) updating data elements with respect to sepsis used by the United States Core Data for Interoperability, in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, the Director of the Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology;

“(5) facilitating efforts across the Department of Health and Human Services to develop outcome measures with respect to sepsis; and

“(6) carrying out other activities related to sepsis, as the Director determines appropriate.

“(b) REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF OUTCOME MEASURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Securing Enhanced Programs, Systems, and Initiatives for Sepsis Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the development and implementation of outcome measures for sepsis, for both adult and pediatric populations, that take into consideration the social and clinical factors that affect the likelihood a patient will develop sepsis.

“(c) ANNUAL BRIEFING ON SEPSIS ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Securing Enhanced Programs, Systems, and Initiatives for Sepsis Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall present to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a briefing on—

“(1) aggregate data on the adoption by hospitals of sepsis best practices, including the Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements, as reported by hospitals to the Director, using the hospital sepsis program assessment tool of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State sepsis reporting requirements;

“(2) rates of pediatric sepsis and efforts to reduce cases of pediatric sepsis, including how the Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements can be effective at supporting efforts to reduce cases of pediatric sepsis;

“(3) the coordination of sepsis reduction efforts across the Department of Health and Human Services;

“(4) in partnership with the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an evaluation of the impact of the Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements on quality of care for patients;

“(5) data sharing from the National Healthcare Safety Network with other agencies and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to sepsis; and

“(6) a report on the latest datasets on sepsis, as provided to the Director by the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

“(d) HONOR ROLL PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a voluntary program for recognizing hospitals that maintain effective sepsis programs or improve their sepsis programs over time, including in the areas of early detection, effective treatment, and overall progress in the reduction of the burden of sepsis.

“(2) APPLICATIONS; SELECTION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) solicit applications from hospitals; and

“(B) establish public benchmarks by which the Secretary will select hospitals for recognition under such paragraph, including with respect to each area described in such paragraph.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 808—CONGRATULATING AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO COMMANDER JEREMY ROBERTSON AND THE CREW OF THE USS CARNEY FOR THE EXEMPLARY AND HISTORIC PERFORMANCE DURING THEIR 235-DAY DEPLOYMENT TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES EUROPE-AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 808

Whereas the USS Carney (DDG-64), an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer of the United States Navy, has completed a historic deployment, and its crew has demonstrated exceptional skill and bravery in the interception of missiles and drones, the first time the United States Navy has directly engaged an enemy to such a degree since World War II;

Whereas, during its deployment, the crew of the USS Carney successfully conducted 51 engagements against Houthi-launched weapons, intercepting multiple threats, including cruise missiles, anti-ship ballistic missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles, showcasing the advanced capabilities and readiness of the United States Navy;

Whereas the deployment of the USS Carney included multiple defensive strikes against Houthis in Yemen, destroying 20 targets, and the USS Carney and the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) successfully engaged an Iranian ballistic missile, preventing potential harm to the United States Armed Forces and United States allies;

Whereas the successful and impactful operations carried out by the USS Carney contributed significantly to the safety and security of international waters and the protection of nations that are United States allies;

Whereas, in addition to providing ballistic missile and air defense in the Red Sea, the USS Carney also answered a distress call from a civilian ship and provided 600 gallons of Aqueous Film Forming Foam, helping to extinguish a fire in a cargo tank and ultimately aiding in the ship's survival, with no lives lost;

Whereas the actions of the USS Carney were crucial in protecting both commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea and surrounding waters, ensuring the safety of international shipping lanes;

Whereas the deployment of the USS Carney exemplifies the commitment of the United States to maintaining peace and stability through superior maritime defense capabilities;

Whereas the crew members of the USS Carney displayed unwavering dedication, professionalism, and teamwork in the face of complex and dangerous missions;

Whereas the homecoming of the USS Carney to Naval Station Mayport marks a significant milestone in the distinguished service history of the vessel, bringing pride and honor to the United States Navy and the nation as a whole;

Whereas the USS Carney, in addition to the entire Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group, received the Combat Action Ribbon for satisfactory performance under enemy fire;

Whereas Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro awarded a Navy Unit Commendation to the United States Naval Forces Central Command, highlighting the bravery and decisive actions of the crew of the USS Carney;

Whereas the crew of the USS Carney was previously recognized with a Combat Action Ribbon in January 2024; and

Whereas Commanding Officer of the USS Carney, Jeremy Robertson, and the sailors aboard the USS Carney have received numerous awards and medals for their leadership and dedication to the mission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the crew of the USS Carney for its successful completion of a historic deployment;

(2) expresses gratitude to the crew members for their exemplary service and dedication to the mission of protecting national and international security;

(3) recognizes the importance of the contributions of the USS Carney to the strategic posture and the power projected by the United States Navy in the Middle East;

(4) commends the leadership and tactical expertise demonstrated by the commanding officers and crew members during their deployment; and

(5) celebrates the safe return and triumphant homecoming of the USS Carney to Naval Station Mayport, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the crew members and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 809—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SEPSIS DAY”

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 809

Whereas sepsis is a medical condition caused by a severe immune response to infection or traumatic injury;

Whereas the overwhelming flood of inflammatory signals released into the blood to fight infection can impair blood flow, injuring the body's organs;

Whereas sepsis is a serious infection and a leading cause of death and disability in the United States;

Whereas severe sepsis can result in septic shock, exposing the patient to potentially fatal multiple organ failure;

Whereas 1,700,000 people in the United States are infected by sepsis annually;

Whereas sepsis kills 350,000 people in the United States each year;

Whereas sepsis is one of the most expensive conditions to treat in hospitals in the United States, with high spending compounded by frequent hospital readmissions, including 1 in 5 patient readmissions within 30 days of discharge and 1 in 3 patient readmissions within 180 days of discharge;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 80 percent of sepsis cases begin outside the hospital;

Whereas most sepsis fatalities are preventable, and early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of sepsis can prevent loss of life;

Whereas the sepsis protocols for hospitals in New York State, called “Rory’s Regulations” for Rory Staunton who died from preventable, treatable sepsis at 12 years of age, have been proven to save lives through rapid identification and treatment of sepsis;

Whereas providers and public health experts should study and learn from Rory’s Regulations to find ways to end preventable deaths from sepsis; and

Whereas September 13, 2024, would be an appropriate date to designate as “National Sepsis Day” to coincide with the international designation of September 13 as “World Sepsis Day”, to raise awareness of the condition, to encourage the education of patients, families, health care professionals, and government agencies on the seriousness of sepsis and the importance of early detection as the key to survival, and to focus attention and energy towards the ultimate goal of ending sepsis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of September 13, 2024, as “National Sepsis Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 810—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 810

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are

honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2024, as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 811—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC SHOOTING AT APALACHEE HIGH SCHOOL IN WINDER, GEORGIA, RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 811

Whereas, on September 4, 2024, a student violently opened fire at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia;

Whereas this reprehensible action resulted in the deaths of 2 students and 2 teachers—

(1) Christian Angulo, age 14, a son and brother;

(2) Richard William “Ricky” Aspinwall II, age 39, a husband, dad, son, coach, and teacher;

(3) Cristina Irimie, age 53, a teacher, wife, daughter, and friend; and

(4) Mason Schermerhorn, age 14, a son and brother;

Whereas 9 additional victims were injured and hospitalized;

Whereas countless other students, teachers, and staff experienced significant trauma and mental anguish as a result of this shooting;

Whereas the entire Winder, Georgia, community has been tragically and irrevocably affected by this tragedy; and

Whereas all children should be able to attend school without fearing for their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence that occurred at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, on September 4, 2024;

(2) honors the memory of the victims—

(A) Christian Angulo;

(B) Richard William “Ricky” Aspinwall II;

(C) Cristina Irimie; and

(D) Mason Schermerhorn;

(3) extends its deepest condolences and support to their friends and families, and to the communities of Apalachee High School and Winder, Georgia;

(4) expresses hope for those wounded to recover fully and quickly;

(5) offers appreciation and gratitude to law enforcement, first responders, healthcare workers, and teachers and faculty for their bravery and decisive action; and

(6) reaffirms its duty to protect the safety and security of all people in the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3244. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3245. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3246. Mr. KAINÉ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3247. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3248. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3249. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3250. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3251. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3252. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3253. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3254. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3255. Mr. OSSOFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3256. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3257. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3258. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3259. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3260. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3261. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3262. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3263. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3264. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3265. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3244. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY REGARDING PROTECTION OF CERTAIN NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 4510(e)(1)(C) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2661(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “owned by the United States or contracted to the United States, to” and inserting “owned by or contracted to the Department of Energy, including facilities that”.

SA 3245. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and eligible persons,” after “Other eligible veterans”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “veterans” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “or eligible person” after “veteran” each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting “or eligible person's” after “veteran's”;

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans” each place it appears; and

(B) by striking “non-veteran-related”; and

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

“(e) ELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible person’ means—

“(1) any spouse described in section 4101(5) of this title; or

“(2) the spouse of any person who died while a member of the Armed Forces.”.

SA 3246. Mr. KAINÉ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 855. WARM BASE MANUFACTURING PILOT PROGRAM TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING SURGE CAPACITY FOR WARFIGHTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL-GRADE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a pilot program to be

known as the “Assuring Critical Infrastructure to Supply Warfighter Emergency Medical-grade Personal Protective Equipment Pilot Program”.

(b) **SELECTION OF INSTALLATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, shall select geographically diverse locations in the United States that can surge medical-grade personal protective equipment for warfighters to respond to national or international public health emergencies.

(2) **PRIORITIZATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In selecting locations under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall give priority to domestic facilities where the Department has already invested funds to transform medical-grade personal protective equipment raw materials into finished products that are essential to maintain warfighter health and safety in the event of a national or international public health emergency.

(B) **ADDITIONAL PRIORITY.**—In selecting locations under paragraph (1), preference should be given to installations that—

- (i) have the presence of critical transportation infrastructure immediately adjacent to the selected domestic facility that facilitates expedited inbound transportation of medical-grade personal protective equipment raw materials and outbound transportation of finished medical-grade personal protective equipment;
- (ii) are ISO 13815 certified;
- (iii) are subject to periodic audit by the Food and Drug Administration;
- (iv) have the ability to provide and quickly surge medical-grade personal protective equipment for warfighter use;
- (v) have the capacity to support expansion of non-woven fabric production; and
- (vi) can minimize raw material production waste by utilizing a scrap reclamation process.

SA 3247. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1291. PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT BY UNITED STATES PERSONS IN ENERGY SECTOR OF VENEZUELA UNTIL THE LEGITIMATE RESULTS OF THE JULY 28, 2024, ELECTION ARE EXPECTED.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the following transactions are prohibited:

(A) Any transaction by a United States person, or an entity owned or controlled by a United States person, to invest, trade, or operate within the energy sector of Venezuela, including the provision of goods, services, or finance to—

- (i) Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., or subsidiaries, representatives, or related companies of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A.; or
- (ii) the regime of Nicolas Maduro or any nondemocratic successor government in Venezuela.

(B) Any transaction that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding,

causes a violation of, or attempts to violate the prohibition under subparagraph (A).

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The prohibitions under paragraph (1) shall apply—

(A) to the extent provided by law and regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this section; and

(B) notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may take such actions, including prescribing regulations, as are necessary to implement this section.

(B) **IEEPA AUTHORITIES.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this section.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a) or any regulation, license, directive, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—All agencies of the United States Government shall take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) **TERMINATION OF PROHIBITION.**—The prohibitions under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to Congress a determination that the regime of Nicolas Maduro has recognized the July 28, 2024, electoral victory of Edmundo Gonzalez and relinquished power to the legitimately democratically elected government in Venezuela.

(e) **UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “United States person” means—

- (1) a United States citizen or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;
- (2) any entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including a foreign branch of any such entity); and
- (3) any person physically located in the United States.

SA 3248. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 630. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS THAT ARISE FROM THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **DEATH GRATUITY.**—Section 1475(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “for a period of more than 13 days”.

(b) **RECOVERY, CARE, AND DISPOSITION OF REMAINS.**—Section 1481(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) Any person not otherwise covered by this section whose death entitles a survivor of such person to a death gratuity under section 1475 of this title.”.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A CASUALTY ASSISTANCE OFFICER.**—Section 633 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 1475 note) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
- (A) in paragraph (1)—
- (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
- (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
- (iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) an individual not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) who is entitled to a death gratuity under section 1475 of title 10, United States Code.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

- (i) by striking “spouses and dependents” each place it appears and inserting “survivors”; and
- (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “spouses and other dependents of deceased members” and inserting “such survivors”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the spouse and other dependents of a deceased member of the Armed Forces” and inserting “such a survivor”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to a death that occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3249. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STUDY AND REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE USE OF CHINESE-MADE UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS AND PROHIBITION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS.

(a) **STUDY AND REPORT ON USE IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF CHINESE-MADE UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS.**—

(1) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) conduct a study on the use in Department of Defense systems of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities; and

(B) submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall cover the following:

(A) The extent to which covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities are used by the Department, including a list of all such covered unmanned ground vehicle systems.

(B) The extent to which covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities are used by contractors of the Department.

(C) The nature of the use described in subparagraph (B).

(D) An assessment of the national security threats associated with using covered unmanned ground vehicle systems in applications of the Department. Such assessment shall cover concerns relating to the following:

- (i) Cybersecurity.
- (ii) Technological maturity of the systems.
- (iii) Technological vulnerabilities in the systems that may be exploited by foreign adversaries of the United States.

(E) Actions taken by the Department to identify covered foreign entities that—

- (i) develop or manufacture covered unmanned ground vehicle systems; and
- (ii) have a military-civil nexus on the list maintained by the Department under section 1260H(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(F) The feasibility and advisability of directing the Defense Innovation Unit, or another entity in the Department of Defense, to develop a list of United States manufacturers of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems.

(G) A recommendation on whether a prohibition on the procurement and operation of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems is in the best interest of the Department.

(b) PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF COVERED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS FROM COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may not procure or operate any covered unmanned ground vehicle system that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTED SERVICES.—The prohibition under subparagraph (A) with respect to the operation of covered unmanned ground vehicles systems applies to any such system that is being used by the Department of Defense through the method of contracting for the services of such systems.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense is exempt from any restrictions under subsection (a) in a case in which the Secretary determines that the procurement or operation—

(A) is required in the national interest of the United States; and

(B) is for the sole purposes of—

(i) research, evaluation, training, testing, or analysis for electronic warfare, information warfare operations, cybersecurity, or the development of unmanned ground vehicle system or counter-unmanned ground vehicle system technology; or

(ii) conducting counterterrorism or counterintelligence activities, protective missions, Federal criminal or national security investigations (including forensic examinations), electronic warfare, information warfare operations, cybersecurity activities, or the development of unmanned ground vehicle system or counter-unmanned ground vehicle system technology.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term “covered foreign country” means any of the following:

- (A) The People’s Republic of China.
- (B) The Russian Federation.
- (C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.
- (D) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

(2) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term “covered foreign entity” means an entity that is domiciled in a covered foreign country or subject to influence or control by the

government of a covered foreign country, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) COVERED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEM.—The term “covered unmanned ground vehicle system”—

(A) means a mechanical device that—

(i) is capable of locomotion, navigation, or movement on the ground; and

(ii) operates at a distance from one or more operators or supervisors based on commands or in response to sensor data, or through any combination thereof; and

(B) includes—

(i) remote surveillance vehicles, autonomous patrol technologies, mobile robotics, and humanoid robots; and

(ii) the vehicle, its payload, and any external device used to control the vehicle.

SA 3250. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. EXTENSION OF THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM ERA VETERANS LAND ALLOTMENT PROGRAM.

Section 1119(b)(3)(B) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g–1(b)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “5-year period” and inserting “10-year period”.

SA 3251. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1228. SUPPORTING SYRIAN CIVILIANS.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the “Supporting Syrian Civilians Act” or the “Caesar Act 2.0”.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO THE CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019.—

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

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “the President shall impose” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the President—

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

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

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

“(B) may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign person that the Secretary of State determines knowingly provides, on or after such date of enactment, significant financial, material, or technological support to a foreign person engaging in an activity described in any of

subparagraphs (B) through (H) of paragraph (2).”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

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

“(i) the Government of Syria (including any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria), a senior political figure of the Government of Syria, a member of the People’s Assembly of Syria, or a senior foreign political figure (as defined in section 101.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of the Arab Socialist Ba’ath Party of Syria, including any such senior foreign political figure who is a member of the Central Command, Central Committee, or Auditing and Inspection Committee of such Party;”;

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

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

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

“(i) to the Government of Syria; or

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

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at the end;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) purposefully engages in or directs—

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

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

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

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

(2) REPORT ON CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019.—

(A) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees describing the implementation of sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by this section.

(C) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall describe—

(i) all individuals or entities sanctioned under the authorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019;

(ii) all individuals and entities determined to be eligible for sanction under the authorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 who have not yet been sanctioned under such authorities;

(iii) all individuals and entities currently under consideration for sanction under the authorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019; and

(iv) the steps taken to explain to financial institutions sanctions liability under the authorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and the date such steps were taken.

(D) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (B) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex that is submitted separately from the unclassified report.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Section 7432 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7432. EXCEPTIONS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ‘agricultural commodity’ has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

“(2) GOOD.—The term ‘good’ means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

“(3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ‘medical device’ has the meaning given the term ‘device’ in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(4) MEDICINE.—The term ‘medicine’ has the meaning given the term ‘drug’ in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

“(b) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if admitting or paroling such alien into the United States is necessary—

“(1) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

“(2) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

“(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

“(d) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply to—

“(1) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assistance, or for other humanitarian purposes; or

“(2) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in paragraph (1).”.

(4) EXTENSION OF SUNSET.—Section 7438 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

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

(A) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

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

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

(I) under section 7412(a) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by paragraph (1);

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

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

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

(C) FORM.—Each determination required to be submitted under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but the justification specified in such paragraph may be included in a classified annex. The unclassified determination shall be made available on a publicly available website of the Federal Government.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE PROHIBITION OF RECOGNITION OF THE ASSAD REGIME.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to not recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad due to the Assad regime’s ongoing crimes against the Syrian people, including failure to meet the criteria outlined in section 7431(a) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note);

(2) to actively oppose recognition or normalization of relations by other governments with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar Al-Assad, including by fully implementing the mandatory primary and secondary sanctions in the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order 13894 (84 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property and suspending entry of certain persons contributing to the situation in Syria);

(3) to continue to actively advance the national interests of the United States in Syria, including—

(A) counterterrorism and counternarcotic operations;

(B) the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, including earthquake-related early recovery; and

(C) significant diplomatic efforts towards the advancement of a political solution to the Syrian conflict in adherence with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015); and

(4) to take all necessary steps to secure—

(A) the release of Austin Tice and other hostages and unjustly detained United States nationals within Syria; and

(B) the repatriation of the remains of United States nationals killed by the Assad regime or by the Islamic State in Syria, including Majd Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley, Peter Kassig, and Steven Sotloff.

(d) INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO COUNTER NORMALIZATION WITH ASSAD REGIME.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(iv) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(vi) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) COVERED TRANSACTION.—The term “covered transaction” means a transaction, including an investment, grant, contract, or donation (including a loan or other extension of credit) by a foreign person that is a representative, citizen, or entity incorporated exclusively under the laws of the Republic of Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, or Lebanon to a recipient located in any area of Syria controlled by the Assad regime.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period not to exceed 3 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(i) the steps taken or planned to be taken by foreign governments to normalize or upgrade political, diplomatic, or economic ties with the regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria (referred to in this Act as the “Assad regime”); and

(ii) the actions taken by the United States Government to counter such steps.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a description of—

(I) violations of international law and human rights abuses committed by Bashar al-Assad, the Government of the Russian Federation, or the Government of Iran; and

(II) progress made towards achieving justice for the Syrian people and accountability for the violators;

(ii) a list, including the identification of—

(I) any single covered transaction exceeding \$2,500,000; and

(II) any combination of covered transactions by the same source within a 12-month period that exceed \$2,500,000, in the aggregate;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(VI) the Countering American Adversaries through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9401 et seq.); and

(VII) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (title VIII of Public Law 106-120; 21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and

(v) an assessment of how recognition of, or normalization of relations with, the Assad regime by other governments impacts—

(I) the national security of the United States;

(II) the material benefits of such recognition or normalization to the Assad regime;

(III) the normalizing government prospects for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254;

(IV) prospects for justice and accountability for war crimes in Syria; and

(V) the benefits derived by the Government of the Russian Federation or the Government of Iran.

(3) TEMPORAL SCOPE.—The initial report required under paragraph (2) shall address the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act. Each subsequent report shall address the 1-year period immediately following the last day covered by the most recently submitted report.

(4) FORM.—Each report required under paragraph (2) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(e) REPORTS ON MANIPULATION OF UNITED NATIONS BY THE ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period not to exceed 5 years, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes the manipulation of the United Nations by the Assad regime, including—

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

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

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

(D) a description of ways in which United Nations aid directly benefits the Assad regime and its associates;

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

(F) the identification of entities affiliated with the Assad regime (including the Syria Trust for Development and the Syrian Arab

Red Crescent), foreign government ministries, and private corporations owned or controlled by the Assad regime, which have received United Nations funding, contracts, or grants or have otherwise entered into a formalized partnership with the United Nations;

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

(H) a strategy for—

(i) reducing the ability of the Assad regime to manipulate or otherwise influence the United Nations and other aid operations in Syria; and

(ii) ensuring that United States and international aid is delivered in a neutral and impartial manner consistent with basic humanitarian principles.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(f) BRIEFING BEFORE FORCE POSTURE CHANGE.—Not later than 15 days before any decision to withdraw United States forces from any part of Syria where such forces are being deployed, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on the likely impacts of such withdrawal.

(g) ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDS FOR SYRIA.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the humanitarian situation in areas of northwest Syria that are not controlled by the Assad regime remains dire, which is due in large part to ongoing attacks, diversion of cross-line assistance, and corruption by the Assad regime;

(B) Syrian refugees and their host communities—

(i) are under significant strain due to the prolonged conflict in Syria; and

(ii) require significant assistance from the international community;

(C) it remains unsafe for Syrian refugees to return to Syria absent a formal cessation of hostilities and significant implementation of the principles laid out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015);

(D) the forced return of Syrian refugees to Syria absent their consent or the aforementioned conditions violates the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) host countries must not forcibly return refugees to Syria without their consent absent a formal cessation of hostilities and significant implementation of the principles laid out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015).

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

(A) to provide humanitarian funding to northwest Syria outside of mechanisms controlled by the Assad regime;

(B) to maintain basic services for communities in northwest Syria outside of Assad regime control;

(C) to oppose the refoulement or otherwise forcible return of Syrian refugees and provide significant assistance to Syrian refugees and their host communities; and

(D) to work with partners and allies to support the efforts described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA.—There is authorized to be appropriated, in addition to amounts already appropriated for such purpose, \$10,000,000 in Economic Support Funds for the Syria Civil

Defense (commonly known as the “White Helmets”).

(4) REPORT AND STRATEGY ON STABILIZATION FUNDING FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that assesses—

(i) the feasibility of providing stabilization funding to areas of northwest Syria that are not under the control the Assad regime; and

(ii) the risks that such funds will be diverted and steps to counter such risks.

(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) STABILIZATION ASSISTANCE FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 in Economic Support Funds for stabilization funding in areas of northwest Syria that are not under the control of the Assad Regime.

(ii) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—None of the funds appropriated pursuant to clause (i) may be expended until a senior official of the Department of State provides a briefing regarding such expenditure to—

(I) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(II) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(III) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(IV) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) FUNDS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 in Economic Support Funds to support Syrian refugees and host communities in the Middle East and North Africa.

(h) COUNTERING CAPTAGON TRAFFICKING.—

(1) REPORT ON STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives describing the implementation of the strategy submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 1238(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the amount of funds obligated for the previous fiscal year in support of the strategy referred to in such subparagraph; and

(ii) a description of how such funds have supported each of the elements described in such strategy.

(C) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex that is transmitted separately from the unclassified report.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, in addition to any funds already appropriated for such purpose, \$10,000,000 from the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account to counter the production and trafficking of Captagon in the Middle East and North Africa, especially such trafficking carried out by the Assad Regime and Hezbollah.

(I) BRIEFING ON STEPS TO FREE AUSTIN TICE AND REPATRIATE AMERICAN REMAINS FROM SYRIA.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
(A) Austin Tice, an American journalist, was kidnapped on August 14, 2012.

(B) Majd Kamalmaz, an American psychotherapist, was detained by the Assad regime in February 2017, and subsequently murdered in captivity by the Assad regime.

(C) Kayla Mueller and Peter Kassig, 2 American aid workers, and James Foley and Steven Sotloff, 2 American journalists, were all United States citizens who were murdered in Syria while being held in captivity by the Islamic State.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that the United States Government should take all necessary steps—

(A) to secure the release of Austin Tice and other Americans unjustly detained in Syria; and

(B) to secure the return of the remains of Majd Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley, Peter Kassig, and Steven Sotloff.

(3) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the President shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding—

(A) efforts by the United States Government—

(i) to secure the release of Austin Tice and other unjustly detained Americans in Syria; and

(ii) to secure the return of the remains of Majd Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley, Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, and other United States nationals killed in captivity in Syria; and

(B) the steps the United States Government is taking to keep the families of such persons informed of its efforts to secure the release of such persons or the return of their remains.

SA 3252. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Supporting Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Republic of Georgia

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Georgian People’s Act” or the “GPA Act”.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 9, 1991, the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union, and on March 24, 1992, the United States and Georgia established formal diplomatic relations.

(2) Since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(3) At the 2008 Summit in Bucharest, NATO recognized the aspirations of Georgia to join NATO and committed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance.

(4) On August 7, 2008, the Russian Federation invaded Georgia and thereafter occupied 20 percent of its territory, all of which it continues to occupy.

(5) On January 9, 2009, the United States and Georgia signed the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, affirming the close relationship between the United States and Georgia based on the shared principles of democracy, free markets, defense and security cooperation, and cultural exchanges.

(6) Georgia made significant contributions to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the largest troop contributor among NATO partners to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

(7) The United States and Georgia have maintained a strong security partnership, including the U.S.-Georgia Security Cooperation Framework, signed in November 2019, and the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative, launched in October 2021.

(8) The United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and condemns the continued occupation by Russia of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

(9) The United States has continuously supported the democratic wishes of the Georgian people, who have long maintained their aspirations to join the European Union and NATO.

(10) During and following her tenure as United States Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Georgia between 2020 and 2023, Kelly Degnan has been the subject of slander and verbal abuse from members of the Government of Georgia.

(11) As recently as October 2023, reputable polling indicates that 86 percent of the Georgian public support Georgia becoming a member of the European Union.

(12) Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Georgia—

(A) has not imposed its own sanctions on Russia; and

(B) has increased economic ties, including initiating many direct flights to and from Russia;

(C) has eased visa requirements for Russians visiting Georgia; and

(D) is perceived as a conduit of Russia’s sanctions evasion endeavors.

(13) Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the subsequent rounds of international sanctions placed on Russia as a result of such invasion, Georgia saw its trade with Russia grow by 34 percent between January and June 2023.

(14) Georgia’s geographic position as both a Black Sea littoral nation and its proximity to the Caspian Sea could further strengthen Georgia’s economy by transporting natural gas through the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project.

(15) In June 2022, when the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova received candidate status for membership in the European Union, the European Council stated it would only be ready to grant Georgia candidate status once the country has addressed the 12 priorities outlined by the European Commission.

(16) In December 2023, the European Union granted Georgia the status of candidate country, with the understanding that Georgia would act consistent with the recommendations of the European Commission by continuing to advance the outlined reform priorities and increasing its alignment with the European Union’s foreign and security policy positions.

(17) On February 24, 2023, a foreign agents bill was introduced in the Parliament of Georgia—

(A) to impose restrictions on civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and independent media organizations; and

(B) to stigmatize such organizations as “foreign agents”.

(18) On March 7, 2023, the Parliament of Georgia accelerated the passage of that bill, which led to—

(A) large-scale protests that Georgian authorities confronted by deploying tear gas and water cannons; and

(B) the withdrawal of the bill by the Parliament.

(19) On April 15, 2024, the foreign agents bill, which was renamed “the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence”, was reintroduced in the Parliament of Georgia with minor changes that did not reflect the express wishes of the Georgian people, which led to—

(A) large-scale protests in Tbilisi and around the country;

(B) harassment and intimidation of civil society activists and journalists; and

(C) the ejection of opposition parliamentarians from parliamentary hearings.

(20) On April 29, 2024, former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is currently the Honorary Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream Party, gave a speech in which he—

(A) harshly attacked American and European partners;

(B) alleged that the goal of foreign funding of civil society and nongovernmental organizations in Georgia is to deprive Georgia of its state sovereignty; and

(C) promised to punish opposition political groups.

(21) In the face of massive, nation-wide protests against the foreign agents law, Georgian authorities have, in some cases, deployed disproportionate force against largely peaceful protestors, including—

(A) reportedly attacking journalists covering the protests and members of the political opposition; and

(B) threatening civil society leaders and family members of protestors at their homes.

(22) On May 14, 2024, the Parliament of Georgia passed the foreign agents bill against the wishes of the Georgian people.

(23) On May 21, 2024, the Venice Commission issued an opinion regarding Georgia’s foreign influence law in which it “strongly recommend[ed] repealing the Law in its current form, as its fundamental flaws will involve significant negative consequences for the freedoms of association and expression, the right to privacy, the right to participate in public affairs as well as the prohibition of discrimination.”.

SEC. 1293. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to call on all political parties and elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia to continue working on addressing the reform plan outlined by the European Commission to advance Georgia’s recently granted candidate status, which the people of Georgia have freely elected to pursue;

(2) to call on the Government of Georgia to institute the required reforms, which are to be developed through an inclusive and transparent consultation process with opposition parties and civil society organizations;

(3) to express serious concern that impediments to strengthening the democratic institutions and processes of Georgia, including the foreign agents law, will slow or halt Georgia’s progress toward achieving its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, be perceived as stagnating the democratic trajectory of Georgia, and result in negative domestic and international consequences for the Government of Georgia;

(4) to impose swift consequences on individuals who are directly responsible for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged

in leading, actions or policies that significantly undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(5) to emphasize the importance of contributing to international efforts—

(A) to combat Russian aggression, including through sanctions on trade with Russia and the implementation and enforcement of worldwide sanctions on Russia; and

(B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade ties between Georgia and Russia;

(6) to call on all political parties, elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, including for the press, and the rule of law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil society;

(7) to call on the Government of Georgia to release all persons detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds and drop any pending charges against them;

(8) to call on the Government of Georgia to ensure that the national elections scheduled for October 2024 are free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people; and

(9) to continue impressing upon the Government of Georgia that the United States is committed to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

SEC. 1294. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FOREIGN AGENTS LAW.**—The term “foreign agents law” means the “On Transparency of Foreign Influence” law, which was passed by the Parliament of Georgia in May 2024.

(3) **GEORGIA.**—The term “Georgia” means the Republic of Georgia.

(4) **NATO.**—The term “NATO” means the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 1—CONDITIONS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

Subchapter A—Sanctions

SEC. 1295. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(1) **ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means any individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) **IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.**—The term “immediate family members” has the meaning given the term “immediate relatives” in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(5) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person within the United States.

SEC. 1295A. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to support the constitutionally stated aspirations of Georgia to become a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which—

(1) is made clear under Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia; and

(2) is supported by an estimated 86 percent of the citizens of Georgia.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) acts of blocking Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia, due to undue influence from corrupt or oligarchic forces, constitute a form of corruption;

(2) the United States should consider travel restrictions or sanctions on individuals responsible for any actions preventing Georgia from moving toward Euro-Atlantic integration, which include acts of violence or intimidation against Georgian citizens, members of civil society, and members of an opposition political party;

(3) the United States, in response to recent events in Georgia, should reassess whether recent actions undertaken by individuals in Georgia should result in the imposition of sanctions by the United States for acts of significant corruption and human rights abuses; and

(4) the United States should consider revoking the visas of nationals of Georgia and their family members who—

(A) live in the United States; and

(B) are determined to meet the criteria described in section 103(a).

SEC. 1295B. INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify and make a determination as to whether any of the following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia:

(1) Any individual who, on or after January 1, 2014, has served as a member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia or as a current or former senior official of a Georgian political party.

(2) Any individual who is serving as an official in a leadership position working on behalf of the Government of Georgia, including law enforcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal government.

(3) An immediate family member of an official described in paragraph (1) or a person described in paragraph (2).

(b) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), the visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to immediate revocation regardless of the issue date of such visa or documentation.

(2) **IMMEDIATE EFFECT.**—A revocation of a visa or other entry documentation of any alien pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(A) take effect immediately; and

(B) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of such alien.

(c) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives about—

(1) any foreign person for whom the Secretary has determined has knowingly engaged in an activity described in subsection (a); and

(2) the specific facts that justify each such positive determination.

(d) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the application of subsection (b) if the Secretary determines that—

(1) such waiver would serve a compelling national interest; or

(2) the circumstances which caused the individual to be ineligible for a visa have sufficiently changed.

(e) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien into the United States is necessary—

(1) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(2) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

Subchapter B—Improving Bilateral Relations With Georgia

SEC. 1296. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TOWARD GEORGIA.

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

(1) given that the Government of Georgia has passed the foreign agents law and other legislation further inhibiting its ability to advance its accession into the European Union—

(A) to take into consideration these new laws when formulating the United States Government's policy toward Georgia; and

(B) to review all forms of foreign and security assistance made available to the Government of Georgia; and

(2) to reevaluate its policy toward the Government of Georgia if the Government of Georgia takes the required steps—

(A) to reorient itself toward its European Union accession agenda; and

(B) to advance policy or legislation reflecting the express wishes of the Georgian people.

(b) **5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed strategy that—

(1) outlines specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(2) determines what tools, resources, and funding should be available and assess whether Georgia should remain the second-highest recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(3) determines the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its partnership with Georgia;

(4) explore how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(5) determine whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

SEC. 1296A. REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) outlines all assistance provided by any United States Government agency to the Government of Georgia that primarily provides material aid, reputational advantage, or sustenance to state actors, officials, or their proxies who undermine the democracy of Georgia and enable Russian aggression within and outside of Georgia;

(2) provides a detailed overview of each project; and

(3) sets forth associated funding allocations, including projected funding for each project.

(b) **SUSPENSION OF PROJECTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall suspend all programming in Georgia carried out by the Department of State that primarily provide material aid, reputational advantage, or sustenance to state actors, officials, or their proxies who undermine the democracy of Georgia and enable Russian aggression within and outside of Georgia unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such programming is in the national security interests in the United States.

(c) **REPROGRAMMING FUNDS.**—The Secretary may reprogram any amounts used for programming that is suspended pursuant to subsection (b) to other initiatives taking place in other countries in the Eurasia region after notifying the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 1296B. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES-GEORGIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should suspend the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission, established through the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership on January 9, 2009, until after the Government of Georgia takes measures—

(1) to represent the democratic wishes of the citizens of Georgia; and

(2) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance the country towards membership in the European Union and NATO.

CHAPTER 2—ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE

SEC. 1297. STATEMENT OF POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue supporting the ongoing development of democratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elections, freedom of association, an independent and accountable judiciary, an independent media, public-sector transparency and accountability, the rule of law, countering malign influence, and anticorruption efforts;

(2) to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) to continue to support the Georgian people and civil society organizations that reflect the aspirations of the Georgian people for democracy and a future with the people of Europe;

(4) to continue supporting the capacity of the Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from further Russian aggression or encroachment;

(5) to support domestic and international efforts, including polling, pre-election and election-day observation efforts, to support the execution of free and fair elections in Georgia in October 2024;

(6) to continue supporting the right of the Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest, determine their future, and make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, including regarding Georgia's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries or those acting on their behalf; and

(7) to underscore the unwavering bipartisan support from Congress in supporting the democratic aspirations of the Georgian people.

SEC. 1297A. DEMOCRACY AND RULE-OF-LAW PROGRAMMING.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING EFFECT OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA.**—It is the policy of the United States to undertake efforts, in partnership with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to ensure that the national elections in Georgia that are scheduled to be held in October 2024 are conducted in a manner that is free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people and show evidence of a broader and sustainable democratic trajectory.

(b) **FUNDING.**—From the amounts appropriated to the Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia account under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, or under the comparable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, \$50,000,000 is authorized to be made available—

(1) to strengthen democracy and civil society in Georgia, including for transparency, independent media, rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, countering malign influence, and good governance initiatives; and

(2) to support the Georgian people's efforts to advance their aspirations for membership in the European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration.

(c) **REVIEW OF SUPPORT.**—In response to the passage of the foreign agents law, the Secretary and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall undertake a review of efforts to determine—

(1) how best to continue providing support to civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(2) whether additional funds should be allocated to the National Endowment for Democracy for initiatives in Georgia.

SEC. 1297B. BRIEFING ON DISINFORMATION AND CORRUPTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with such agencies as the Secretary considers relevant, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding—

(1) the efforts within and outside of Georgia to spread disinformation within Georgia to mischaracterize or undermine the bilateral relationships between the United States and Georgia and the European Union and Georgia;

(2) sources that have played an active role in advancing disinformation campaigns to erode public support for the United States, the European Union, and NATO within Georgia; and

(3) efforts undertaken by the Government of Georgia to sanction actors involved in the

spread of disinformation that limits its Euro-Atlantic aspirations;

(4) the extent to which corrupt actors are undermining the ability of political parties and democratic institutions in Georgia to uphold and adhere to the principles of transparency and good governance;

(5) policy options to assist the Government of Georgia in helping protect democracy and the rule of law by punishing bad actors;

(6) efforts in Georgia designed—

(A) to suppress a free and independent media; or

(B) to harass and intimidate civil society;

(7) actors responsible for—

(A) the suppression of a free and independent media in Georgia; or

(B) harassment and intimidation of civil society in Georgia;

(8) the Secretary's assessment of—

(A) the Russian Federation's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and the broader agenda of the Russian Federation in the region; and

(9) the Secretary's assessment of—

(A) the People's Republic of China's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and the broader agenda of the People's Republic of China in the region.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 1297C. SUNSET.

This subtitle shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3253. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 578. REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (in this section referred to as “DODEA”) shall review the special education processes and procedures in place within DODEA to locate, identify (through screening or other evidence-based tools), evaluate, and refer children with disabilities from birth to age 21 and provide evidence-based interventions and supports for students with disabilities.

(b) **CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING LAW.**—The review required by subsection (a) shall be conducted consistent with child-find requirements under Department of Defense Instruction 1342.12, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), and part 300 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) **PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.**—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A briefing on the special education processes and procedures of DODEA, particularly those for locating, identifying, evaluating, and referring for specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(2) Documents, including documents not publicly available, related to subsection (d).

(d) PROVISION OF MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, as part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following information regarding any screening programs of DODEA as that information pertains to locating and identifying, including screening, for early literacy skill development in children in DODEA schools:

(A) A description of the following:

(i) The extent to which DODEA ensures that it locates and identifies, including by screening, children enrolled in an elementary school operated by DODEA for deficiencies in early literacy skill development.

(ii) The extent to which DODEA ensures that it locates, identifies, and screens new enrollees in each such school regardless of year, unless the new enrollee has already been identified with a specific learning disability, including dyslexia.

(iii) The extent to which DODEA ensures it provides comprehensive literacy instruction (as defined in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1))).

(iv) The extent to which DODEA provides high-quality training for school personnel, particularly specialized instructional support personnel (as defined in section 8101(47)(A)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(47)(A)(ii))) related to early literacy, reading, and specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(v) The extent to which DODEA ensures that each district of schools operated by DODEA employs at least one specialized instructional support personnel who specializes in early literacy, reading, and specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(B) Information with respect to the following:

(i) The number of children at schools operated by DODEA screened for deficiencies in early literacy skill development, including dyslexia, each year and the grade in which those children were screened.

(ii) The number and types of early literacy screening tools used by DODEA each year.

(iii) The total number of children evaluated and identified with specific learning disabilities, disaggregated by dyslexia and other reading disabilities, as applicable, that are served by DODEA.

(iv) The total number of such children described in subparagraph (C), disaggregated by each subgroup of student (as defined in section 1111(c)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(2))).

(v) The number of days, on average, from referral from the screening program to evaluation for specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(vi) The type of professional conducting intervention programs for children with early literacy challenges and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(vii) A list of, and descriptions of materials related to, early literacy and reading interventions used by DODEA to provide special education and related services to children with specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(viii) The number of trainings per year provided by DODEA to school personnel on screening for evaluating and providing serv-

ices to children with early literacy challenges and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(ix) A list of organizations outside of DODEA, if applicable, that are consulted with on such screening programs and related reading intervention programs.

(2) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The Director shall ensure that any information provided to the appropriate congressional committees under paragraph (1) does not reveal personally identifiable information.

(e) ASSESSMENT OF DEFINITIONS USED BY DODEA.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a description of how DODEA's definitions of the following terms align with or differ from the following definitions:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION.—The term “comprehensive literacy instruction” has the meaning given that term in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1)).

(2) SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES.—The term “specific learning disabilities” has the meaning of that term under section 300.309 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) SCREENING PROGRAM.—The term “screening program” means a screening program that is—

(A) evidence-based and proven for validity and reliability to measure early literacy and reading skills;

(B) efficient and low-cost; and

(C) readily available.

(4) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term “evidence-based” has the meaning given that term in section 8101(21)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A)(i)).

(f) DYSLLEXIA DEFINITION USED BY DODEA.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committee the definition of “dyslexia” used by DODEA.

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

(1) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 3254. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. ____. TRACKING AND REPORTING ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS PROVIDED TO FOREIGN ENTITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR FOREIGN ENTITIES OF CONCERN.

(a) TRACKING.—The Secretary of Defense shall track amounts provided by the Department of Defense to foreign entities located in a foreign country of concern, including the People's Republic of China, or foreign entities of concern in the form of a contract, grant, other transaction agreement, or any other type of funding.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Secretary shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) detailing the actions taken by the Department detailing the actions taken by the Department to carry out subsection (a);

(2) identifying research funded by the Department in the last three fiscal years that involves a foreign entity or a foreign entity of concern, including—

(A) the funding agency;

(B) the type of funding;

(C) which entities were involved;

(D) the type of research project, publication, or other funding associated with Department funding sources;

(E) the amount awarded or provided directly or indirectly, including grants, contracts, loans, cooperative agreements, other transaction agreements, subgrants, all levels of subawards, and other forms of financial assistance; and

(F) the justification for the funding; and

(3) addressing—

(A) what restrictions, if any, are placed upon the Department's basic research awards to performers with research ties to defense entities of foreign countries of concern, and

(B) what mechanisms, if any, exist to mitigate potential counterintelligence concerns.

(c) FORM.—The report submitted under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make available to the public on a website of the Department the unclassified portion of the report submitted under subsection (b).

(e) DEFINITIONS OF FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN, FOREIGN ENTITY, AND FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The terms “foreign country of concern”, “foreign entity”, and “foreign entity of concern” have the meanings given such terms in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

SA 3255. Mr. OSSOFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL FIX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL FIX.—Section 1861(kkk)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(3)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “October 1, 2020, or” after “as of”.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendment made by paragraph (1) by program instruction or otherwise.

(b) OFFSET.—

(1) EXTENDING THE ADJUSTMENT TO THE CALCULATION OF HOSPICE CAP AMOUNTS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.—Section 1814(i)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)(2)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “2033” and inserting “2034”; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking “2033” and inserting “2034”.

(2) MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.—Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$286,000,000”.

SA 3256. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. REAUTHORIZATION OF DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) **DEFINITION OF WORKING GROUP.**—Section 301(a) of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-534; 122 Stat. 836) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term ‘Working Group’ means the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group composed of a board of directors of not fewer than 10, but not more than 15, members nominated by the group represented by the member, of whom—

“(A) 2 members shall be representatives of the environmental community in the Deschutes River Basin;

“(B) 2 members shall be representatives of the irrigated agriculture community in the Deschutes River Basin;

“(C) 2 members shall be representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon;

“(D) 1 member shall be a representative of the hydroelectric production community in the Deschutes River Basin;

“(E) 1 member shall be a representative of 1 of the Federal agencies with authority and responsibility in the Deschutes River Basin;

“(F) 1 member shall be a representative of an agency of the State of Oregon with authority and responsibility in the Deschutes River Basin, such as—

“(i) the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; or

“(ii) the Oregon Water Resources Department; and

“(G) 1 member shall be a representative of a unit of local government in the Deschutes River Basin.”.

(b) **REAUTHORIZATION; ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Section 301 of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-534; 122 Stat. 836) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “2016” and inserting “2032”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “5 percent” and inserting “10 percent”; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking “2016” and inserting “2032”.

SA 3257. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. ADDITIONS TO THE SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA; WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS.

(a) **ADDITIONS TO THE SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 3 of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-1) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “referred to in section 4(b)” and inserting “entitled ‘Proposed Smith River National Recreation Area’ and dated July 1990”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the Six Rivers National Forest” and inserting “an applicable unit of the National Forest System”.

(2) **BOUNDARIES.**—Section 4(b) of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-2(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting “and on the map entitled ‘Proposed Additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area’ and dated January 23, 2023” after “1990”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “map” and inserting “maps”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “map” and inserting “maps described in paragraph (1)”.

(3) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 5 of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “the map” and inserting “the maps”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “area shall be on” and inserting “area and any portion of the recreation area in the State of Oregon shall be on roadless”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) The Kalmiopsis Wilderness shall be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).”;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “by the amendments made by section 10(b) of this Act” and inserting “within the recreation area”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **STUDY; REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the area depicted on the map entitled ‘Proposed Additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area’ and dated January 23, 2023, that includes inventories and assessments of streams, fens, wetlands, lakes, other water features, and associated land, plants (including Port-Orford-cedar), animals, fungi, algae, and other values, and unstable and potentially unstable aquatic habitat areas in the study area.

“(2) **MODIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS; REPORT.**—On completion of the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) modify any applicable management plan to fully protect the inventoried values under the study, including to implement additional standards and guidelines; and

“(B) submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study.

“(e) **WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT.**—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of the Secretary (in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate) to conduct wildland fire operations within the recreation area, consistent with the purposes of this Act.

“(f) **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.**—Nothing in this Act prohibits the Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects (including wildfire resiliency and forest health projects) within the recreation area, to the extent consistent with the purposes of the recreation area.

“(g) **APPLICATION OF NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN AND ROADLESS RULE TO CERTAIN POR-**

TIONS OF THE RECREATION AREA.—Nothing in this Act affects the application of the Northwest Forest Plan or part 294 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly referred to as the ‘Roadless Rule’) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection), to portions of the recreation area in the State of Oregon that are subject to the plan and those regulations as of the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(h) **PROTECTION OF TRIBAL RIGHTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act diminishes any right of an Indian Tribe.

“(2) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—The Secretary shall seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with applicable Indian Tribes with respect to—

“(A) providing the Indian Tribes with access to the portions of the recreation area in the State of Oregon to conduct historical and cultural activities, including the procurement of noncommercial forest products and materials for traditional and cultural purposes; and

“(B) the development of interpretive information to be provided to the public on the history of the Indian Tribes and the use of the recreation area by the Indian Tribes.”.

(4) **ACQUISITION.**—Section 6(a) of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-4(a)) is amended—

(A) in the fourth sentence, by striking “All lands” and inserting the following:

“(4) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—All land”; and

(B) in the third sentence—

(i) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(3) **METHOD OF ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary”; and

(ii) by striking “or any of its political subdivisions” and inserting “, the State of Oregon, or any political subdivision of the State of California or the State of Oregon”; and

(iii) by striking “donation or” and inserting “purchase, donation, or”;

(C) in the second sentence, by striking “In exercising” and inserting the following:

“(2) **CONSIDERATION OF OFFERS BY SECRETARY.**—In exercising”; and

(D) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **ACQUISITION OF CEDAR CREEK PARCEL.**—On the adoption of a resolution by the State Land Board of Oregon and subject to available funding, the Secretary shall acquire all right, title, and interest in and to the approximately 555 acres of land known as the ‘Cedar Creek Parcel’ located in sec. 16, T. 41 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian.”.

(5) **FISH AND GAME.**—Section 7 of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-5) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting “or the State of Oregon” after “State of California”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting “or the State of Oregon, as applicable” after “State of California”.

(6) **MANAGEMENT PLANNING.**—Section 9 of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb-7) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) **REVISION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the first revision of the forest plan after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall revise the management plan for the recreation area—

“(1) to reflect the expansion of the recreation area into the State of Oregon under

section 1095(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025; and

“(2) to include an updated recreation action schedule to identify specific use and development plans for the areas described in the map entitled ‘Proposed Additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area’ and dated January 23, 2023.”.

(7) STREAMSIDE PROTECTION ZONES.—Section 11(b) of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb–8(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(24) Each of the river segments described in subparagraph (B) of section 3(a)(92) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(92)).”.

(8) STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION AND ASSISTANCE.—Section 12 of the Smith River National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460bbb–9) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “California or any political subdivision thereof” and inserting “California, the State of Oregon, or a political subdivision of the State of California or the State of Oregon”;

(B) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “California or its political subdivisions” and inserting “California, the State of Oregon, or a political subdivision of the State of California or the State of Oregon”; and

(C) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “California and its political subdivisions” and inserting “California, the State of Oregon, and any political subdivision of the State of California or the State of Oregon”; and

(ii) by striking “State and its political subdivisions” and inserting “State of California, the State of Oregon, and any political subdivision of the State of California or the State of Oregon”.

(b) WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) NORTH FORK SMITH ADDITIONS, OREGON.—

(A) FINDING.—Congress finds that the source tributaries of the North Fork Smith River in the State of Oregon possess outstandingly remarkable wild anadromous fish and prehistoric, cultural, botanical, recreational, and water quality values.

(B) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a)(92) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(92)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “scenic” and inserting “wild”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “The 13-mile” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The 13-mile”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONS.—The following segments of the source tributaries of the North Fork Smith River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

“(i) The 13.26-mile segment of Baldface Creek from its headwaters, including all perennial tributaries, to the confluence with the North Fork Smith in T. 39 S., R. 10 W., T. 40 S., R. 10 W., and T. 41 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(ii) The 3.58-mile segment from the headwaters of Taylor Creek to the confluence with Baldface Creek, as a wild river.

“(iii) The 4.38-mile segment from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary to Biscuit Creek and the headwaters of Biscuit Creek to the confluence with Baldface Creek, as a wild river.

“(iv) The 2.27-mile segment from the headwaters of Spokane Creek to the confluence with Baldface Creek, as a wild river.

“(v) The 1.25-mile segment from the headwaters of Rock Creek to the confluence with Baldface Creek, flowing south from sec. 19,

T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(vi) The 1.31-mile segment from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary number 2 to the confluence with Baldface Creek, flowing north from sec. 27, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(vii) The 3.6-mile segment from the 2 headwaters of the unnamed tributary number 3 to the confluence with Baldface Creek, flowing south from secs. 9 and 10, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(viii) The 1.57-mile segment from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary number 4 to the confluence with Baldface Creek, flowing north from sec. 26, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(ix) The 0.92-mile segment from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary number 5 to the confluence with Baldface Creek, flowing north from sec. 13, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(x) The 4.90-mile segment from the headwaters of Cedar Creek to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xi) The 2.38-mile segment from the headwaters of Packsaddle Gulch to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xii) The 2.4-mile segment from the headwaters of Hardtack Creek to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xiii) The 2.21-mile segment from the headwaters of the unnamed creek to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, flowing east from sec. 29, T. 40 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xiv) The 3.06-mile segment from the headwaters of Horse Creek to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xv) The 2.61-mile segment of Fall Creek from the Oregon State border to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xvi)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), the 4.57-mile segment from the headwaters of North Fork Diamond Creek to the confluence with Diamond Creek, as a wild river.

“(II) Notwithstanding subclause (I), the portion of the segment described in that subclause that starts 100 feet above Forest Service Road 4402 and ends 100 feet below Forest Service Road 4402 shall be administered as a scenic river.

“(xvii) The 1.02-mile segment from the headwaters of Diamond Creek to the Oregon State border in sec. 14, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xviii) The 1.14-mile segment from the headwaters of Acorn Creek to the confluence with Horse Creek, as a wild river.

“(xix) The 8.58-mile segment from the headwaters of Chrome Creek to the confluence with North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

“(xx) The 2.98-mile segment from the headwaters Chrome Creek tributary number 1 to the confluence with Chrome Creek, 0.82 miles upstream from the mouth of Chrome Creek in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, flowing south from sec. 15, T. 40 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xxi) The 2.19-mile segment from the headwaters of Chrome Creek tributary number 2 to the confluence with Chrome Creek, 3.33 miles upstream from the mouth of Chrome Creek in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, flowing south from sec. 12, T. 40 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xxii) The 1.27-mile segment from the headwaters of Chrome Creek tributary number 3 to the confluence with Chrome Creek, 4.28 miles upstream from the mouth of Chrome Creek in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness,

flowing north from sec. 18, T. 40 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xxiii) The 2.27-mile segment from the headwaters of Chrome Creek tributary number 4 to the confluence with Chrome Creek, 6.13 miles upstream from the mouth of Chrome Creek, flowing south from Chetco Peak in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in sec. 36, T. 39 S., R. 11 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.

“(xxiv) The 0.6-mile segment from the headwaters of Wimer Creek to the border between the States of Oregon and California, flowing south from sec. 17, T. 41 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian, as a wild river.”.

(2) EXPANSION OF SMITH RIVER, OREGON.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) SMITH RIVER, CALIFORNIA AND OREGON.—The segment from the confluence of the Middle Fork Smith River and the North Fork Smith River to the Six Rivers National Forest boundary, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

“(A) MAINSTEM.—The segment from the confluence of the Middle Fork Smith River and the South Fork Smith River to the Six Rivers National Forest boundary, as a recreational river.

“(B) ROWDY CREEK.—

“(i) UPPER.—The segment from and including the headwaters to the California-Oregon State line, as a wild river.

“(ii) LOWER.—The segment from the California-Oregon State line to the Six Rivers National Forest boundary, as a recreational river.”.

SA 3258. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON CLAIMS EXTENSION.

Section 104 of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act (Public Law 117–180; 136 Stat. 2170) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date on which regulations are first promulgated under subsection (f)” and inserting “Not later than December 31, 2026”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(4)(C)—

(A) in clause (vii), by striking “the date that is 3 years after the date on which the regulations under subsection (f) are first promulgated” and inserting “December 31, 2030”;

(B) by amending clause (viii) to read as follows:

“(viii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a premium for flood insurance that is required to be paid on or before December 31, 2026, if—

“(I) as a result of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, a person that was not required to purchase flood insurance before the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire is required to purchase flood insurance; or

“(II) a person did not maintain flood insurance before the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire but purchased flood insurance after the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire due to fear of heightened flood risk.”;

(C) by redesignating clause (x) as clause (xi); and

(D) by inserting after clause (ix) the following:

“(x) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), costs incurred not later than December 31, 2030 of reasonable efforts, as determined by the Administrator, by the State of New Mexico to design, construct, and operate a center with the purpose of researching, developing and generating native seedlings to successfully regenerate forests destroyed by the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Fire with native species.”.

SA 3259. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS BENEFITS.

Paragraph (3) of section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The term ‘surviving spouse’ means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title) a person who was the spouse of a veteran at the time of the veteran’s death, and who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran’s death (except where there was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the fault of the spouse) and who has not remarried.”.

SA 3260. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPANDING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNITED STATES TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “State or local government” and inserting “State, local, or territorial government”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—For the purposes of this section, the government of a territory of the United States shall be considered a non-Federal party.”.

SA 3261. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 562. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FLIGHT TRAINING COURSE AVAILABILITY FOR UKRAINIAN F-16 AIRCRAFT PILOTS.

It is the sense of Congress that during fiscal year 2025, the Department of Defense should continue to work with international partners to ensure that Ukraine’s military aviation needs are being met, including F-16 basic flight training in the United States and at allied nation facilities overseas.

SA 3262. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 358. BRIEFING ON COMMERCIAL AIRLIFT REVIEW BOARD CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commander of the United States Transportation Command, in consultation with the Commercial Airlift Review Board, shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the certification process and criteria used by the Commercial Airlift Review Board.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) The total number of requests received for certification by the Commercial Airlift Review Board during the one-year period preceding the date of the briefing, disaggregated by domestic and international certification requests.

(B) The total number of such requests that were approved, disaggregated by domestic and international certification requests.

(C) The total number of such requests that are pending as of the date of the briefing, disaggregated by domestic and international certification requests, along with the reason for the delay in making a decision on each such request.

(D) The total number of such requests that were denied, disaggregated by domestic and international certification requests, along with the reason for the denial decision.

(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

(A) APPROVALS.—If any approval included under paragraph (1)(B) limits the area of contract performance under such approval, the briefing required under subsection (a) shall include information about all such limitations and the rationale for restricting certification based on area of performance.

(B) DENIALS.—If any denial included under paragraph (1)(D) is a repeat denial from an entity previously denied a certification during the one-year period preceding the date of the briefing required under subsection (a), the briefing shall include an explanation of the reason for the repeated denials.

SA 3263. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1239. PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.—

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Western Balkans countries (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia) form a pluralistic, multi-ethnic region in the heart of Europe that is critical to the peace, stability, and prosperity of that continent.

(2) Continued peace, stability, and prosperity in the Western Balkans is directly tied to the opportunities for democratic and economic advancement available to the citizens and residents of those seven countries.

(3) It is in the mutual interest of the United States and the seven countries of the Western Balkans to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in the region.

(4) The reforms and integration with the European Union pursued by countries in the Western Balkans have led to significant democratic and economic progress in the region.

(5) Despite economic progress, rates of poverty and unemployment in the Western Balkans remain higher than in neighboring European Union countries.

(6) Out-migration, particularly of youth, is affecting demographics in each Western Balkans country, resulting in population decline in all seven countries.

(7) Implementing critical economic and governance reforms could help enable investment and employment opportunities in the Western Balkans, especially for youth, and can provide powerful tools for economic development and for encouraging broader participation in a political process that increases trade and prosperity for all.

(8) Existing regional economic efforts, such as the Common Regional Market, the Berlin Process, and the Open Balkan Initiative, could have the potential to improve the economic conditions in the Western Balkans, while promoting inclusion and transparency.

(9) Corruption, including among key political leaders, continues to plague the Western Balkans and represents one of the greatest impediments to further economic and political development in the region.

(10) Disinformation campaigns targeting the Western Balkans undermine the credibility of its democratic institutions, including the integrity of its elections.

(11) Vulnerability to cyberattacks or attacks on information and communication technology infrastructure increases risks to the functioning of government and the delivery of public services.

(12) The Department of State, along with other Federal agencies, plays a critical role in defending the national security interests of the United States, including by deploying cyber hunt forward teams at the request of partner nations to reinforce their cyber defenses.

(13) Securing domestic and international cyber networks and ICT infrastructure is a national security priority for the United States, which is exemplified by offices and programs across the Federal Government that support cybersecurity.

(14) Corruption and disinformation proliferate in political environments marked by autocratic control or partisan conflict.

(15) Dependence on Russian sources of fossil fuels and natural gas for the countries of the Western Balkans ties their economies and politics to the Russian Federation and inhibits their aspirations for European integration.

(16) Reducing the reliance of the Western Balkans on Russian natural gas supplies and fossil fuels is in the national interest of the United States.

(17) The growing influence of China in the Western Balkans could also have a deleterious impact on strategic competition, democracy, and economic integration with Europe.

(18) In March 2022, President Biden launched the European Democratic Resilience Initiative to bolster democratic resilience, advance anti-corruption efforts, and defend human rights in Ukraine and its neighbors in response to Russia's war of aggression.

(19) The parliamentary and local elections held in Serbia on December 17, 2023, and their immediate aftermath are cause for deep concern about the state of Serbia's democracy, including due to the final report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which—

(A) found “unjust conditions” for the election;

(B) found “numerous procedural deficiencies, including inconsistent application of safeguards during voting and counting, frequent instances of overcrowding, breaches in secrecy of the vote, and numerous instances of group voting”; and

(C) asserted that “voting must be repeated” in certain polling stations.

(20) The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe also noted that Serbian officials accused primarily peaceful protesters, opposition parties, and civil society of “attempting to destabilize the government”, a concerning allegation that threatens the safety of important elements of Serbian society.

(21) Democratic countries whose values are in alignment with the United States make for stronger and more durable partnerships.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is a sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and allies and partners in the Western Balkans;

(2) expand United States assistance to regional integration efforts in the Western Balkans;

(3) strengthen and expand regional economic integration in the Western Balkans, especially enterprises owned by and employing women and youth;

(4) work with allies and partners committed to improving the rule of law, energy resource diversification, democratic and economic reform, and the reduction of poverty in the Western Balkans;

(5) increase United States trade and investment with the Western Balkans, particularly in ways that support countries' efforts—

(A) to decrease dependence on Russian energy sources and fossil fuels;

(B) to increase energy diversification, efficiency, and conservation; and

(C) to facilitate the transition to cleaner and more reliable sources of energy, including renewables, as appropriate;

(6) continue to assist in the development, within the Western Balkans, of—

(A) strong civil societies;

(B) public-private partnerships;

(C) independent media;

(D) transparent, accountable, citizen-responsive governance, including equal representation for women and youth;

(E) political stability; and

(F) modern, free-market based economies.

(7) support the expeditious accession of those Western Balkans countries that are not already members to the European Union and to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as “NATO”) for countries that desire and are eligible for such membership;

(8) support—

(A) maintaining the full European Union Force (EUFOR) mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina as being in the national security interests of the United States;

(B) encouraging NATO and the European Union to review their mission mandates and posture in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure they are playing a proactive role in establishing a safe and secure environment, particularly in the realm of defense;

(C) working within NATO to encourage contingency planning for an international military force to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially if Russia blocks reauthorization of the mission in the United Nations; and

(D) a strengthened NATO headquarters in Sarajevo;

(9) continue to support the European Union membership aspirations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia by supporting meeting the benchmarks required for their accession;

(10) continue to support the overarching mission of the Berlin Process and locally-driven initiatives that are inclusive of all Western Balkans countries and remains aligned with the objectives and standards laid out by the European Union as requirements for accession to the European Union;

(11) continue to support the cultural heritage, and recognize the languages, of the Western Balkans;

(12) coordinate closely with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and other allies and partners on sanctions designations in Western Balkans countries and work to align efforts as much as possible to demonstrate a clear commitment to upholding democratic values;

(13) expand bilateral security cooperation with non-NATO member Western Balkans countries, particularly efforts focused on regional integration and cooperation, including through the Adriatic Charter, which was launched at Tirana on May 2, 2003;

(14) increase efforts to combat Russian malign influence campaigns and any other destabilizing or disruptive activities targeting the Western Balkans through engagement with government institutions, political stakeholders, journalists, civil society organizations, and industry leaders;

(15) develop a series of cyber resilience standards, consistent with the Enhanced Cyber Defence Policy and Readiness Action Plan endorsed at the 2014 Wales Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to expand cooperation with partners and allies, including in the Western Balkans, on cyber security and ICT infrastructure;

(16) articulate clearly and unambiguously the United States commitment to supporting democratic values and respect for international law as the sole path forward for the countries of the Western Balkans; and

(17) prioritize partnerships and programming with Western Balkan countries that demonstrate commitment toward strength-

ening their democracies and show respect for human rights.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) ICT.—The term “ICT” means information and communication technology.

(3) WESTERN BALKANS.—The term “Western Balkans” means the region comprised of the following countries:

(A) The Republic of Albania.

(B) Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(C) The Republic of Croatia.

(D) The Republic of Kosovo.

(E) Montenegro.

(F) The Republic of North Macedonia.

(G) The Republic of Serbia.

(4) WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRY.—The term “Western Balkans country” means any country listed in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (3).

(e) CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated for the imposition of sanctions under an executive order described in paragraph (3) as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated, except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5).

(2) CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS AUTHORITIES.—Each authority to impose sanctions provided for under an executive order described in paragraph (3) shall remain in effect.

(3) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—The executive orders specified in this paragraph are—

(A) Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans); and

(B) Executive Order 14033 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans), as in effect on such date of enactment.

(4) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—

(A) EXECUTIVE ORDER 14033.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under Executive Order 14033 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans) with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(i) the person is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for the sanctions or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping the activity; and

(ii) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in activity subject to sanctions described in paragraph (1) in the future.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DELISTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDERS 13219 AND 13304.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive

Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans).

(5) **WAIVER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this subsection for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if the President—

(i) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(ii) not less than 15 days before the granting of the waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(B) **FORM.**—The waiver described in subparagraph (A) may be transmitted in classified form.

(6) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(A) **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.**—Sanctions under this subsection shall not apply to—

(i) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(ii) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in clause (i).

(B) **COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien is necessary—

(i) to comply with United States obligations under—

(I) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(II) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(III) any other international agreement; or

(ii) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity in the United States.

(C) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to—

(i) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(ii) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(D) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(ii) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this subparagraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(7) **RULEMAKING.**—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

(8) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authorities of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(9) **SUNSET.**—This subsection shall cease to have force or effect beginning on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVES.**—

(1) **ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE.**—The Secretary of State, through ongoing and new programs, shall develop an initiative that—

(A) seeks to expand technical assistance in each Western Balkans country, taking into account local conditions and contingent on the agreement of the host country government to develop new national anti-corruption strategies;

(B) seeks to share best practices with, and provide training to, civilian law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions, and other relevant administrative bodies, of the Western Balkans countries, to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of such agencies and institutions;

(C) strengthens existing national anti-corruption strategies—

(i) to combat political corruption, particularly in the judiciary, independent election oversight bodies, and public procurement processes; and

(ii) to strengthen regulatory and legislative oversight of critical governance areas, such as freedom of information and public procurement, including by strengthening cyber defenses and ICT infrastructure networks;

(D) includes the Western Balkans countries in the European Democratic Resilience Initiative of the Department of State, or any equivalent successor initiative, and considers the Western Balkans as a recipient of anti-corruption funding for such initiative; and

(E) seeks to promote the important role of an independent media in countering corruption through engagements with governments of Western Balkan countries and providing training opportunities for journalists on investigative reporting.

(2) **PRIORITIZING CYBER RESILIENCE, REGIONAL TRADE, AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.**—

(A) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(i) promoting stronger economic, civic, and political relationships among Western Balkans countries will enable countries to better utilize existing resources and maximize their economic security and democratic resilience by reinforcing cyber defenses and increasing trade in goods and services among other countries in the region; and

(ii) United States investments in and assistance toward creating a more integrated region ensures political stability and security for the region.

(B) **5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN WESTERN BALKANS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a regional economic development and democratic resilience strategy for the Western Balkans that complements the efforts of the European Union, European nations, and other multilateral financing institutions—

(i) to consider the full set of tools and resources available from the relevant agencies;

(ii) to include efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the European Union, the World Bank, and other relevant assistance frameworks;

(iii) to include an initial public assessment of—

(I) economic opportunities for which United States businesses, or those of other like-minded partner countries, would be competitive;

(II) legal, economic, governance, infrastructural, or other barriers limiting

United States trade and investment in the Western Balkans;

(III) the effectiveness of all existing regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Open Balkan initiative and the Western Balkans Common Regional Market; and

(IV) ways to increase United States trade and investment within the Western Balkans;

(iv) to develop human and institutional capacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of economies, including clean energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise development, health, and cyber-security;

(v) to assist with the development and implementation of regional and international trade agreements;

(vi) to support women-owned enterprises;

(vii) to promote government and civil society policies and programs that combat corruption and encourage transparency (including by supporting independent media by promoting the safety and security of journalists), free and fair competition, sound governance, judicial reform, environmental stewardship, and business environments conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(viii) to include a public diplomacy strategy that describes the actions that will be taken by relevant agencies to increase support for the United States relationship by citizens of Western Balkans countries.

(C) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the progress made towards developing the strategy required under subparagraph (B).

(3) **REGIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.**—

(A) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, may coordinate a regional trade and development initiative for the region comprised of each Western Balkans country and any European Union member country that shares a border with a Western Balkans country (referred to in this subsection as the “Western Balkans region”) in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) **INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.**—The initiative authorized under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) promote private sector growth and competitiveness and increase the capacity of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Western Balkans region;

(ii) aim to increase intraregional exports to countries in the Balkans and European Union member states;

(iii) aim to increase United States exports to, and investments in, countries in the Balkans;

(iv) support startup companies, including companies led by youth or women, in the Western Balkans region by—

(I) providing training in business skills and leadership; and

(II) providing opportunities to connect to sources of capital;

(v) encourage and promote inward and outward trade and investment through engagement with the Western Balkans diaspora communities in the United States and abroad;

(vi) provide assistance to the governments and civil society organizations of Western Balkans countries to develop—

(I) regulations to ensure fair and effective investment; and

(II) screening tools to identify and deter malign investments and other coercive economic practices;

(vii) review existing assistance programing relating to the Western Balkans across Federal agencies—

(I) to eliminate duplication; and

(II) to identify areas of potential coordination within the Western Balkans region;

(viii) identify areas where application of additional resources could expand successful programs to 1 or more countries in the Western Balkans region by building on the existing experience and program architecture;

(ix) compare existing single-country sector analyses to determine areas of focus that would benefit from a regional approach with respect to the Western Balkans region; and

(x) promote intraregional trade throughout the Western Balkans region through—

(I) programming, including grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance;

(II) expanding awareness of the availability of loans and other financial instruments from the United States Government; and

(III) coordinating access to existing trade instruments available through allies and partners in the Western Balkans region, including the European Union and international financial institutions.

(C) **SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**—The initiative authorized under subparagraph (A) should facilitate and prioritize support for regional infrastructure projects, including—

(i) transportation projects that build roads, bridges, railways and other physical infrastructure to facilitate travel of goods and people throughout the Western Balkans region;

(ii) technical support and investments needed to meet United States and European Union standards for air travel, including screening and information sharing;

(iii) the development of telecommunications networks with trusted providers;

(iv) infrastructure projects that connect Western Balkans countries to each other and to countries with which they share a border;

(v) the effective analysis of tenders and transparent procurement processes;

(vi) investment transparency programs that will help countries in the Western Balkans analyze gaps and establish institutional and regulatory reforms necessary—

(I) to create an enabling environment for trade and investment; and

(II) to strengthen protections against suspect investments through public procurement and privatization and through foreign direct investments;

(vii) sharing best practices learned from the United States and other international partners to ensure that institutional and regulatory mechanisms for addressing these issues are fair, nonarbitrary, effective, and free from corruption;

(viii) projects that support regional energy security and reduce dependence on Russian energy;

(ix) technical assistance and generating private investment in projects that promote connectivity and energy-sharing in the Western Balkans region;

(x) technical assistance to support regional collaboration on environmental protection that includes governmental, political, civic, and business stakeholders; and

(xi) technical assistance to develop financing options and help create linkages with potential financing institutions and investors.

(D) **REQUIREMENTS.**—All programming under the initiative authorized under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be open to the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia;

(ii) be consistent with European Union accession requirements;

(iii) be focused on retaining talent within the Western Balkans;

(iv) promote government policies in Western Balkans countries that encourage free and fair competition, sound governance, environmental protection, and business environments that are conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(v) include a public diplomacy strategy to inform local and regional audiences in the Western Balkans region about the initiative, including specific programs and projects.

(4) **UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.**—

(A) **APPOINTMENTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, should consider including a regional office with responsibilities for the Western Balkans within the Corporation's plans to open new regional offices.

(B) **JOINT REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a joint report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(i) an assessment of the benefits of providing sovereign loan guarantees to countries in the Western Balkans to support infrastructure and energy diversification projects;

(ii) an outline of additional resources, such as tools, funding, and personnel, which may be required to offer sovereign loan guarantees in the Western Balkans; and

(iii) an assessment of how the United States International Development Finance Corporation can deploy its insurance products in support of bonds or other instruments issued to raise capital through United States financial markets in the Western Balkans.

(g) **PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) promoting partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, particularly universities in traditionally under-served communities, advances United States foreign policy goals and requires a whole-of-government approach, including the utilization of public-private partnerships;

(B) such university partnerships would provide opportunities for exchanging academic ideas, technical expertise, research, and cultural understanding for the benefit of the United States; and

(C) the seven countries in the Western Balkans meet the requirements under section 105(c)(4) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151(c)(4)).

(2) **UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS.**—The President, working through the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide assistance, consistent with section 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c), to promote the establishment of partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, including—

(A) supporting research and analysis on foreign policy, cyber resilience, and disinformation;

(B) working with partner governments to reform policies, improve curricula, strengthen data systems, train teachers and students, including English language teaching, and to provide quality, inclusive learning materials;

(C) encouraging knowledge exchanges to help provide individuals, particularly at-risk youth, women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable, marginalized, or underserved communities, with relevant education, training, and skills for meaningful employment;

(D) promoting teaching and research exchanges between institutions of higher education in the Western Balkans and in the United States; and

(E) encouraging alliances and exchanges with like-minded institutions of education within the Western Balkans and the larger European continent.

(h) **PEACE CORPS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Peace Corps, whose mission is to promote world peace and friendship, in part by helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women, provides an invaluable opportunity to connect the people of the United States with the people of the Western Balkans.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Peace Corps should submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes an analysis of current opportunities for Peace Corps expansion in the Western Balkans region.

(i) **YOUNG BALKAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that regular people-to-people exchange programs that bring religious leaders, journalists, civil society members, politicians, and other individuals from the Western Balkans to the United States will strengthen existing relationships and advance United States interests and shared values in the Western Balkans region.

(2) **BOLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG BALKANS LEADERS.**—

(A) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—The Department of State, through BOLD, a leadership program for young leaders in certain Western Balkans countries, plays an important role to develop young leaders in improving civic engagement and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

(B) **EXPANSION.**—BOLD should be expanded, subject to the availability of appropriations, to the entire Western Balkans region.

(3) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of State should further develop and implement BOLD, which shall hereafter be known as the “Young Balkan Leaders Initiative”, to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals in the Western Balkans who have demonstrated a passion to contribute to the continued development of the Western Balkans region.

(4) **CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.**—The goals of the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative shall be—

(A) to further build the capacity of young Balkan leaders in the Western Balkans in the areas of business and information technology, cyber security and digitization, agriculture, civic engagement, and public administration;

(B) to support young Balkan leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, public administration, and journalism;

(C) to support young political, parliamentary, and civic Balkan leaders in collaboration on regional initiatives related to good governance, environmental protection, government ethics, and minority inclusion;

(D) to provide increased economic and technical assistance to young Balkan leaders to promote economic growth and strengthen ties between businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs in the United States and in Western Balkans countries;

(E) to tailor such assistance to advance the particular objectives of each United States mission in the Western Balkans within the framework outlined in this subsection; and

(F) to secure funding for such assistance from existing funds available to each United States Mission in the Western Balkans.

(5) FELLOWSHIPS.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall award fellowships to young leaders from the Western Balkans who—

(A) are between 18 and 35 years of age;

(B) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;

(C) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions, including by promoting cross-regional and multiethnic cooperation; and

(D) represent a cross-section of geographic, gender, political, and cultural diversity.

(6) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP CENTER.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall take advantage of existing and future public diplomacy facilities (commonly known as “American Spaces”) to hire staff and develop programming for the establishment of a flagship public engagement and leadership center in the Western Balkans that seeks—

(A) to counter disinformation and malign influence;

(B) to promote cross-cultural engagement;

(C) to provide training for young leaders from Western Balkans countries described in paragraph (5);

(D) to harmonize the efforts of existing venues throughout Western Balkans countries established by the Office of American Spaces; and

(E) to annually bring together participants from the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative to provide platforms for regional networking.

(7) BRIEFING ON CERTAIN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of exchange programs involving the Western Balkans region.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) assess the factors constraining the number and frequency of participants from Western Balkans countries in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Department of State;

(ii) identify the resources that are necessary to address the factors described in clause (i); and

(iii) describe a strategy for connecting alumni and participants of professional development exchange programs of the Department of State in the Western Balkans with alumni and participants from other countries in Europe, to enhance inter-region and intra-region, people-to-people ties.

(j) SUPPORTING CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) United States support for cybersecurity, cyber resilience, and secure ICT infrastructure in Western Balkans countries will strengthen the region's ability to defend itself from and respond to malicious cyber activity conducted by nonstate and foreign actors, including foreign governments, that seek to influence the region;

(B) insecure ICT networks that are vulnerable to manipulation can increase opportunities for—

(i) the compromise of cyber infrastructure, including data networks, electronic infrastructure, and software systems; and

(ii) the use of online information operations by adversaries and malign actors to undermine United States allies and interests; and

(C) it is in the national security interest of the United States to support the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of Western Balkans countries.

(2) INTERAGENCY REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains—

(A) an overview of interagency efforts to strengthen cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries;

(B) a review of the information environment in each Western Balkans country;

(C) a review of existing United States Government cyber and digital initiatives that—

(i) counter influence operations and safeguard elections and democratic processes in Western Balkans countries;

(ii) strengthen ICT infrastructure and cybersecurity capacity in the Western Balkans;

(iii) support democracy and internet freedom in Western Balkans countries; and

(iv) build cyber capacity of governments who are allies or partners of the United States;

(D) an assessment of cyber threat information sharing between the United States and Western Balkans countries;

(E) an assessment of—

(i) options for the United States to better support cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries through changes to current assistance authorities; and

(ii) the advantages or limitations, such as funding or office space, of posting cyber professionals from other Federal departments and agencies to United States diplomatic posts in Western Balkans countries and providing relevant training to Foreign Service Officers; and

(F) any additional support needed from the United States for the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of the following NATO Allies: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Croatia.

(K) RELATIONS BETWEEN KOSOVO AND SERBIA.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Agreement on the Path to Normalization of Relations, which was agreed to by Kosovo and Serbia on February 27, 2023, with the facilitation of the European Union, is a positive step forward in advancing normalization between the two countries;

(B) Serbia and Kosovo should seek to make immediate progress on the Implementation Annex to the agreement referred to in subparagraph (A);

(C) once sufficient progress has been made on the Implementation Annex, the United States should consider advancing initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations with both countries, which could include—

(i) establishing bilateral strategic dialogues with Kosovo and Serbia; and

(ii) advancing concrete initiatives to deepen trade and investment with both countries; and

(D) the United States should continue to support a comprehensive final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia based on mutual recognition.

(2) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States Government that—

(A) it shall not pursue any policy that advocates for land swaps, partition, or other forms of redrawing borders along ethnic lines in the Western Balkans as a means to arbitrate disputes between nation states in the region; and

(B) it should support pluralistic democracies in countries in the Western Balkans as a means to prevent a return to the ethnic strife that once characterized the region.

(1) REPORTS ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Balkan countries that seek—

(A) to undermine democratic institutions;

(B) to promote political instability; and

(C) to harm the interests of the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization member and partner states in the Western Balkans.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the objectives of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China regarding malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries—

(i) to undermine democratic institutions, including the planning and execution of democratic elections;

(ii) to promote political instability; and

(iii) to manipulate the information environment;

(B) the activities and roles of the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies in countering Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns;

(C) a comprehensive list identifying—

(i) each network, entity and individual, to the extent such information is available, of Russia, China, or any other country with which Russia or China may cooperate, that is supporting such Russian or Chinese malign influence operations or campaigns, including the provision of financial or operational support to activities in a Western Balkans country that may limit freedom of speech or create barriers of access to democratic processes, including exercising the right to vote in a free and fair election; and

(ii) the role of each such entity in providing such support;

(D) the identification of the tactics, techniques, and procedures used in Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries;

(E) an assessment of the effect of previous Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns that targeted alliances and partnerships of the United States Armed Forces in the Western Balkans, including the effectiveness of such operations and campaigns in achieving the objectives of Russia and China, respectively;

(F) the identification of each Western Balkans country with respect to which Russia or China has conducted or attempted to conduct a malign influence operation or campaign;

(G) an assessment of the capacity and efforts of NATO and of each individual Western Balkans country to counter Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries;

(H) the efforts by the United States to combat such malign influence operations in

the Western Balkans, including through the Countering Russian Influence Fund and the Countering People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund;

(I) an assessment of the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Secretary of State determines are likely to be used in future Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries; and

(J) any additional authorities, resources, or activities that could increase the United States Government's capacity to counter Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries.

(3) FORM.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3264. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION —JUDICIAL UNDERSTAFFING DELAYS GETTING EMERGENCIES SOLVED

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024” or the “JUDGES Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Article III of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to establish judgeships in the district courts of the United States.

(2) Congress has not created a new district court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

(3) This represents the longest period of time since district courts of the United States were established in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any new permanent district court judgeships.

(4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the district courts of the United States had increased by 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship legislation.

(5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797 pending cases in the district courts of the United States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings per judgeship over a 12-month period.

(6) To deal with increased filings in the district courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference of the United States requested the creation of 66 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) 2025.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Indiana;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Iowa;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(x) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas; and

(xi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	15
Eastern	7
Central	28
Southern	13”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware 5”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	16
Southern	17”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Indiana and inserting the following:

“Indiana:	
Northern	5
Southern	6”;

(v) by striking the items relating to Iowa and inserting the following:

“Iowa:	
Northern	3
Southern	3”;

(vi) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 18”;

(vii) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	15
Western	4”;

(viii) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	20
Eastern	8
Western	13”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(2) 2027.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Idaho;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

“Arizona 13”;

(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	16
Eastern	8
Central	30
Southern	13”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	17
Southern	18”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:	
Northern	12
Middle	4
Southern	3”;

(v) by striking the item relating to Idaho and inserting the following:

“Idaho 3”;

and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	13
Southern	21
Eastern	8
Western	13”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2027.

(3) 2029.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of Nebraska;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (2) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	17
Eastern	9
Central	31
Southern	13”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado 8”;

(iii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware 6”;

(iv) by striking the item relating to Nebraska and inserting the following:

“Nebraska 4”;

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:
Northern 5
Southern 29
Eastern 16
Western 4”;

and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 22
Eastern 9
Western 14”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2029.

(4) 2031.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of New York; and

(x) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (3) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

“Arizona 14”;

(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:
Northern 18
Eastern 10
Central 32
Southern 14”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:
Northern 4
Middle 18
Southern 19”;

(iv) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 19”;

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:
Northern 5
Southern 29
Eastern 16
Western 5”;

and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 22
Eastern 9
Western 16”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2031.

(5) 2033.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (4) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:
Northern 19
Eastern 10
Central 34
Southern 14”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado 9”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 19
Southern 19”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:
Northern 13
Middle 4
Southern 3”;

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:
Northern 5
Southern 30
Eastern 16
Western 5”;

and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 23
Eastern 9
Western 17”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2033.

(6) 2035.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (5) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:
Northern 20
Eastern 10
Central 36
Southern 15”;

(ii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 20
Southern 20”;

(iii) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 20”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:
Northern 5
Southern 30
Eastern 17
Western 5”;

and

(v) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 23
Eastern 9
Western 19”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2035.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(A) 2 additional district judges for the eastern district of Oklahoma; and

(B) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Oklahoma.

(2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first vacancy in the office of district judge in each of the offices of district judge authorized by this subsection, occurring 5 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary district judgeship created in the applicable district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section—

(A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, \$12,965,330;

(B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, \$23,152,375;

(C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030, \$32,413,325;

(D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and 2032, \$42,600,370;

(E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and 2034, \$51,861,320; and

(F) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$61,122,270.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal year described in paragraph (1), the amount authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year shall be increased by the percentage by which—

(A) the Consumer Price Index for the previous fiscal year, exceeds

(B) the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year described in subparagraph (A).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United States city average), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

SEC. 4. ORGANIZATION OF UTAH DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 125(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “and St. George” and inserting “St. George, Moab, and Monticello”.

SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting “and College Station” before the period at the end.

SEC. 6. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and El Centro” after “at San Diego”.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORTS.

(a) JUDICIAL CASELOADS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and make publicly available reports—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the accuracy and objectiveness of case-related workload measures and methodologies used by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States;

(B) the impact of non-case-related activities of judges of the district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States on judicial caseloads; and

(C) the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts regarding senior judges; and

(2) providing any recommendations of the Comptroller General with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1).

(b) DETENTION SPACE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on an assessment of—

(1) a determination of the needs of Federal agencies for detention space;

(2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire detention space; and

(3) any challenges in determining and acquiring detention space.

SEC. 8. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ARTICLE III JUDGESHIP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Judicial Conference of the United States, shall make publicly available on their website, free of charge, the biennial report entitled “Article III Judgeship Recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States”.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) should be released not less frequently than biennially and contain the summaries and all related appendixes sup-

porting the judgeship recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, including—

(1) the process used by the Judicial Conference in developing the recommendations;

(2) any caseload and methodology changes;

(3) judgeship surveys with recommendations; and

(4) specific information about each court for which the Judicial Conference recommends additional judgeships.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives copies of the report described in subsection (a).

SA 3265. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SEMICONDUCTOR PROGRAM.

Title XCIX of division H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 9902 (15 U.S.C. 4652)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) AUTHORITY RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provision by the Secretary of Federal financial assistance for a project described in this section that satisfies the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall not be considered to be a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (referred to in this subsection as ‘NEPA’) or an undertaking for the purposes of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, if—

“(A) the activity described in the application for that project has commenced not later than December 31, 2024;

“(B) the Federal financial assistance provided is in the form of a loan or loan guarantee; or

“(C) the Federal financial assistance provided, excluding any loan or loan guarantee, comprises not more than 10 percent of the total estimated cost of the project.

“(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as altering whether an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) is considered to be a major Federal action under NEPA, or an undertaking under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, for a reason other than that the activity is eligible for Federal financial assistance provided under this section.”; and

(2) in section 9909 (15 U.S.C. 4659), by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘lead agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 111 of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

“(2) OPTION TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY.—With respect to a covered activity that is a

major Federal action under NEPA, and with respect to which the Department of Commerce is authorized or required by law to issue an authorization or take action for or relating to that covered activity, the Department of Commerce shall have the first right to serve as the lead agency with respect to that covered activity under NEPA.

“(d) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Each of the following categorical exclusions is established for the National Institute of Standards and Technology with respect to a covered activity and, beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, is available for use by the Secretary with respect to a covered activity:

“(A) Categorical exclusion 17.04.d (relating to the acquisition of machinery and equipment) in the document entitled ‘EDA Program to Implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Other Federal Environmental Mandates As Required’ (Directive No. 17.02-2; effective date October 14, 1992).

“(B) Categorical exclusion A9 in Appendix A to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(C) Categorical exclusions B1.24, B1.31, B2.5, and B5.1 in Appendix B to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(D) The categorical exclusions described in paragraphs (4) and (13) of section 50.19(b) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(E) Categorical exclusion (c)(1) in Appendix B to part 651 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(F) Categorical exclusions A2.3.8 and A2.3.14 in Appendix B to part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(2) ADDITIONAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each of the following shall be treated as a category of action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments and environmental impact statements under section 1501.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation:

“(A) The provision by the Secretary of any Federal financial assistance for a project described in section 9902, if the facility that is the subject of the project is on or adjacent to a site—

“(i) that is owned or leased by the covered entity to which Federal financial assistance is provided for that project; and

“(ii) on which, as of the date on which the Secretary provides that Federal financial assistance, substantially similar construction, expansion, or modernization is being or has been carried out, such that the facility would not more than double existing developed acreage or on-site supporting infrastructure.

“(B) The provision by the Secretary of Defense of any Federal financial assistance relating to—

“(i) the creation, expansion, or modernization of one or more facilities described in the second sentence of section 9903(a)(1); or

“(ii) carrying out section 9903(b), as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) Any activity undertaken by the Secretary relating to carrying out section 9906, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF PRIOR PLANNING DECISIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘prior studies and decisions’ means baseline data, planning documents, studies, analyses, decisions, and documentation that

a Federal agency has completed for a project (or that have been completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe), including for determining the reasonable range of alternatives for that project.

“(2) RELIANCE ON PRIOR STUDIES AND DECISIONS.—In completing an environmental review under NEPA for a covered activity, the Secretary may consider and, as appropriate, rely on or adopt prior studies and decisions, if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) those prior studies and decisions meet the standards for an adequate statement, assessment, or determination under applicable procedures of the Department of Commerce implementing the requirements of NEPA;

“(B) in the case of prior studies and decisions completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe, those laws and procedures are of equal or greater rigor than those of each applicable Federal law, including NEPA, implementing procedures of the Department of Commerce; or

“(C) if applicable, the prior studies and decisions are informed by other analysis or documentation that would have been prepared if the prior studies and decisions were prepared by the Secretary under NEPA.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered activity’ means any activity relating to the construction, expansion, or modernization of a facility, the investment in which is eligible for Federal financial assistance under section 9902 or 9906.

“(2) NEPA.—The term ‘NEPA’ means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting and briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my interns be granted floor privileges for their shadow days as follows: Mabel Knapick for September 18, 2024; Amelia Nason for September 25, 2024; Sophia Spry for November 14, 2024; Sophie Davenport for November 19, 2024; Donovan Young for November 21, 2024; Max Townsend for December 4, 2024; Karis Rohrer for December 10, 2024; Gissel Narvaez-Santiago for December 12, 2024, and Jordan Montovino for December 17, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 3764 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3764) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3764) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3764

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 “United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking “2023 and 2024” and inserting “2025 and 2026”.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

ROYALTY RESILIENCY ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7377, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7377) to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7377) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 810, Patriot Week, and S. Res. 811, Apalachee High School.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Provinzino nomination postcloture; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m., and upon disposition of the Provinzino nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Ritz nomination; further, that the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Ritz nomination at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations

are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 10 a.m.

MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL
FOUNDATION

HEATHER M. CAHOON, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2024.

HEATHER M. CAHOON, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2030.

THE JUDICIARY

MARY KAY LANTHIER, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 11, 2024:

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ENSURING AI DEEPFAKES DON'T UNDERMINE ELECTIONS

HON. JAKE LaTURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, Artificial Intelligence is an incredible tool that is only becoming more accessible, powerful, and impactful. With all the good this emerging technology provides our society, it also has its downfalls. It's easier than before for bad actors to make A.I. generated deepfakes to deceive the public and spread false information about elected officials and political candidates. Anyone with a laptop can create realistic images, videos, and audio clips depicting events that did not occur. This poses a threat to our security and could harm our election systems, and developers should be held liable for the harms they cause. As a Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, I will continue to work to ensure AI-generated deepfakes are not undermining our local, state, and federal elections.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN HUDSON

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Hudson of the Navajo Nation, who is a 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellow. Hudson is an activist storyteller who weaves the saga of her community into quilts that are masterpieces.

Hudson learned to sew out of necessity at the age of 9. Her mother and grandmother passed on the sewing skills they had been forced to learn in boarding schools. In line with the tradition of resistance and resilience, she transformed a painful heirloom into a storytelling tool. In a break from traditional quilting, Hudson makes ledger art that depicts the history and modern challenges facing indigenous people. Additionally, Hudson co-founded the Navajo Quilt Project, which donates fabric to elders.

This initiative has engaged community members, empowered small business owners, and been instrumental in the construction of quilts for traditional ceremonies and donations. Hudson's work has won many prizes and is included in many renowned museums across the country such as International Quilt Museum, Heard Museum, Autry Western Museum, Riverside Museum, and National Museum of the American Indian.

I want to congratulate and thank Ms. Hudson for her tremendous contribution to our collective heritage and her commitment to tell her own stories and the stories of her community.

KEYSTONE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Keystone Christian Education Association (KCEA) on the auspicious occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The KCEA was founded on September 17, 1974, in a restaurant meeting room. Since that time, KCEA's mission statement—"To Protect and Promote Christian Education"—has been active and well, to say the least. Access to statewide events while promoting and protecting Christian education, KCEA has provided tremendous value to its students and families.

With the continued, increased, and overreaching influence of the federal government in public education, now more than ever is the time to support families that choose Christian schooling over traditional education; the KCEA embodies that sentiment. The spirit and mission of KCEA is exactly what our Founders had in mind when drafting our Constitution, to guarantee religious freedom against any suppressive federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Keystone Christian Education Association on its 50th Anniversary. On behalf of the Citizens of the 10th Congressional District, I wish them continued success in providing optimal education resources for students, and maintaining excellence.

CELEBRATING THE 202ND ANNIVERSARY OF BRAZILIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 202nd Anniversary of Brazilian Independence.

On September 7, 2024, Brazil celebrated the 202nd anniversary of its independence, marking over two centuries since it declared freedom from Portuguese rule in 1822. This day highlights Brazil's rich cultural heritage, storied history, and enduring pursuit of sovereignty and liberty. As a regional leader in South America, Brazil continues to be an ally and economic partner, demonstrating leadership in promoting democratic values throughout the region.

Brazilian immigrants, with their vibrant spirit, warmth, and countless contributions, are not just a part of our cultural landscape but the architects of a more diverse and enriched American society. Their rich music, dance, and cuisine traditions, combined with their entrepreneurial drive, have significantly shaped our

Nation, fostering greater understanding, unity, and community connections.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending warm wishes for a joyous Brazilian Independence Day filled with pride and celebration. May this occasion inspire continued collaboration and success between our nations.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT JASON TABANSKY FOR WINNING GOLD AT THE 2024 PARIS SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brownsville native, Staff Sergeant Jason Tabansky, for his outstanding accomplishment of winning gold in the Men's Individual W-1 Paralympic Archery on September 1, 2024, at the Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic Games.

Staff Sergeant Jason Tabansky, a decorated veteran, honorably served in the U.S. Army for over 15 years in active duty. During his tenure in the Army, Staff Sergeant Tabansky displayed great courage and continues to show the world that with strength, perseverance, and dedication one can overcome any obstacle and become a victor in their field. Mr. Tabansky has exemplified great athleticism and inspired countless Americans to face their challenges head on and work hard to reach their goals. His accomplishments are a lesson to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Tabansky on winning a gold medal at the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games. I thank him for his service to our country and for making our community in South Texas all incredibly proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 1130. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 405.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE HARRY E. SCHULTZ COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the momentous opening of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Harry E. Schultz Community Center on Buffalo's West Side.

Since its opening in 2013, the Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York has been a place where our community's veterans and their families can access the wrap-around services and support they need. From a fully functional fitness center to high-quality counseling and legal services, VOSC truly does it all. Today, the VOSC has added even more to its extensive list of services and offerings by officially opening the Harry E. Schultz Community Center, a one-of-a-kind facility that will greatly benefit Western New York veterans.

The facility bears the name of the late Harry E. Schultz, one of the strongest anchors of support for our Western New York Veteran community.

Born in Western New York on November 25, 1951, Harry enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17, where he would serve his country for almost four years. Harry's service to his country was just beginning, following his retirement from the military, he began to "pay it forward" by supporting other veterans. Before becoming one of the founding members of the Veterans One-Stop Center, Harry spent over three decades in services to veterans, including with VSOs such as Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Harry and his colleagues came together to create the VOSC after experiencing their own difficulties trying to navigate the benefits and services available to Veterans. They saw firsthand how important it was to have wrap-around services available to veterans in one place.

With the opening of the Harry E. Schultz Community Center, veterans will be able to relax, unwind, and connect with fellow veterans, completely free of charge. Harry's incredible legacy of serving fellow veterans is now even more cemented, and will no doubt continue to inspire future generations to serve their peers.

We honor the late Harry E. Schultz, the establishment of this wonderful community center in his memory, and his unwavering dedication to serving our community and its veterans. Please join me in remembering Mr. Schultz's extraordinary life of service and community leadership in Buffalo.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. JOHN TELLES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of John Telles, a true son of the San Joaquin Valley whose journey began as he left the halls of Los Banos High School in 1966. Dr. Telles' path has been one of unwavering dedication, passion, and service to both medicine and his community.

After earning his chemistry degree from the University of California, Davis, in 1970, Dr. Telles ventured to the bustling Texas Medical Center in Houston, to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor at Baylor College of Medicine. Inspired by the pioneering work in cardiovascular care of Dr. Michael DeBakey, Dr.

Telles embarked on a journey that would shape the course of his career.

From his internship at the University of Cincinnati Medical School to his residency at the University of Rochester in New York, Dr. Telles honed his skills and expertise, laying the foundation for his future endeavors. His Fellowship in Cardiology at UCLA Harbor General Hospital under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Criley was a formative experience.

In 1979, Dr. Telles joined Cardiovascular Associates as a Board-Certified Cardiologist, where he became an integral part of a team committed to excellence in patient care. Over the next four decades, he dedicated himself to practicing cardiology at St. Agnes Hospital, leaving an indelible mark on the field. Dr. Telles' pioneering spirit extended into the evolving field of Electrophysiology where he spearheaded the development of an electrophysiology program at St. Agnes Hospital, and he became the first Board Certified Electrophysiologist in Fresno.

Dr. Telles sought to address the broader issues impacting cardiovascular health in the San Joaquin Valley. His leadership as President of the Fresno-Madera Medical Society and as Chairman of Cardiology at St. Agnes Hospital underscored his commitment to improving healthcare delivery. Dr. Telles, together with his colleagues, established The Fresno Heart Hospital expanding the number of beds and services for patient care in the valley.

Beyond the walls of the hospital, Dr. Telles championed efforts to address air quality issues in the Valley. His service on the San Joaquin Valley Pollution Control District Board in Fresno and his three years' service on the California Air Resources Control Board in Sacramento, highlighted his dedication to the well-being of his community.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Telles and The Heart Group have worked tirelessly to expand their practice, committed to Serving patients across Fresno and Clovis, ensuring that individuals throughout the Valley receive the highest standard of cardiovascular care.

Through leadership and vision, The Heart Group, has transformed the landscape of cardiac care, leaving an enduring legacy for generations to come.

Amidst his professional achievements, Dr. Telles has found strength and support in his beloved family. Alongside his devoted wife, Jolene, he has raised four sons: Connor, Kyle, Rainer and Finn, who have returned to the Valley, bringing with them their talents and dedication to reinvest in their hometown.

As Dr. Telles embarks on this new chapter of his life, let us express our deepest gratitude for his immeasurable contributions to cardiovascular healthcare in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the phenomenal career of Dr. John Telles.

RECOGNIZING THE DECORATED CAREER AND BIRTHDAY OF JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RANDY WHITE

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, whether something's ablaze in your house or there's a

hot button issue in Jacksonville, there's one man you can depend on to put out the fire.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jacksonville's City Council President, Randy White for 70 stellar years on this planet Earth. A lifelong public servant, Councilman White embodies the spirit of Northeast Florida. Councilman White is a family man with two children and 5 grandchildren. However, his 32-year career with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department shows that he views the entirety of Jacksonville as his family.

After three decades of putting out fires and rescuing cats from trees, one might think that Councilman White would be tired. But no. Instead, he championed the growth of Cecil Field and public safety in Jacksonville.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Councilman Randy White for his decades of public service. Jacksonville is truly a much better place because of Councilman White. Happy Birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ZUNI OLLA MAIDENS

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Zuni Olla Maidens for the critical role they play in Zuni culture, establishing themselves as ambassadors for all Pueblo communities and proving that traditions are not only necessary for the soul but all future generations.

The Zuni Olla Maidens perform a delicate dance that includes jars or ollas balanced on top of their heads. It is breathtaking to watch. For this beautiful dance, they have been rightfully honored as 2024 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows.

The dance brings together the beauty of the music together with colors and jewelry and clothing to bring beauty to our world. There is a power in this ceremony that flows before the singing, the drums and the rattles. The Zuni songs remind us how small we are in this world and that we need to remember the origins and culture of our people and our homes.

I am honored to recognize the significance of these matriarchs. Where there are powerful women, there are powerful families and communities. Let the traditions of the Zuni people ring forever in the halls of Congress.

SEPTEMBER 2023 CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize community leader and Solana Beach resident Lisa Montes as my September 2023 Constituent of the Month.

Lisa is a descendent of the original Mexican families of La Colonia de Eden Gardens, and she has a passion for giving back to her community that was instilled in her by her ancestors. I know she is making them proud today. Lisa devotes her time and effort to numerous

local organizations dedicated to serving and empowering Latino and Latina students and the community at-large.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, I am thrilled to recognize the efforts of leaders, like Lisa, whose service to others strengthens our unique and diverse community. I'm so grateful for residents of California's 49th Congressional District who dedicate their lives to the betterment of our community, and I'm proud to honor Lisa Montes as my Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING STEVE MASSINI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Steve Massini, who is retiring as Chief Executive Officer of Penn State Health, a position he has served in since 2019.

Mr. Massini first joined Penn State Health in 2015 as chief financial officer for Milton S. Hershey Medical Center before being promoted to executive vice president, chief financial officer, and chief administrative officer for Penn State Health.

Throughout his tenure at Penn State Health, the system has grown significantly, 11 developed strategic partnerships, and made investments in expanding the system's reach across South Central Pennsylvania. These investments included the development of a hospital in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, the Lancaster Medical Center, which opened in October 2022. I appreciated the opportunity to visit this and other Penn State Health facilities in our district to learn about the great work they are doing to serve patients.

I have appreciated Mr. Massini's feedback and perspective on federal policies and the impact they have on residents of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Steve the best in all his future endeavors and thank him for all he has done to make a positive impact in our community.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE'S REDBIRD RANGER STATION CLUB HOUSE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service's Redbird Ranger Station Club House in southeastern Kentucky, which has a rich history tied to Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company and Fordson Coal Company.

Southern and Eastern Kentucky has an abundance of historic American treasures tucked away in our Appalachian communities, like the Redbird Purchase Unit. Location names in the mountains preface the stories that unfold on the land, including the fork in the Kentucky River where this unit is located,

named for Chief Red Bird, a legendary Cherokee.

The Ford Motor Company owned 60,000 acres in the Daniel Boone National Forest to harvest timber when hardwood was used for automobile parts and wheel spokes. The land was eventually acquired by the U.S. Forest Service and today, the Redbird Purchase Unit includes nearly 146,000 acres of the forest. Mary Breckinridge, the region's famous nursing pioneer who established the Frontier Nursing Service to offer prenatal care to Appalachian women, personally visited Washington, D.C. to advocate for the federal purchase unit to help protect and manage the forest at the headwaters of the Kentucky River. Mary Breckinridge was a friend of Henry Ford's wife, Clara, who helped support her efforts to provide nurse-midwives in our rural region where healthcare access was desperately needed. Her dedicated efforts to save lives and protect the forest were both successful.

The building that now serves as the Redbird Ranger Station was built by the Fordson Coal Company 100 years ago to house Fordson survey crews, engineers and draftsmen. The "Club House," as it was known, is where employees would gather for meals and social activities. The original hand-cut wood paneling in the home was made from native maple, oak, walnut and American chestnut trees, and is still preserved on the walls today.

Conservation efforts of the U.S. Forest Service have helped preserve the Daniel Boone National Forest and the incredible history of Kentucky's Appalachian region. It is an honor to recognize their diligent efforts on the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service's Redbird Ranger Station.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANTHONY P. AMIGONE, SR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and legacy of Anthony P. Amigone, Sr.

Anthony P. Amigone, Sr. passed away peacefully on September 7, 2024, in Florida at the age of 92, surrounded by his beloved family. Born on January 5, 1932, in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Amigone remained deeply connected to his hometown throughout his life. He is survived by his devoted wife, Marjorie L. Parmelee, and his children: Mary Amigone-Jennings, Anthony P. Amigone, Jr., Vincent J. Amigone, Sr., and Danielle Marie Amigone. He also leaves behind a large extended family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Amigone was educated at the University of Buffalo, the Simmons Institute of Mortuary Science, and several local schools, including Kensington High School and Canisius High School. As the chairman of Amigone Funeral Home, Inc., a family business established in 1926, he became a licensed funeral director in New York in 1953 and later in Pennsylvania in 1976. Under his leadership, the company expanded significantly, growing from its original location to 13 branches across Western New York. His innovative vision led to the creation of the city's first modern funeral home, as well

as the distinctive "Amigone Blue" fleet, a signature mark of the business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Amigone served his community and established himself as a preeminent figure in his industry. Among several other posts, Mr. Amigone served as President of the National Association of Approved Morticians, the President of the New York State Funeral Directors Association, and the District Governor of the National Funeral Directors Association.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Amigone served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was stationed in the Far East as part of the Graves Registration Unit. He also briefly worked for Mitsubishi Chemical in Japan and had the honor of being received by the Emperor of Japan. In 1955, he was instrumental in modernizing funeral practices in Hong Kong.

A devout Catholic, Mr. Amigone had the rare privilege of a private audience with Pope John XXIII in 1958. He was also a dedicated community leader, honored as Buffalonian of the Year in 1987, and active in numerous civic and professional organizations, including the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, and several chambers of commerce. A man of many interests, Mr. Amigone was a passionate reader with a love for Shakespeare and enjoyed boating as well as playing the piano, particularly the song "Deep Purple."

Today, we honor Anthony P. Amigone, Sr. and we commemorate his unwavering commitment to Western New York. Mr. Amigone's legacy endures through his loving family, the continued success of his family business, and the profound impact he made on the Buffalo community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN BILLY PURRY, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man, Mr. John Billy Purry, Sr., who passed away on July 31, 2024, at the age of 90. Mr. Purry was born on May 30, 1934, and from that moment, his life became a testament to hard work, dedication, and a commitment to his community.

Mr. Purry was more than just a resident of Brandon, Mississippi. He was a pillar, a foundation upon which countless lives were built. His kindness and generosity were unmatched. No matter the task or the need, Mr. Purry was always there, leading with a helping hand. His influence touched the lives of so many who had the pleasure of knowing him, and his legacy will continue to shape his family, friends, and the community for years to come.

Whether volunteering, providing guidance to the younger generations, or simply being a neighbor people could count on, Mr. Purry's presence was always felt. His leadership wasn't formal or announced—it was quiet, steady, and strong. He led by example, demonstrating that real success comes not from personal gain but from the positive impact one can make on others.

He was a devoted family man, a loyal friend, and a respected figure in the community. Mr. Purry lived his life with humility, integrity, and an unmatched love for the people

around him. His passing leaves a void that will be difficult to fill, but his spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. John Billy Purry, Sr. His legacy of kindness, service, and selflessness is a model for us all, and his memory will continue to inspire generations to come. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my votes for H.R. 1157 or H.R. 8333. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 401, and YEA on Roll Call No. 402.

RECOGNIZING FLAGS FOR HEROES IN ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I was a boy, I thought that heroes were imaginary characters who wore capes or masks that hide their secret identity. As I grew older, I came to realize that there are heroes around us every day: police, firefighters, first responders, and of course, our men and women who serve in the armed forces.

Twenty-three years ago today, when our Nation and this city were attacked by pure evil, the world saw that America is made of heroes. The world watched as we came together to search, rescue, pray and grieve together. Heroes by trade and heroes by choice answered the call across the land.

That's why today, in the town of Orange Park in the free state of Florida, you will see hundreds of Star-Spangled Banners flying to recognize the heroes who protect us every day.

Flags for Heroes is not just an event, it's a movement. The Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise, led by President Duane Mallicoat, has put together this incredible display to honor men and women who know the true meaning of being a hero.

Each of these flags is individually dedicated to a hero who has personally touched the life of someone in our community.

Today, as we remember one of the great tragedies in American history, I encourage my colleagues to honor the heroes who protected us then and protect us still today.

COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 FLORIDA TOURISM HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CAROL B. DOVER

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Carol B. Dover, the 2024 in-

ductee into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame. Since 2001, this honor has been awarded annually to figures whose vision has positively and significantly impacted the development of Florida's tourism industry.

Since 1995, Ms. Dover has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the more than 10,000-member Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association (FRLA). In 1989, Ms. Dover was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff within the Executive Office of the Governor. She was also the first woman to serve as Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention in the Florida State Fire Marshall's Office. In her capacity with the FRLA, Ms. Dover has worked to expand and fund the Florida Horse Park, a key addition to Florida's rapidly growing equestrian industry.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Dover worked tirelessly to ensure governmental support for and the continual operation of Florida's tourism industry. She was a key advocate in relocating the FRLA Headquarters to Tallahassee, strengthening the relationship between Florida restaurants and policymakers. Furthermore, as a cancer survivor, Ms. Dover has served as an advocate for research and awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to join me in honoring Ms. Carol B. Dover as she is inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame.

HONORING AMY BEGAYE, MISS NAVAJO NATION

HON. ELIJAH CRANE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, last week, contestants competed in the 72nd Annual Miss Navajo Nation Pageant in my district.

To become Miss Navajo, contestants participate in a rigorous week-long annual competition, which requires contestants to demonstrate proficiency in both the Navajo and English languages, knowledge of Navajo culture and beliefs, business interviews, contemporary talents, and traditional skills such as sheep butchering and preparing traditional foods.

I'd like to recognize Amy Naazbah Reeves-Begaye, who has served as Miss Navajo for the past year.

I met Amy last year during her first trip to the U.S. Capitol and learned about her experience and background and the process of becoming Miss Navajo.

We've had a few chances to connect throughout the years and I've been impressed with her hard work and professionalism.

She's been a strong leader and advocate for Navajo history and culture.

I thank Amy for her leadership as Miss Navajo over the last year. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and know that she will continue to make the Navajo Nation proud.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALBERT J. "SKIP" GAZY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and legacy of Albert J. "Skip" Gazy of Niagara Falls, NY.

On September 3, 2024, Albert J. "Skip" Gazy, 95, of Niagara Falls, NY, passed away peacefully at Our Lady of Peace Nursing Care Residence. Born and raised in Niagara Falls, he was the son of the late Nasri and Victoria (Jacob) Gazy, and the devoted husband of Ramona Gazy, whom he married on June 15, 1968. Albert served proudly in the United States National Guard. He worked alongside his brothers at Gazy Brother's Texaco Station until it closed in 1981, later retiring after many years of service with the Niagara Falls City School District.

As a passionate boxing enthusiast, Albert boxed at the Niagara Falls Boys Club in his youth. Known for his sharp sense of humor, Albert found great joy in bringing laughter to those around him. His greatest joy, however, was spending time with his family, especially his three beloved granddaughters.

Albert was preceded in death by his wife, Ramona, but survived by his children, Monique (Keith) Crossley and Louis DalPorto; his granddaughters, Danielle DalPorto, Samantha DalPorto, and Elise Gazy; daughter-in-law Joanne DalPorto; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, loved ones and friends.

As we remember Albert "Skip" Gazy, we grieve the loss of a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather and a beloved member of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 2024, I was unable to vote during roll call vote No. 401 and No. 402 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call vote No. 401 and No. 402.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Randall Reed, USAF, to be general and Commander, United States Transportation Command, and Lieutenant General Xavier T. Brunson, USA, to be general and Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, both of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine lowering health care costs for Americans, focusing on the Inflation Reduction Act.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the national security risks of replacing nonpartisan civil servants with political appointees, focusing on ensuring a trustworthy government.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine stemming the tide of hate crimes in America.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law

To hold an oversight hearing to examine AI, focusing on insiders' perspectives.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine risks and harm in the private student lending and servicing market.

SD-538

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aviation cybersecurity threats.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine America's regional commissions, focusing on sharing best practices in regional and economic development.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to continue to consider S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 4373, to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations, S. 4495,

to enable safe, responsible, and agile procurement, development, and use of artificial intelligence by the Federal Government, S. 4675, to require the United States Postal Service to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Postal Regulatory Commission before implementing any network changes, S. 4630, to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, S. 4654, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 4711, to limit the consideration of marijuana use when making an employment suitability or security clearance determination, S. 4681, to ensure a timely, fair, meaningful, and transparent process for individuals to seek redress because they were wrongly identified as a threat under the screening and inspection regimes used by the Department of Homeland Security, to require a report on the effectiveness of enhanced screening programs of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 4043, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make executive agency telework policies transparent, to track executive agency use of telework, S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, S. 4716, to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements, S. 4294, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding an agreement for integrated cross border aerial law enforcement operations, S. 59, to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills-and competency-based hiring, S. 4676, to enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program, S. 4672, to require the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assess current efforts to respond to hazardous weather and water events at or near United States borders and, to the extent such efforts may be improved, to develop a hazardous weather and water events preparedness and response strategy, S. 4697, to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, S. 4715, to require the National Cyber Director to submit to Congress a plan to establish an institute within the Federal Government to serve as a centralized resource and training center for Federal cyber workforce development, S. 4631, to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum education requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, S. 4700, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, S. 4656, to amend title 5, United States Code, concerning restrictions on the participation of certain Federal employees in partisan political activity, S. 4651, to require agencies to use information and communications technology products obtained from original equipment manufacturers or authorized resellers, S. 4419, to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations, S.

4321, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the payment of annuities and retired pay to individuals convicted of certain sex crimes, S. 2546, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the "Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office", S. 3946, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the "Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office", S. 4077, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Dianne Feinstein Post Office", H.R. 5527, to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, H.R. 7219, to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, H.R. 7524, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, H.R. 3254, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, H.R. 6174, to improve the bioterrorism functions of the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 272, to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, H.R. 4403, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, H.R. 5887, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government, H.R. 7525, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations, H.R. 4467, to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, H.R. 599, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office", H.R. 1060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the "Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building", H.R. 1098, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office", H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building", H.R. 3608, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite

Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building", H.R. 3728, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "Caroline Chang Post Office", H.R. 5476, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office", H.R. 5640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building", H.R. 5712, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the "Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building", H.R. 5985, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the "Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building", H.R. 6073, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building", H.R. 6651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building", H.R. 7192, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the "Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building", H.R. 7199, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road,

in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the "Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office", H.R. 7423, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building", and the nominations of Sherri Malloy Beatty-Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin Camille Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John Cuong Truong, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez, and Joseph Russell Palmore, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-628

2 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research

To hold hearings to examine keeping kids learning in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

SD-562

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine the macroeconomic impacts of potential tax reform in 2025.

SD-538

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia's imperial identity.

2358-C-RHOB

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine streamlining and coordinating support for rural small businesses.

SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine foreign threats to elections in 2024, focusing on roles and responsibilities of U.S. tech providers.

SH-216

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine current and future VA budget challenges, focusing on providing for veterans.

SR-418

SEPTEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine fusion energy technology development and commercialization efforts.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD-562

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5957–S6004

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5017–5028, and S. Res. 808–811. **Pages S5979–80**

Measures Passed:

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 3764, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026, and the bill was then passed.

Page S6003

Royalty Resiliency Act: Senate passed H.R. 7377, to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases. **Page S6003**

Patriot Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 810, expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2024, as “Patriot Week”. **Page S6003**

Condemning the Horrific Shooting at Apalachee High School: Senate agreed to S. Res. 811, condemning the horrific shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, recognizing the victims, and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities. **Page S6003**

Ritz Nomination: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Pages S5957–66**

Provinzino Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. **Pages S5973–75**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 237), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5937**

D866

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2024; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; that upon disposition of the nomination, Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; and that Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz at 1:45 p.m. **Pages S6003–04**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Heather M. Cahoon, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2024.

Heather M. Cahoon, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2030. **Page S6004**

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 236), Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont. **Pages S5972–73**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 235), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5966**

Messages from the House: **Page S5979**

Measures Referred: **Page S5979**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S5979**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5979**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5980–82**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5982–84**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5976–79**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5984–S6003**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6003**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6003**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—237) **Pages S5966, S5973**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 7:19 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S .)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SOCIAL SECURITY

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine social security, focusing on delivering benefits and protecting retirement security, after receiving testimony from Martin O'Malley, Commissioner, Social Security Administration; Molly Dahl, Chief of Long-Term Analysis, Congressional Budget Office; Rebecca D. Vallas, National Academy of Social Insurance, and Shai Akabas, Bipartisan Policy Center, both of Washington, D.C.; and Roger Boudreau, Rhode Island AFT Retirees Chapter, Wakefield.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, Samuel E. Lathem, of Delaware, Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, and Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PENDING LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 2927, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, S. 4016, to amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend amounts in the Colorado River Dam fund, S. 4242 and H.R. 4385, bills to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, S. 4245 and H.R. 5770, bills to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs, S. 4347, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, S. 4458, to reauthorize the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006, S. 4576, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot pro-

gram, S. 4996, to amend Public Law 89–108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, S. 4999, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes, S. 5000, to prohibit the use of amounts from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund to implement a certain record of decision, S. 5005, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 5011, to establish the Integrated Water Management Federal Leadership Committee, to provide for improved drought resilience and dam safety, S. 5012, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, S. 5013, to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, S. 5014, to provide for the establishment of a Water Project Navigators Program, and H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution, after receiving testimony from Senators Bennett and Fischer; and Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Julie Smith, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary (Political Affairs), who was introduced by Senator Shaheen, Stephanie L. Hallett, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Douglas D. Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Michael G. Heath, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, and Mary E. Daschbach, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to

the Togolese Republic, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of John Bradford Wiegmann, of the District of Columbia, to be Gen-

eral Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 9534–9548; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 1437–1442 were introduced. **Pages H5201–02**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5202–03**

Report Filed: A report filed today as follows:

H.R. 8512, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–662). **Page H5201**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Norman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5159**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:09 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5166**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:12 p.m. and reconvened at 1:16 p.m. **Page H5173**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened at 4:20 p.m. **Pages H5181–82**

No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act: The House passed H.R. 1425, to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 219 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 411. **Pages H5173–81, H5182–84**

Rejected the Lee (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Foreign Affairs by a yeas-and-nays vote of 202 yeas to 215 nays, Roll No. 410. **Page H5183**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–44 shall be considered as

adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Page H5178**

Agreed to:

Foxx amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–656) that clarifies that no WHO convention, agreement, or treaty should have force or effect in U.S. law before or unless the Senate ratifies said treaty; **Page H5180**

Massie amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–656) that adds to the findings of Congress an outline of the constitutional role for the legislative and executive branches in the treaty-making process; and **Pages H5180–81**

Ogles amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–656) that offers a statement of policy in support of Taiwan's full participation at the WHO (by a recorded vote of 403 yeas with none voting "no", Roll No. 409). **Page H5182**

H. Res. 1430, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1398), (H.R. 1425), (H.R. 1516), (H.R. 7980), (H.R. 9456), and (H.R. 9494) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Protect America's Innovation and Economic Security from CCP Act of 2024: The House passed H.R. 1398, to establish the CCP Initiative program, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 237 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 413. Consideration began yesterday, September 10th. **Pages H5184–85**

Rejected the Veasey motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yeas-and-nays vote of 203 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 412. **Page H5184**

H. Res. 1430, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1398), (H.R. 1425), (H.R. 1516), (H.R. 7980), (H.R. 9456), and (H.R. 9494) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024: The House passed H.R. 9456, to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States

agriculture, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 269 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 415. **Page H5168–73, H5185–86**

Rejected the Takano motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 203 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 414.

Pages H5185–86

H. Res. 1430, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1398), (H.R. 1425), (H.R. 1516), (H.R. 7980), (H.R. 9456), and (H.R. 9494) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 12th. **Page H5186**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H5200.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six ye-a-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5182, H5183, H5183–84, H5184–85, H5185, H5185–86 and H5186.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SEVERE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SHORTAGES IN TRIBAL AND ELDERLY COMMUNITIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture of the House Committee on Agriculture held a joint hearing entitled “Severe Food Distribution Shortages in Tribal and Elderly Communities”. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING: CONGRESS AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE (CBO): EXAMINING WAYS TO IMPROVE CBO

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Legislative Hearing: Congress and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO): Examining Ways to Improve CBO”. Testimony was heard from Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5646, the “Stop Campus Hazing Act”; H.R. 7233, the “Jenna Quinn Law of 2024”; H.R. 736, the “PROTECT Kids Act”; H.J. Res. 181, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of

the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Definition of ‘Employer’-Association Health Plans”; H.R. 3120, the “Healthy Competition for Better Care Act”; and H.R. 9457, the “Transparent Telehealth Bills Act of 2024”. H.J. Res. 181 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5646, H.R. 7233, H.R. 736, H.R. 3120, and H.R. 9457 were ordered reported, as amended.

FROM GAS TO GROCERIES: AMERICANS PAY THE PRICE OF THE BIDEN-HARRIS ENERGY AGENDA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “From Gas to Groceries: Americans Pay the Price of the Biden-Harris Energy Agenda”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A YEAR REMOVED: OVERSIGHT OF SECURING THE U.S. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “A Year Removed: Oversight of Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act Implementation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TRANSPARENCY IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Transparency in Global Governance”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GREAT POWER COMPETITION IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Great Power Competition in Africa”. Testimony was heard from John Bass, Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State.

COUNTERING MALIGN PRC INFLUENCE IN EUROPE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe held a hearing entitled “Countering Malign PRC Influence in Europe”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9460, the “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”; H.R. 9459, the “PATHS Act”; and H.R. 9458, the “Enhancing Stakeholder Support and Outreach for Preparedness Grants Act”. H.R. 9458, H.R. 9459, and H.R. 9460 were ordered reported, without amendment.

AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN ELECTIONS: LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “American Confidence in Elections: Looking Ahead to the 2024 General Election”. Testimony was heard from the following Secretaries of State: Jocelyn Benson, Michigan; Cord Byrd, Florida; Adrian Fontes, Arizona; Frank LaRose, Ohio; Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico; and Mac Warner, West Virginia.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9488, the “Secure Handling of Internet Electronic Donations Act”; H.R. 7764, the “Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act”; H.R. 6394, the “Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act”; H.R. 6969, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol; H.R. 9489, to Sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for Other Purposes; H.R. 9487, to amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes; and H.R. 6242, the “VOTES Act”. H.R. 9488 and H.R. 7764 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6394, H.R. 6969, H.R. 9489, H.R. 9487, and H.R. 6242 were ordered reported, without amendment.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SOFT-ON-CRIME- POLICIES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “The Consequences of Soft-On-Crime-Policies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing entitled “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on legislation to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; H.J. Res. 168, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States

Code, of the rule submitted by the Council on Environmental Quality relating to “National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions Phase 2”; and H.R. 6129, the “Studying NEPA’s Impact on Projects Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, and Representatives Graves of Louisiana, and Yakym; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9197, the “Small Business Artificial Intelligence Advancement Act”; H.R. 9194, the “Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act”; H.R. 9211, the “LIFT AI Act”; H.R. 9215, the “Workforce for AI Trust Act”; H.R. 9402, the “NSF AI Education Act of 2024”; H.R. 9403, the “Expanding AI Voices Act”; H.R. 5077, the “CREATE AI Act”; H.R. 9497, the “AI Advancement and Reliability Act”; and H.R. 9466, the “AI Development Practices Act”. H.R. 9197, H.R. 9211, H.R. 9402, H.R. 9403, H.R. 5077, and H.R. 9497 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 9194, H.R. 9215, and H.R. 9466 were ordered reported, without amendment.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IMPLEMENTATION POST-SACKETT DECISION: EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Waters of the United States Implementation Post-Sackett Decision: Experiences and Perspectives”. Testimony was heard from Emma Pokon, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska; Nicole Rowan, Director, Water Quality Control Division, Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 6291, the “Have You Served Act”; H.R. 6330, the “Veterans’ Sentinel Act”; H.R. 7504, the “Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act”; H.R. 8562, the “Parity for Native Hawaiian Veterans Act of 2024”; H.R. 9301, the “New Mexico Rural Veteran Health Care Access Act”; legislation to amend title 38, U.S.C., to include a representative of the National Association of State Veterans Homes on the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs; legislation on the Veterans’ Mental Health Access Act; legislation on the Background

Check for Temporary Foreign Workers Bill; legislation on the Enhancing Faith-Based Support for Veterans Act of 2024; legislation on the No Wrong Door for Veterans Act; legislation on the Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2024; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to include adaptive prostheses and terminal devices for sports and other recreational activities in the medical services furnished to eligible veterans by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; legislation on the SAVES Act; H.R. 9146, the “Ensuring Continuity in Veterans Health Act”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to make improvements relating to conflicts of interest for certain Department of Veterans Affairs employees, and for other purposes; and H.R. 9426, the “Safeguarding VA’s Healthcare Workforce Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Luttrell, Vasquez, Scott Franklin of Florida, Perez, Self, Tokuda, Womack, and Chavez-DeRemer; the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Carolyn Clancy, Assistant Undersecretary for Health, Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration; Matthew Miller, Executive Director, Office of Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration; Ajit Pai, Executive Director, Office of Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services, Veterans Health Administration; Ryan Heiman, Acting Director, Member Services, Veterans Health Administration; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9495, the “Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act”; H.R. 3269, the “Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act”; H.R. 190, the “Saving Gig Economy Taxpayers Act”; H.R. 9461, the “USA Workforce Investment Act”; and H.R. 9462, the “Educational Choice for Children Act of 2024”. H.R. 9495, H.R.

3269, H.R. 190, H.R. 9461, and H.R. 9462 were ordered reported, as amended.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Steven S. Nordhaus, USAF, to be general and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Vice Admiral Alvin Holsey, USN, to be admiral and Commander, United States Southern Command, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine protecting Americans’ money, focusing on combatting scams and frauds against seniors and savers, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy’s lead role in conducting advanced computing research, application, and security, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the 2025 tax policy debate and tax avoidance strategies, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine anti-NGO laws and other tools of democratic repression, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the bankruptcy of Steward Health Care, focusing on how management decisions have impacted patient care, 10 a.m., SD-562.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, September 12

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, September 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 7980—End Chinese Dominance of Electric Vehicles in America Act of 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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